

# MINISTERIAL STUDIES (MIN)

## **MIN 501. Art of Ministry I: Introduction to the Life and Work of Ministry. (2 h)**

An introduction to vocational formation for religious leadership.

### **MIN 501L. Art of Ministry I-Small Group. (0 h)**

A core aspect of Art of Ministry is the opportunity for formative engagement and intentional reflection with peers regarding the life and work of ministry in various settings. Art of Ministry 501 engages small group learning and reflection to facilitate this growth and development with peers and small group mentors who are serving in community ministry.

### **MIN 501S. Art of Ministry Small Group. (0 h)**

### **MIN 512. Healthy Boundaries: Ministry, Ethics, and Leadership. (1 h)**

This course explores relationships between ministry, professional ethics, and pastoral leadership. Topics include clergy confidentiality, healthy clergy relationships, clergy self-care, pastoral issues related to business and finances, healthy use of social media in ministry, and practices for ensuring the safety of children and youth in ministerial programs. This course is based on a similar course developed by the Faith Trust Institute and is designed to meet denominational healthy boundaries training requirements. The professor has been certified as a healthy boundaries trainer through the Faith Trust Institute. This course is equivalent to Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 offered by the Faith Trust Institute.

### **MIN 513. Introduction to Congregational Budgeting and Finance. (1 h)**

This course is designed to provide ministry leaders a basic understanding of business and financial concepts in a congregational (and nonprofit) context. The overall goal is to help students learn how to use financial information in decision-making and leadership roles. The course will be praxis-oriented, aimed at helping learners develop basic skills in the areas of budgeting and related financial processes. The course will also provide an overview of effective fundraising and giving philosophies and practices.

### **MIN 515. Transforming Leadership? Exploring Practical Theologies for 21st Century Ministry. (3 h)**

How does religious leadership transform communities? What strategies are effective in today's ministering contexts? This course explores models of practical theological reflection and methods of reflective professional practice as frameworks for religious leadership in a variety of contexts. Students will develop reflective strategies to place into conversation their personal vocational narratives, institutional and cultural contexts, biblical leadership tropes, and elements of what they are learning across theological disciplines.

### **MIN 520. The Church in Contemporary Cultures. (1-3 h)**

A study of social factors that pose challenges to church life. Students consider the everyday lives of churchgoers and how faith plays a role in their responses to social, cultural, and political issues. Attention is also given to the ways in which communities of faith create religious culture as a means of strength, cohesion, and survival.

### **MIN 530. Introduction to Christian Worship and Liturgy. (3 h)**

A study of the role of symbol and ritual, sacred times and festivals, sacred places and persons, and expressions of art and music.

### **MIN 531. Children in Worship. (1 h)**

How can worship leaders effectively encourage the participation of children in Sunday worship? What is the role of worship in shaping children's spiritual life? What is the purpose of the "children's sermon" or "children's worship"? This one-credit course will explore these and other topics related to the presence of children in worship.

### **MIN 533. Worship Practicum. (1 h)**

In this course, students will learn to create, plan, and lead weekly worship services for the School of Divinity community. In addition to learning different worship and liturgical traditions, students will reflect theologically on the meaning of worship elements, thereby giving them tools to plan worship services with attention and intention.

### **MIN 535. The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy. (3 h)**

Seminar with clergy, seminarians, Christian educators, young adult leaders and other faith-based advocates for children for spiritual renewal, networking, movement-building workshops, and continuing education about urgent needs of children at the intersection of race and poverty.

### **MIN 540. Specialized Internships. (0.5-3 h)**

Students may elect to do summer, semester, or academic year internships away from the Divinity School's geographic region. Course credit may be given for a specialized internship if the student submits a proposal and the internship is approved by the faculty. If approved, a faculty member serves as an adviser to the student, and a reflection paper, along with other related readings, is required.

### **MIN 541. Summer Internship Reflection. (1 h)**

The School of Divinity makes funding available to students who wish to serve in full-time internship placements during the summer recess. Summer interns serve in a ministry setting for six to eight weeks for a minimum of 200 hours. The School of Divinity invites competitive applications for summer internship funding in early January and makes stipend offers by mid-March. Some ministry settings partner with the School of Divinity to provide part of the funding for summer internship placements. The format of full-time summer internship placements is similar to the part-time format of Art of Ministry II. At the beginning of the summer, students work with their site mentors to create learning/ministering covenants that spell out the student's roles, responsibilities, and learning goals. Summer interns meet weekly with their mentors to reflect on the student's internship work. At the end of the summer, students and mentors write assessments of the internship placement. Summer interns enroll in a one-credit course, meeting one day in May and another in August. The summer internship course creates opportunities for students to reflect on their summer internship work and structures that hold students accountable to their commitments to their internship settings. Students work in peer groups to reflect on their summer internship work.

### **MIN 542A. Internship. (0 h)**

A part-time ministry internship placement (2 semesters at 100 hours per semester, for a total of 200 hours) taken in either the second or third year of program.

### **MIN 542B. Internship. (0 h)**

### **MIN 543. Internship. (0 h)**

A full-time ministry internship placement (200 total hours, to be completed in 5-7 weeks of full-time internship work) in the summer following either the first or second year of the program.

### **MIN 544. Internship. (0 h)**

A summer intensive, full-time internship placement; 300 hrs to be completed between mid-May and mid-August.

### **MIN 545. PRIME Internship Reflection Seminar. (2 h)**

This course is a general elective used for the fulfillment of the summer internship reflection requirement. Pass/fail only. P-POI.

**MIN 551. Introduction to Worship and Preaching. (3 h)**

This course provides instruction in the preparation and delivery of sermons in the context of worship. Attention is given to the history of Christian preaching, to techniques of effective biblical interpretation for preaching, and to the development of a theology of proclamation. P-BIB 521 or 541.

**MIN 561. Faith, Food, Health, and Community. (3 h)**

This course introduces students to the Religious Leadership in Food, Health, and Ecology concentration. The concentration develops leadership skills applicable to either congregational or nonprofit ministries. Interdisciplinary conceptual lenses and methods introduce participants to food systems and health systems as overlapping "loci" for understanding brokenness and cultivating shalom in community. Students interact with community leaders, local data, and faith-based initiatives working at these intersections.

**MIN 564. Podcasts, Livestreams, and Vlogs: Proclamation in the Digital Age. (3 h)**

This course investigates the many ways religious leaders are increasingly using digital media to proclaim the Gospel thus engaging with people who are not in the same space. As social media is now part of the daily lives of many people around the globe, this course explores how religious leaders engage and make meaning of their encounters on Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, Twitter and other social and digital media formats. Specifically, the course examines how preaching is re-imagined through digital pulpits i.e., podcasts, livestreams and vlogs.

**MIN 565. Watershed Discipleship. (3 h)**

This course will introduce and explore a new (and ancient) paradigm for ecological theology and practice that will enable and equip participants to understand and respond to the greatest crisis our civilization has ever faced - the global degradation of our planet and its waters.

**MIN 570. Exploring Interfaith Practice. (3 h)**

This course will provide foundational knowledge of interfaith engagement with focus on forms of leadership. The course will consist of 4 units examining: 1) interfaith history and identifying interfaith movements; 2) principles of interfaith leadership; 3) case studies in interfaith leadership; 4) special topics in interfaith practice and leadership. Students will be encouraged to identify their own leadership styles and to build relationships with effective interfaith leaders within their own communities.

**MIN 592. Appalachia. (3 h)**

Studies in rural church and community ministry through Appalachian Ministries Educational Resources Center (AMERC), Berea, Kentucky. Particular attention is given to traditional communities amid the changing face of the Appalachian region.

**MIN 599. Multicultural Contexts for Ministry. (1-3 h)**

Multicultural contexts for ministry courses focus on specific ministries in diverse cultural and regional contexts. Each course includes a required travel component. Courses vary each year.

**MIN 600. Korea: Conflicts, Reconciliation, and Peacemaking. (3 h)**

A faculty-led travel course which confronts the problem of conflict resolution and peace-making in a country marred by Japanese colonial rule and torn by the Korean war. During Japanese colonial rule (1910-1945), Korea was subject to various kinds of brutal exploitation and persecution by Japanese imperialism, and its liberation was soon followed by a war (1950-1953) that would become a symbol of the Cold War and that still threatens the peace and security of the world. Focusing on some recent events in Korean history, this course will critically examine common sources of national and international conflicts, forms of dehumanization and oppression, processes of political regeneration, and the role of the church in the work of reconciliation and peace-making. We will explore various approaches to conflict resolution and peacebuilding through readings, case studies, and visiting relevant locations. In particular, we will consider theological grounds for forgiveness and peacemaking.

**MIN 601A. Art of Ministry II: Shared Wisdom: Reflective Practice in Ministry. (3 h)**

Academic year internship that includes experiential learning, mentoring, peer group reflection, and classroom learning.

**MIN 601B. Art of Ministry II: Shared Wisdom: Reflective Practice in Ministry. (3 h)**

Academic year internship that includes experiential learning, mentoring, peer group reflection, and classroom learning.

**MIN 602A. Internship Reflection Seminar. (1.5 h)**

Internship Reflection Seminar engages second-year students in theological reflection through a year-long internship. The 3-hour, two-semester course (1.5 credits in each semester) includes plenary sessions that focus on skills development. At the center of the internship learning process is a structured relationship between each student and an on-site mentor. Students also learn how to reflect theologically about ministry and leadership through work with peer groups consisting of other student interns.

**MIN 602B. Internship Reflection Seminar. (1.5 h)**

Internship Reflection Seminar engages second-year students in theological reflection through a year-long internship. The 3-hour, two-semester course (1.5 credits in each semester) includes plenary sessions that focus on skills development. At the center of the internship learning process is a structured relationship between each student and an on-site mentor. Students also learn how to reflect theologically about ministry and leadership through work with peer groups consisting of other student interns.

**MIN 602C. Summer Internship Reflection Seminar. (3 h)**

A full-time ministry internship placement (300 total hours, to be completed in 6-9 weeks of full-time internship work) during the summer.

**MIN 612. Angels and Demons. (3 h)**

An exploration of angelic and demonic figures in the biblical text and in the history of interpretation in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. This course will also consider the portrayal of angels (some fallen) in contemporary fiction, television, and film.

**MIN 627. Proclaiming Judges: Tales of Sex and Violence. (3 h)**

Many Hebrew Bible texts contain disturbing images and stories related to sex, gender, and violence. Examples include Deborah and Jael, Jephthah's daughter, the Samson narrative, the rape of the unnamed Levite's concubine, and Ruth's apparent seduction of Boaz. This course will examine in detail these stories and others as they appear in the books of Judges and Ruth. As a MIN offering in the Proclamation area, the course will move from exegesis and ancient literature to look at how Christian communities have dealt with, and should continue to deal with, these difficult and impious texts in preaching, liturgy, and religious education. The course will include analysis of how these texts have been presented in modern film, books, and music and in some Christian children's resources, such as Veggie Tales.

**MIN 628. Financial Leadership in Ministry. (1 h)**

This course will explore how pastoral leaders approach personal and church finances and how their approach relates to their theology. Money is a medium of social exchange that creates hope, anxiety, blessing, conflict, opportunity and temptation. Students will examine the values related to money in the communities that have shaped them; think through their beliefs about money biblically and theologically; evaluate their current money practices in light of their faith; and develop a money-related practice to pursue throughout the course. How will you organize your own finances and provide leadership within your church in addressing financial matters? In this course students will seek to answer questions like this by considering biblical and theological resources for developing a theology of finance along with developing the tools needed for personal financial planning and the management of finances in a church setting.

**MIN 629. Public Leadership in Nonprofit Organizations: Legal and Theological Perspectives. (3 h)**

The goal of this course is twofold: (1) to consider how legal and theological inquiry shed light on public leadership roles that theologically and legally trained professionals inhabit; and (2) to prepare students to be competent leaders of nonprofit organizations, considering issues like: the legal structure and status of a nonprofit organization (a 501(c)(3)), the process of casting a mission and vision in nonprofit organizations; fund-raising; developing and engaging a leadership board; cultivating a volunteer staff; representing an organization as a public leader; etc.

**MIN 630. Christian Ministry and Public Leadership in America. (3 h)**

This course explores the role of minister as public leader. It attends to four areas of concern: (1) what public leadership is, and what it means in the context of Christian ministry; (2) how U.S.-Americans make morally relevant meaning of their social and political life together, and how these meanings are relevant to ministry leadership in broader publics; (3) what models of public leadership are available to ministry leaders, and what it means to lead well through them, and (4) how ministry leaders reflect theologically on their role as public leaders. To focus our conversation around these matters, the course will examine the theme of urban poverty throughout.

**MIN 631. The Ministry of Pastoral Care. (3 h)**

A study of the church's ministry of caring for persons throughout the life cycle which is grounded in theological understandings of the human condition, the spiritual journey, and the nature of ministry.

**MIN 633. Introduction to Pastoral Counseling. (3 h)**

An introduction to theories and methods of pastoral counseling, including the nature of pastoral identity and essential skills for effective counseling.

**MIN 636A. Clinical Pastoral Education I. (3 h)**

A clinical pastoral education unit focused on multi-cultural concerns in hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care. Offered through the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Open to second and third year students only.

**MIN 636B. Clinical Pastoral Education II. (2 h)**

A clinical pastoral education unit focused on multi-cultural concerns in hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care. Offered through the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center. Open to second and third year students only.

**MIN 638. Trauma and Resilience in the Care of Individuals and Groups. (3 h)**

A study of theories and practices related to individual and community traumas, trauma-informed care, and the human capacities for resilience and growth. The course will utilize sources from multiple disciplinary lenses and practices, including neuroscience, psychology, practical theology, and restorative justice.

**MIN 641. Congregational Leadership and Presbyterian Polity. (1-3 h)**

A study of the polity of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Attention is given to issues of congregational leadership as they are affected by Presbyterian polity structures.

**MIN 643. Homiletics, Ethics and Community Leadership. (3 h)**

This course focuses on the relationship between leadership ethics, and preaching in communities of faith. Special attention is given to the roles of gender, race, ethnicity and class in homiletical practice and theology. The course also considers the role of pastoral leadership in guiding communities toward ethical decision-making that can result in justice and liberation. Also listed as Theological Studies 643.

**MIN 644. Preaching, Worship, and the Care of Souls: Funerals, Weddings, and Other Pastoral Rites. (3 h)**

A study of pastoral rites. This course is a seminar and practicum through which students learn how to design and lead pastoral rites, with an emphasis on funerals and weddings. Each student is required to preach for the class a funeral sermon and a wedding sermon.

**MIN 645. Preaching in the Tradition of the African American Church. (3 h)**

This course invites students to explore the heart and soul of the African American preaching traditions with attention to the historical emergence of the Black Church, its dual function as a religious and socio-political institution, and the theologies, practices and histories that continually give shape to its preaching traditions. The course is designed to enhance students' ability to create theologically grounded sermons that are intelligible, accessible and transformational by exploring the Black Preaching tradition's contributions to homiletical theory and practice. Course emphases include the theological dimensions of preaching, biblical interpretation, sermon preparation and delivery, preaching as formative practice, and preaching as a communal communicative act.

**MIN 654. Preaching and Worship in Sacred Time. (1-3 h)**

This course analyzes the biblical, theological, and pastoral nature of the seasons and special moments of the church year. In addition to instruction on sermon preparation for the major liturgical moments (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), attention is given to baptism, communion, weddings, and funerals.

**MIN 658. Womanist Proclamation. (3 h)**

This course explores womanist proclamation, a practice of truth telling, wisdom bearing and justice seeking that is identified via the radical inclusion of marginalized voices, as an embodied rhetorical and theological act of resistance. Through the carving out of sacred spaces, the course will examine how Black women and girls use speech (performed word) and movement (embodied word) to intentionally disrupt popular terrains where Black bodies are literally and metaphorically disembodied. Ultimately, the course theorizes that womanist proclamation is a means through which Black women's bodies generate and transmit spiritual power from traditional and alternative pulpits and sources to unfetter themselves and their communities from the vestiges of interlaced oppressive systems.

**MIN 660. Sacraments and Ordinances: History, Theologies, and Practices. (3 h)**

A place-based exploration of the history, theologies, and practices of baptism and the Lord's Supper in diverse Christian contexts.

**MIN 663. Ritual & Congregational Life. (3 h)**

An examination of the history, theology, and practice of the sacraments and other pastoral rites in congregational life. Attention is given to the meaning and function of ritual in a contemporary context. The course is taught from a Reformed perspective.

**MIN 668. The Prophetic Pulpit: Preacher as Public Intellectual. (3 h)**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the intellectual tradition of preaching as both spiritual witness and prophetic resistance in the United States. The ultimate aim is to foster intellectual dispositions, ethical orientations, and personal motivations which enable us to raise voices of dissent against any status quo and/or ideological options offered by popular society. We will thus seek to fulfill the three following interrelated tasks: 1.) Clarify the role of the public intellectual within a prophetic tradition, 2.) Examine historical examples of those who bore witness to horrors otherwise denied and their methods of public address, and 3.) Encourage students to craft creative sermons, write clear, concise, and compelling editorials, and engage pressing social issues in ways that are ethically based, intellectually sound, and emotionally animating.

**MIN 671. Contemporary Spiritual Writers. (3 h)**

A study of the principles of the spiritual life as presented in the works of selected contemporary writers.

**MIN 681. American Denominationalism. (3 h)**

A study of the development of denominationalism in America with particular attention to specific faith communities and the shape of religious organizations for the future. Also listed as HIS 681.

**MIN 682. A History of the Baptists. (3 h)**

A study of Baptist history with particular attention to Baptists in the U.S. and the diversity of Baptist ways of belief and practice. Also listed as HIS 682.

**MIN 693. History and Polity of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ. (2 h)**

The course will explore the history, polity, theological foundation, and characteristic beliefs of the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ.

**MIN 695. United Church of Christ Polity and History. (2 h)****MIN 705. Third Year Capstone. (1, 1.5 h)**

The third-year capstone course will have two interrelated components: (1) A capstone reflection component, in which students develop an electronic portfolio to facilitate reflection on their cumulative learning in light of School of Divinity curricular standards (in the areas of disciplinary knowledge, vocational reflection, and skill development for leadership). (2) A professional development component, in which students will continue vocational reflection and ready themselves for employment searches. The capstone course will be developed and facilitated by the director of the Art of Ministry program. The third-year seminar is a pass/fail course.

**MIN 706. Directed Reflection in Applied Sustainability. (1 h)**

This one credit course is taken concurrently with the two credit practicum in Applied Sustainability. With a divinity faculty mentor, students engage in directed theological reflection on practicum experience.

**MIN 710. Topics in Psychology of Religion. (1 h)**

(1h course required for MDiv/MA in Counseling dual degree students)  
A consideration of "classic" and contemporary texts and research in the psychology of religion pertinent to theory and practice of pastoral counseling.

**MIN 711. Topics in Spiritual Development. (1 h)**

This seminar looks at "classic" and contemporary texts and research in human psychological and spiritual development (and critical responses to same) pertinent to theory and practice of pastoral counseling. This class will examine psychoanalytic and cognitive-structural approaches to human development and critical responses.

**MIN 712. Topics in Pastoral Theology. (1 h)**

(1h course required for MDiv/MA in Counseling dual degree students)  
A consideration of selected issues and contemporary perspectives in pastoral theology, with a focus on theological anthropology foundational to integrative reflective practice of pastoral care and counseling.

**MIN 771. Classics of Christian Devotion. (3 h)**

A study of the principles of the spiritual life presented in the enduring classics of devotion.

**MIN 790. Topics Courses. (1-3 h)**

Courses in ministerial studies can be developed and offered on a one-time basis using this designation.

**MIN 790A. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790B. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790C. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790D. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790E. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790F. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790G. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)****MIN 790H. Topics in Ministerial Studies. (1-3 h)**