

# MASTER OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM

(Revised curriculum 2013 )

Approved SY 2014

major in:

## *MISSION STUDIES*

### **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 <sup>1</sup>	
Thesis (THM 480)	6 units
	<b>Total 42 units</b>

### **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

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<sup>1</sup> (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. Major courses

For the **Master of Theology**, the following are the major courses requiring at least eighteen (18) units in each field:

#### 1. Mission Studies (existing)

The program offers a combination of theological and development oriented disciplines (multi-disciplinary) to equip the student on the theological foundations of mission and on the various social and human and environmental development issues to make the mission work of the church relevant and responsive.

Any six (6) of the following courses:

#### Course Description

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-405 Seminar on Mission History 3 units

This is a seminar style course, focused on the mission history of Christianity from a global perspective with the a particular focus on the spread of Christianity to Asia. This course will highlight the indigenization and contextualization process of Christianity in selected Asian countries or civilizations.

3. THM-406 Mission and Ecumenism (same as MS502) 3 units

The course introduces the student to the paradigm shift in the theologies and praxis in the modern missionary movement following the international ecumenical mission conferences from Edinburgh to Athens as well as the Evangelical, Pentecostal and Roman Catholic movements. The students will be introduced to contemporary historical and ecumenical documents on Mission and Evangelism such as the 1974 "Lausanne Covenant" and 1990 "Manila Lausanne Manifesto"; the WCC-CWME 1982 "Mission and Evangelism – An Ecumenical Affirmation" and the 1975 Vatican "Evangelii Nuntiande." Attention will be given to current issues in missiology, such as evangelism and church growth, proselytism, ecumenical relations in mission, justice, peace and creation, and dialogue with other Living Faiths and Ideologies.

4. 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.

5. THM-408 Interfaith Dialogue and World Religion 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. A substantial background in indigenous and religions in Asia and other parts of the world is a requirement for this course.

6. THM-409 Seminar on Social Ethics: Justice, peace and human rights 3 units

It will explore the theological, intellectual and historical development of Church and State relations. The students will analyze important issues affecting Church and State relations such as human rights, democracy, civil disobedience, rebellion, religious plurality, religious fundamentalism, secularism and the policing power of the State, the death penalty, torture and anti-terrorism, race, gender, sexual orientation, world poverty, environmental ethics, animal rights, and cyber ethics. Different issues will be considered in depth each semester. (Same as MS 505)

7. THM-410 Seminar on Peace, Justice and Creation in the Bible 3 units

This course will engage the students towards a more independent study and examination of the various Biblical traditions that focus on the themes of Peace (shalom/eiréné), justice (mishphat) and creation (bara' or beriah) with the end in view of developing a relevant contemporary theology that addresses with scriptural authority the urgent and burning issues of modern times, such as the rise of conflict and violence in various parts of the world, the persistence of injustice and unjust systems in many societies, and the ecological-environmental crisis that threatens to destroy the integrity of God's creation. Same as MS 503

**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.