

MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM

(Revised curriculum 2013)

Approved SY 2014

major in:

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Introduction

The Master of Theology (Th.M. or M.Th.) is considered by the Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) to be the minimum educational credential for teaching theological subjects in the ATESEA accredited schools. It gives theology graduates the opportunity to extend their education in a particular field or to prepare for doctoral-level work.

I. Structure of the Program

The proposal will require minor amendments in the structure of the Master of Theology program. All majors will be structured according to the presentation below.

Core Courses	9 units
Major Courses	18 units
Elective	9 units
Comprehensive examination ¹	
Thesis (THM 480)	6 units
	Total 42 units

II. Core Courses (9 units)

The Core courses are the set of common courses required of all Master of Theology students.

1. THM-401 Trends in Biblical Studies **3**
units

This course is a broad survey of modern biblical studies and interpretation. The course serves as a guide to acquire advanced knowledge of the methods, approaches, principles, and techniques in studying the Bible. Same as BS 501

2. THM-402 Foundations of Mission: Biblical and Theological **3**
units

This course is an introduction to the theology of Christian mission and evangelism through a survey of the biblical and theological foundations of mission and evangelism with particular focus on Asian mission theologies.

3. THM-403 Research in theology **3**
units

This is a course on theological research and writing. The course will give special attention to using the library, writing graduate level research papers, and the problem of plagiarism. It will focus on developing a thesis proposal. Same as DS 3

¹ (upon completion of a total of at least 24 units: 15 units of majors courses, 6 units of core courses and 3 units of elective/major course)

4. THM-480 Thesis Writing

6units

A graduate student may proceed to thesis writing after completing all academic units and passing the comprehensive examinations. Student submits Master's Thesis Proposal to Graduate Panel for defense and approval of the proposal. Upon completion student submits the completed thesis to the adviser for endorsement. The thesis will be presented to the Thesis panel for the defense and approval. (Same as MS 512)

III. Systematic Theology

The program focuses on the Christian tradition's self-understandings of its faith and practice in historical, contemporary, and comparative contexts. The study of theology involves the articulation of diverse understandings of central topics such as God, salvation, Christology and the Church; analyses and methods of theological reflection and reasoning; and the relation of Christianity to other religions.

Any six (6) of the following courses:

1. THM-404 Theology: Issues and History

3 units

This course surveys the rich theological traditions of Christianity, covering the history of Christian theology from the early church to the modern world, and considering key topics (God, salvation, Jesus Christ, Trinity, creation) in relation to the contexts in which they emerged and developed..

2. THM 423 Christologies

3 units

Students will explore contemporary christological paradigms centuries in light of a wide variety of socio-cultural contexts of Christian theologians and churches. How do people make sense of the word "Christ" in relation to the challenges of contemporary times and cultures? What is the meaning of Jesus for those who claim to be his followers in our world today? Is the christic concept possibly present in non-religious movements? Implicit to this course is the students' good grasp of the historical development of the christology both in the biblical and in the conciliar formulations. Same as THE 441

3. THM 424 Feminism and Feminist Theologies

3 units

In this course, students will explore the contexts that gave rise and gave shape to various feminist theologies all over the world. The class will examine the major themes in feminist theo- praxis, the methodologies, and responses to the catalytic writings of prominent feminist theologians from Euro-American, Asian, African, and Latin American contexts. Films, literature, songs and other forms of materials produced by feminist women that informed the works of feminist theologians will be explored. Students will engage with and respond to the feminist theologians and women's works critically, mindful of their arguments and methodologies in the construction of their own theological reflections.

4. THM 425 The Contribution of Postmodern and Postcolonial Theories in Shaping Contemporary Theologies

3 units

This course will examine the postmodern and postcolonial critical theories and explore their influence in hermeneutics and construction of contemporary theologies. The students will also examine the possibilities and relevance of

appropriating cultural studies and critical social theories in developing a theological discourse in resistance to Western hegemony. Same as TTH 449

5. THM 426 Readings in Christian Spiritualities 3
units

Piety and religiosity had often been construed as a "synonym" of spirituality. In this course, students are challenged to distinguish spirituality from piety. Thus, this course seeks to assist students to (re)discover the various strands of spiritualities developed in the history of Christianity. Readings will include the materials on the spiritualities of Christians in the early period of Christianity to the 21st century. Same as TTH 442

6. THM 427 Fundamentalism and New Religious Movements 3
units

This course requires the students to explore the origins and basic tenets of fundamentalism and similar religious movements emerging in the Philippines and in the world. The class is expected to: a) examine the economic, political and cultural developments of religious fundamentalism and new religious movements, b) construct an analysis of their basic theological and ethical position in the face of the issues confronting the Philippine society, c) draw out some challenges that these NRMs pose to the mainline church denominations, and c) make a proposal on how to address or deal with these new fundamentalist movements. Same as TTH 446

7. THM 428 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World 3 units

This ecumenics course is designed to help students examine the origins, development, content, and critical issues of various forms of ecofeminisms and earth spiritualities around the world. Engagement with significant oral, written, and visual texts is an important aspect of the course. The class will give particular attention to Asian and Filipino indigenous earth spiritualities. Same as 443

8. THM 429 Theology in Film and Broadcast Media 3 units

How do film and mass media fashion religious symbols by which people, including Filipinos, live and interpret their lives? This course will explore the contributions of film and news media to public life and theology. The course will analyze film, radio and television program clips, readings from history and anthropological literature and various accounts of religion by theological and journalistic interpreters. Same as 447

9. THM 407 Integrity of Creation: Ecumenical Perspectives 3 units

The course will facilitate the students into doing a critical evaluation of the traditional and western theology of creation. This includes an examination of the ancient cultural traditions that had influenced the biblical concept of creation. The course will also introduce the students some alternative theological constructions by the eco-feminist and male theologians who have the same passion for creation.

10. THM 408 Interfaith Dialogue and World Religions 3 units

This course seeks to help students deepen their understanding of religions in order for them to appreciate the importance of interreligious/interfaith dialogue. Students will be asked to delve deeper into the beliefs, sacred text and practices of religions and draw out the similarities that could serve as an entry point for dialog, without

ignoring their differences. Moreover, the students will be asked to identify themes and issues that affect the daily life of peoples in contemporary times.

Elective Courses 9 units

Students are required to take 9 units elective courses that other programs of the Divinity School offer, or courses that are offered by other units in the university.