

2009

Silliman University
Divinity School

[MASTER OF DIVINITY]

Major in Systematic Theology (Thesis Track)

**MASTER OF DIVINITY
Major in Systematic Theology
(Thesis Track)**

FIRST YEAR (33 units)

1st Semester	Units	2nd Semester	Units
THE 441 Seminar in Christologies	3	THE 442 Readings in Christian Spiritualities	3
THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World	3	THE 444 Depth Psychology and Theology	3
THE 445 Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue	3	THE 446 Fundamentalism & New Religious Movements	3
DBI 445 Wisdom Literature	3	DCM 442 Intimate & Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3
DS 1 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing	3	DS 2 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2	3
EL 33 Critical Essay Writing	3		
Total	18	Total	15

SECOND YEAR (15 units)

1st Semester	Units	2nd Semester	
THE 447 Theology in Film and Mass Media	3	DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense	3
THE 449 The Impact of Post-modern and Post-colonial Theories in Contemporary Theologies	3		
DBI 449 Cross-Cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3		
DS 3 Thesis Writing 2	3		
Total	12		

I. Introduction

For many years, graduates of the Divinity School and other seminaries have been coming back to enroll in its Master of Divinity program. They were admitted into the general program for pastoral ministry. Those who came from the field for many years had expressed that the existing masters' degree program did not address their needs because it did not give them a more specialized training. They found themselves sitting in classes with M. Div. students who have no background in basic theological training. In many cases, these classes simply served as refresher courses for the M. Div. candidates who have B.Th. degree and they do not find the program challenging.

II. Justification for the Proposal to Offer a Master of Divinity with major in Systematic Theology

The offering of a Master of Divinity major in Systematic Theology is a response to the need of Bachelor of Theology degree holders who want to upgrade their degree with specialization in theology. Certainly, this program addresses the need of the church for more theologians.

Second, this program also addresses the faculty development need of seminaries, Bible Schools, church-related schools and institutions. Faculty members of these schools will now have a place to study and specialize in theology.

Third, while the Divinity School is a UCCP-related seminary, students from other Christian church denominations and groups have come to its doorsteps to study. An offering of a specialized training in theology will be a boon to these groups that need to professionalize their clergy and church personnel.

III. The Viability of the Program

With the offering of masters' degree with major in systematic theology, the Divinity School expects to attract more students from different directions and denominations to come and enroll in the program. This new program makes the Divinity School become one of the very few Protestant seminaries, if not the only one in the Philippines that offer Master of Divinity major in *Systematic Theology*.

IV. Faculty

The Divinity School is capable of offering this new major field of study for the Master of Divinity. It has faculty members, both resident and visiting professors who hold Ph.D. and D.Theol. in theology. One member of the faculty is about to start his doctoral program (Th.D) in systematic theology in 2007 and is expected to finish in 2011.

V. Objectives for each level.

- During the first year the students are expected to focus on the intensive studies on advance Christian Education courses.
- In their second year, the students will do research and write a thesis.

VI. Graduation Requirements:

1. Completion of the curricular requirements of 48 units, the 24 units being a fulfillment of the CHED required number of units for the core courses.
2. Cumulative QPA of at least 3.0.
3. Passed the Public Defense of Thesis which will be happen between January and February during the Second Year.
4. Endorsed by the Faculty for Graduation

VII. Program Offering

The program will offer advance courses in Systematic Theology that are not offered in the Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity program for the non-B.Th. graduates.

Core Courses for the Master of Divinity major in Systematic Theology

Courses	Units	Total
<i>A. Theology</i>		24
1. THE 441 Seminar in Christologies	3	
2. THE 442 Readings in Christian Spiritualities	3	
3. THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World	3	
4. THE 444 Depth Psychology and Theology	3	
5. THE 445 Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialog		
6. THE 446 Fundamentalism and New Religious Movements	3	
7. THE 447 Theology in Film and Mass Media	3	
8. THE 449 The Impact of Post-Modern and Post-colonial Theories in Contemporary Theological Discourse	3	
<i>B. Biblical Courses -</i>		6
1. DBI 445 Wisdom Literature	3	
2. DBI 449 Cross-cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3	
<i>C. Interdisciplinary Courses</i>		3
1. DCM 442 Intimate & Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3	
<i>D. Research, Thesis Proposal and Thesis Writing</i>		12
<i>E. English Requirement – EL 33 Critical Essay Writing</i>	3	3
<i>Total</i>		48

FIRST YEAR (23 units)

1st Semester

Code	Description	Units	Passing Grade	Pre-requisite
THE 441	Seminar in Christologies	3	3.0	DBI 12
THE 443	Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World	3	3.0	
THE 445	Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue	3	3.0	
DBI 445	Wisdom Literature	3	3.0	DBI 11, 14, 21, 22
DS 1	Research and Thesis Proposal Writing	3	3.0	
EL 33	Critical Essay Writing	3	3.0	
		18		

2nd Semester

Code	Description	Units	Passing Grade	Pre-requisite
THE 442	Readings in Christian Spiritualities	3	3.0	
THE 444	Depth Psychology and Theology	3	3.0	
THE 446	Fundamentalism & New Religious Movements	3	3.0	
DCM 442	Intimate & Domestic Violence as Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue	3	3.0	
DS 2	Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2	3	3.0	
	Total	15		

SECOND YEAR (15 units)

1st Semester

Code	Description	Units	Passing Grade	Pre-requisite
THE 447	Theology in Film and Mass Media	3	3.0	
THE 449	The Impact of Post-modern and Post-colonial Theories in Contemporary Theologies	3	3.0	
DBI 449	Cross-Cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia	3	3.0	
DS 3	Thesis Writing 2	3	3.0	
	Total	12		

2nd Semester

Description	Units	Passing Grade	
DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense	3	3.0	
	3		

VIII. Course Descriptions

First Year

1st Semester

2nd Semester

<p><i>THE 441 Seminar in Christologies</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will review the historical development of the christology in the New Testament and in the conciliar formulations. Students will however, spend more time to explore some christological paradigms in the 20th and 21st centuries in light of the contemporary national and international issues in churches and societies. How do people make sense of the word “Savior” in our contemporary times? What is the meaning of Jesus for those who claim to be his followers in our world today?</p>	<p><i>THE 442 Readings in Christian Spiritualities</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will give the students the opportunity to get acquainted with various kinds of Christian spiritualities. Readings will include the materials on the spiritualities of Christians in the early period of Christianity to the 21st century.</p>
<p><i>THE 443 Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities Around the World</i> 3 units</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>THE 444 Depth Psychology and Theology</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will lead students to examine the responses of Freud, Jung, Fromm, Erikson, Rank, Kristeva, Cixous, Frankl, Winnicott, Neumann and Maslow to basic questions of the condition of the human being. It will compare the methods of depth psychology and theology in the examination of religious experience.</p>
<p><i>THE 445 Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will help students explore the deeper meaning of ecumenism, and move towards the importance of interfaith dialogue in addressing the issues that affect the daily</p>	<p><i>THE 446 Fundamentalism & New Religious Movements</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course prods students to explore the origins and basic tenets of fundamentalist and new religious movements emerging in the Philippines and throughout the world. In</p>

<p>life of the peoples of Asia. A good background in Asian religions is a requirement for this course.</p>	<p>this course, the class will a) probe into the economic, political and cultural developments that give rise to religious fundamentalism and new religious movements, and b) analyze their basic theological and ethical position in the face of the issues confronting the Philippine society.</p>
<p><i>DBI 445 Wisdom Literature</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course is a survey of the five “wisdom” books in the Hebrew Bible and in the apocrypha namely, Proverbs, Job, Qoheleth, Ben Sirach and the Wisdom of Solomon. In this course, the students will a) examine the role of the Ancient Near East institutions and their role in the emergence of the wisdom literature, b) identify the different genres in the biblical wisdom literature, c) the significance of the wisdom literature in the concerns for gender justice, and d) the significance of wisdom literature in contemporary human being’s search for meaning.</p>	<p><i>DCM 442 Intimate & Domestic Violence as a Social, Pastoral, Theological and Ethical Issue</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course seeks to investigate the phenomenon of intimate and domestic violence as a theological, ethical, social, and pastoral issue. The class will use interdisciplinary resources. Students will also be challenged to be in touch with their own personal baggage on the issue of power and attitude towards violence, as well as their complicity to it.</p>
<p><i>DS 1 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 1</i> 3 units</p> <p>The first week of the first semester will be an orientation to thesis writing. On August 15 of the first semester during the Senior Year, the candidate must submit to the Academic Affairs Committee a thesis on a topic in the area of concentration that is approved by the faculty member who accepts the task as the first reader of the thesis. On September 15 of the same semester, the student must submit to the two readers an outline of the proposed thesis and a preliminary annotated bibliography.</p>	<p><i>DS 2 Research and Thesis Proposal Writing 2</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is a course that makes students apply their theories in research methods. An expected output from the student in this class is a thesis proposal that includes an abstract of the research project, thesis statement, objectives, methodology, and outline of the project and an annotated bibliography or a review of literature.</p> <p>Students will schedule a faculty hearing for one’s thesis proposal and must have it approved within the semester.</p>

<p><i>EL 33 Critical Essay Writing</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is an upper level advance writing course. Designed as a reading-writing workshop, it will immerse the student writers through reading in a wide variety of topics and forms of writing, thereby stimulating them to write on various personal essay, commentaries, critics, descriptive narratives, and other writing interest of the student.</p>	
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Second Year

1 st Semester	2 nd Semester
<p><i>THE 447 Theology in Film and Mass Media</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will explore the contributions of film and news media to public life. How do film and mass media fashion religious symbols by which Filipinos live and interpret their lives? The course will analyze newspapers, magazines, film and television program clips, readings from history and anthropological literature and various accounts of religion by theological and journalistic interpreters.</p>	<p><i>DS 4 Thesis Completion and Defense</i> - 3 units</p> <p>This is the second part of the course on thesis writing. Thesis hearings will be scheduled on the last two weeks of January. Two copies of the thesis will be submitted to the Office of the Dean on March 1.</p>
<p><i>THE 449 The Impact of Postmodern and Postcolonial Theories on Contemporary Theologies</i> 3 units</p> <p>This course will examine the postmodern and postcolonial critical theories and explore their impact contemporary theologies. Students will also examine the possibilities and relevance of appropriating cultural studies and critical social theory in developing a theological discourse in resistance to Western hegemony.</p>	

<p><i>DBI 449 Cross-Cultural Reading of the Sacred Texts in Asia</i> 3 units</p> <p>As an introductory course, this is designed to help students explore and appreciate the common themes addressed by the Sacred Scriptures of religions in Asia. Selected readings from the Hebrew Scriptures and Christian Bible will be read alongside the Tao Te Ching, Qur'an, Analects, Dhammapada, and the Vedas. A good background in Asian Religions is required.</p>	
<p><i>DS 3 Thesis Writing</i> 3 units</p> <p>This is mostly an independent work by the student. A periodic consultation between the advisor and the student may be scheduled. The student is required to have an approved thesis proposal in order to get enrolled in this course.</p>	

Electives:

1. The Place of Critical Social Theory in Christian Ethics
2. Feminist Ethics
3. Cultural Studies and Theology: A Dialog