



LTS Course Offerings and Descriptions for LTS MDiv/MTS/Diaconal Diploma/Certificate Students 2023-2024

Note: courses are listed in this document in alphabetical order by course number.
See [STU 2023-2024 Course Offerings with Course Descriptions](#) for listing by course date.

BA231 Keeping the Faith: Hope and Vacillation in Israel's Wisdom Books

February 20 to March 1, 2023 (8am to noon, no class on weekend), Blended, Intensive
Elective for continuing MDiv, Certificate, continuing MTS

Instructor: Dr. Bernon Lee

A literary-theological analysis and appreciation of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, Ben Sira and The Wisdom of Solomon against the backdrop of the sapiential traditions of West Asian antiquity. The inner-biblical dialogue (and tensions) between these books and within the canonical collection(s) as a reflection of post-exilic Israel's (and the church's) earnest interrogation of the contours of faith is in focus. Prerequisite: BA 110: Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures, or permission of the instructor.

CLQ101 Methods for Interdisciplinary, Ecumenical Theological Studies

January 15-19 and April 22-26, 2024 Blended, Split Intensive

Required for *beginning* MDiv, *beginning* MTS

Instructor: TBD

This colloquium draws together elements from the range of Level I studies in order to reflect upon them methodologically. In other words, we will shift from primarily "doing" the tasks of various theological disciplines to focusing on the "why" of doing what we do. The purpose is to enable participants to develop a strong framework in method for further study. This colloquium also seeks to expand both participants' sense of religious commitment and their ecumenical and interfaith conversation skills. After addressing their own commitments and reflecting on the significance of current contexts, participants will be introduced to the challenges of ecumenical and interfaith relations. Topics will include: history of church division and ecumenism; ecumenical experiences and documents, especially as related to the denominational traditions in the STU; history of interfaith relations, both destructive and constructive; interfaith experience and documents; and skills for ecumenical and interfaith conversation.

FND101 What is the Good News? A Historical Approach

August 28-Sept 1, 2023 Blended, Intensive

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructor: Dr. William Harrison

What is the Good News? If asked, could you answer in terms that a non-Christian could

understand? Part of the challenge in the question is that Christian understandings of salvation have shifted over the years, as culture has changed and our approaches to theology have developed. This course focuses on the theme of the Good News and traces developments through history to the present. The purpose is to enable participants to develop an “elevator speech” presentation of Christian gospel, along with a deep historical and theological understanding of what that speech might have sounded like from previous generations of Christians.

FND102 Who is the Church?

September 11-22, 2023 Blended, Intensive

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructor: Dr. Iain Luke

The goal of this course is to equip students with a common vocabulary of experiences, concepts, and reflective tools, in order to make sense of the life of faith communities and their leaders in the contemporary world. Components of this course are drawn from church history (Canadian and global), doctrine, pastoral leadership, ecumenics, and sociology of religion. The course will involve an experiential component, inviting students to share and reflect on their current and prior experiences of church as well as stepping outside that experience to observe and learn from a faith community with which they are unfamiliar.

FND103 Introduction to Biblical Literature

November 13-24, 2023 Blended, Intensive

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Lay Track), (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructors: Dr. Bernon Lee and Dr. Adam Wright

A team-taught and interdisciplinary intensive course of 36 hours for introducing students to a variety of topics—thematic and methodological—in biblical interpretation. The course aims for the elucidation of the literary, religious, historical, and sociological contexts (up to and including the mixed cultural milieus of the Hellenistic and Roman periods) germane to the genesis and the interpretation of biblical literature. There will also be a component of the course that focuses on the interpretive application of certain topics and themes for ministry, liturgy, and theological formulation in the form of a panel discussion drawing on faculty from various disciplines.

FND104 Spiritual Practices for Cultivating Resilience and Compassion

Split intensive, Blended

Part a: December 4-8, 2023 and Part b: January 8-12, 2024,

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructor: Dr. Trish McCarthy

This course will introduce students to a variety of spiritual practices, including Indigenous ones, that cultivate resilience and compassion. The focus in this class is to develop and deepen a student’s prayer life, to orient them to core, regular and occasional spiritual practices and learn

about six key perspectives: stages of spiritual growth, purification, community, meditation, cultivating personal integrity and deepening compassion.

[FND105 Public Practical Ministry I: An Introduction to Worship and Preaching](#)

February 5-16, 2024 Blended, Intensive

Onsite in Saskatoon for MDiv and Diaconal Diploma; optional online for MTS and Certificate.

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Lay Track), (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructor: Dr. Becca Whitla

Taking a contextual and cultural approach, this course introduces students to the basics of Christian public ministry. Students will learn the basics of planning worship and preaching and be introduced to some approaches to faith formation for the whole community. The course is rooted in an appreciation for the diversity of culture and context and draws on the students' particular experience as a source of knowledge.

[FND106 God and Suffering](#)

March 4-15, 2024 Online, Intensive

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, (one of three required for Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Lay Track), (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructor: Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein

God and Suffering explores historical and contemporary approaches to questions such as: Who is God? What is the relationship between God and Creation? If Creation is good, why is there suffering in the world? This course brings together biblical interpretation and theology to think through the relationship between God and suffering, using insights from collective trauma theory, intersectionality theory, and theologies from below to help students develop nuanced understandings that can be practically applied to pastoral care and worship leadership.

[FND107 Considering Contexts, Cultures, and Differences](#)

April 8-19, 2024 Blended, Intensive

Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, (one of five required for *beginning* MTS)

Instructor: Dr. Lynn Caldwell

As a foundational course in the MDiv and MTS programs, students will work to identify and express their own theological and ethical questions and to situate these in relation both to their own contexts and to a broader scope of human histories, traditions, and geographies. Particular attention will be paid to differences in relation to sexuality, gender and gender identity, race and ethnicity, disability, class, mobility, and age. Through engaging with peers and with input from faculty members, students will explore different ways of knowing and of naming ethical and theological values and will study how different theological disciplines offer methods for engaging with contextual and cultural differences.

[HA/HL111DLA Story of Christianity: Early and Medieval](#)

Fall 2023 (Sept 11 to Dec 15 - DLA course) Online, Asynchronous

Required for *continuing* MTS

Instructor: Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

The earliest centuries of Christianity were times of trial and courage, intrigue and insight, failure and promise for those who chose to join, or found themselves within, the religious movement that gathered around followers of the Palestinian Jewish teacher, Jesus. As Christianity matured into the medieval period, new challenges, both within and without the church, continued to shape the faith story and the lives of believers. This course will introduce students to the world of the early and medieval Christians: their changing social, political and economic climate, their developing theologies, their worship and faith practices, and the ways they shaped their ecclesial structures. At the conclusion of the course, students will have gained an overview of events and persons, and an encounter with the voices of early and medieval Christians as they are found in the documents of the time. Through the written assignments and class discussions, students will have read and prepared for class with understanding, learned from one another, and reflected upon and integrate their learnings with their own faith and vocation.

[HA/HL112DLA Story of Christianity: Reformation and Modern](#)

Winter 2024 (January 8 to April 26 - DLA course) Online, Asynchronous

Required for *continuing* MTS

Instructor: Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

The first part of the course will seek to address the questions that swirl around the sixteenth century. It will look at backgrounds and try to put the Reformation movements into the context of their time and place. These movements will be seen ultimately in religious terms, but religion itself will be understood as very much a part of the social, economic and political realities of the day. By examining the major developments, personalities and writings of various kinds, we will attempt to shed some light on this period and to lay down some of the basic foundational stones for Christianity in the modern world, which is covered in the second part of this course. We will look at how the church has developed, expanded and changed from the reformation era to the present.

[LTS101 Lutheran Formation 1 – Foundations](#)

October 16-20, 2023 Onsite in Calgary, Intensive

Open to all students. Required for *beginning* MDiv, Diaconal Diploma, Certificate in Lutheran Leadership (Lay Track), *beginning* MTS

Instructor: Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein

Lutheran Formation 1 – Foundations is a 3-credit course, one of the three Lutheran Formation courses required for students registered for degree, diploma, and certificate courses through LTS. This course provides students with the foundations for Lutheran understandings, with a particular focus on Luther's Small and Large Catechisms, his theology of the cross and faith/righteousness, justification by grace, and his understanding of Gospel/Good News. As a formation course, learning, living, playing, and worshipping together as a community are integral parts of the class – registration by the deadline is necessary to allow living, eating, and transportation needs to be accommodated. This course is an on-site intensive, with no online option.

PL384 Outreach Ministry

February 12-16, 2024 Blended Intensive (onsite option in Saskatoon)

Required for *continuing* MDiv, elective for *continuing* MTS

Instructors: Dr. Jared Siebert and Dr. Kyle Schiefelbein-Guerrero

“Outreach” is a word that the church uses in a variety of ways to remind itself that the church exists for the benefit of those who are not members. This course begins with a discussion of God’s mission of transforming the world and our participation, connecting the church’s activities with the Good News of Christ Jesus. This is a praxis-oriented class, with a focus on specific tools for: assessing a parish’s life and work; preparing parishioners to engage in outreach efforts; developing mission and ministry plans; and engaging in evangelism, social outreach, and social/environmental transformation work. Please note: MDiv and Diaconal Diploma students must be on internship, or have completed internship, to take this course; MTS and Certificate applicants must obtain permission from faculty to take this course.

SL120 The Lutheran Confessions

February 5-16, 2024 Online, Intensive

Open to all students. Required for *continuing* MDiv, elective for *continuing* MTS.

Instructor: Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein

This course explores the Lutheran Confessions and it means to be a “confessional” church. This course will begin with a discussion on the place and authority of confessions for a church, and then include a survey of the documents of the Book of Concord, looking at them in their historical context. The last part of the class will focus on the historical development and theology of the Augsburg Confession (*Confessio Augustana*). By the end of this course, students will be able to competently discuss the relevance of Confessions for the church today, and will have had opportunity to practice integrating the confessions in their pastoral ministry.

SL349 Queer Theologies

September 8-9, 22-23, and October 6-7, 2023 Online, Intensive

Open to all students although students who do not have an MDiv or MTS need to request permission from the professor. Elective for *continuing* students

Instructor: Dr. Kayko Driedger Hesslein

The last forty years have seen a rise in theologies emerging from Christian 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, as informed by the field of queer theory and lived experiences. This intermediate course will study the works of 2-Spirit, lesbian, gay, and trans theologians, and explore their contributions to the proclamation of the gospel. Students who attend this class are expected to respect LTS’s *Reconciling in Christ* status. Prerequisites for degree students: SL210 Theology I and SL211 Theology II, or permission of the instructor.

SL366 Indigenous Intercultural Relations

August 21-Sept 1, 2023 Onsite (Saskatoon), Intensive

Required for *continuing* MDiv, Diaconal Certificate

Instructor: Ms. Christine Fiddler

This is a two-week course offered onsite through lectures, special guest speakers, and visits to

local Indigenous sites. The course will seek to deepen students' understanding concerning Indigenous peoples' worldviews, culture, and history. Topics that will be covered include Indigenous cultural understandings and practices; Indigenous experiences with colonialist systems such as Indian residential schools, the sixties scoop, the justice system; Truth & Reconciliation; and the treaty and inherent rights of Indigenous people.

Note: Course offerings are subject to change.
Updated: Aug 31, 2023