

> > > COURSE DESCRIPTIONS: FORMATION, MISSION & CULTURAL CONTEXT

Wesleyan understandings of holiness are distinctive in their emphasis on both the personal and the social dimensions of Christian formation and responsibility. The mix of academic disciplines in this Area is an attempt to demonstrate in curricular form the close relationship among several aspects of formation.

Courses in this Area contribute to the preparation of students for ministry through attention to practices, disciplines, and theoretical underpinnings of spiritual, moral, and missional formation. Students receive training for analysis of, and ministry within, various cultural and institutional contexts. A number of courses provide experience in and reflection on specific ministry settings (e.g., pastoral, urban, institutional, missions).

The Area houses the Departments of Spiritual Formation and Christian Ethics and Society, as well as Evangelism and Mission courses offered within the School of Theology.

Upon completion of coursework in this Area, students should be able to:

1. Articulate biblical, historical, and theological bases for moral and spiritual formation, social responsibility, cultural sensitivity, missional outreach, and evangelism.
2. Demonstrate a basic understanding of the categories of Christian ethics, social analysis, mission, and evangelism.
3. Demonstrate requisite skills in moral reflection, social ministry, evangelism, and social outreach.
4. Demonstrate familiarity with the spiritual disciplines and a commitment to ongoing spiritual formation and reflection for themselves and for their congregations.
5. Demonstrate awareness of the cultural dimensions of responsible and effective ministry and mission.
6. Integrate their understanding of God's call to ministry with their own spiritual, moral, and missional identity.

The M.Div. requires the following coursework in Formation, Mission, and Cultural Context: the core requirement in Christian Ethics (CS601), the core elective requirement in Ethical Studies, the core elective requirement in Understanding the World, and the core elective requirement in Apostolic Ministry.

The core elective requirement in Ethical Studies can be met by taking a course in the following range, CS610-39 and CS651-98. Upon successful completion of the core elective requirement in Christian Ethics and Society, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate competence with various biblical and Christian traditions used in responding to selected moral issues;
2. Demonstrate competence with various ethical categories and frameworks used in responding to specific contemporary moral issues;
3. Demonstrate competence in utilizing social, cultural, and/or historical analysis in response to contemporary moral issues;
4. Apply ethical analysis in developing responses to moral issues at a congregational and/or institutional level; and
5. Recognize the distinctive insights arising from particular social locations.

The core elective requirement in Understanding the World can be met by taking a course in either of the following ranges: CS610-49 or MS651-98. Upon successful completion of the core elective requirement in Understanding the World, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a basic awareness of the cultural dimensions of effective ministry;
2. Utilize selected tools from socio-economic and political analysis for interpreting and addressing issues;
3. Describe examples of cross-cultural ministry and service; and
4. Explain how individual Christians and Christian communities can respond to the needs, contexts, and insights of various cultural groups and marginalized communities in society and in the church.

The core elective requirement in Apostolic Ministry can be met by taking a course in the range MS610-49. Upon successful completion of the core elective requirement in Apostolic Ministry, students should be able to:

1. Articulate the biblical, historical, and theological basis for outreach to prechristian people;
2. Articulate the meaning of Christianity's gospel;
3. Articulate some of what is known theologically, sociologically, and psychologically about conversion and the initiation of persons into the Christian faith and discipleship;
4. Exegete particular historical, cultural, social, and religious contexts for outreach ministry and communication of the gospel;
5. Articulate a range of perspectives and approaches for "doing church" and for renewing churches for the sake of apostolic outreach;
6. Articulate a range of perspectives and approaches for engaging prechristian populations in ministry and for effectively communicating the gospel's meaning; and
7. Use field research to gain practical insights for apostolic ministry from interviews with prechristian persons, new converts, and apostolic congregations.