

## ***First Year***

### ***COS 111—The Pastor as Interpreter of the Bible***

This course introduces the role of the United Methodist pastor in biblical interpretation. Attention is given to the formation and function of the canon and to the development of a methodology of interpretation consistent with the nature of scripture. The importance of the Bible as a witness to the life and faith of ancient Israel and early Christianity is illustrated from a survey of representative biblical materials (focusing on Genesis, Hosea, Amos, Mark, and Philippians).

### ***COS 112—Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit***

This course considers the role and responsibility of the pastor as an interpreter of the gospel, with emphases on the Wesleyan heritage and the student's own growing sense of theological identity. Basic terms, tasks, and methods of Christian theology are introduced, and representative classical themes are defined and illustrated.

### ***COS 113—Pastoral Care for Spiritual Formation***

This course explores the caring presence and actions of the pastor as a form of spiritual leadership and formation. Skills of effective pastoral care are presented and practiced, including effective listening and response, awareness of cultural differences, timely intervention, and appropriate referral. Students are encouraged to reflect on their personal strengths, their need for growth in developing relational skills, their self-care, and the development of personal spiritual practices—all in the context of the community of faith.

### ***COS 114—Pastoral Leadership and Administration***

This course focuses on the pastor's formation and competency in fulfilling the role of pastoral administrator, so that a unity is achieved between the pastor's doing and being. The development of administrative skills in keeping with the theology and polity of The United Methodist Church is addressed.

## ***Second Year***

### ***COS 211—Hebrew Bible I***

This course interprets the developing institutions and traditions of Israel and examines the varying ways in which the Hebrew people understood critical events of their history as acts of God. Attention is given to the earliest covenants, the Exodus, the rise of the monarchy, and other events up to the eighth-century prophets.

### ***COS 212—Theological Heritage: Early & Medieval***

This course reflects critically on significant individuals, decisive events, and fundamental tenets of the Christian faith as found in the early church and in medieval Christianity. Utilizing the categories of *grace* and *faith* as focusing lenses, the student appropriates the Christian heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. There is some use of primary sources.

### ***COS 213—Formation for Discipleship***

This course examines the ministry of the church as a means of nurturing faith, Christian values, and ways of life among members of the congregation and community. Skills for evaluating, planning, and designing educational experiences are stressed, as well as the pastor's role as mentor and servant.

### ***COS 214—Practice of Preaching***

This course focuses on preaching the gospel. Central concerns are the utilization of biblical exegesis, sermon preparation and delivery, and evaluation of the pastor's preaching.

## ***Third Year***

### ***COS 311—New Testament I***

This course presents a panoramic view of the content, main characteristics, and message of the books of the New Testament in light of their historical, political, socioeconomic, cultural, and religious environment, as well as their importance as literary expressions of the faith and history of the early church. The practice of exegesis is again emphasized, with special focus on Luke, Acts, Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Galatians.

### ***COS 312—Our Theological Heritage: The Reformation***

This course is a critical reflection upon the individuals, decisive events, and theological developments during the period of the Protestant Reformation. Utilizing the categories of *grace* and *faith* as focusing lenses, the student appropriates the Reformation heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. Attention will be given to selected primary sources.

### ***COS 313—Our Mission from God: Evangelism***

This course analyzes the theology of evangelism and our faithfulness to God's call. It also examines various strategies for and approaches to the church's evangelistic task in the heritage of United Methodism, stressing the proclamation and the enactment of the gospel.

### ***COS 314—Pastoral Care and Counseling***

This course focuses on the pastor's understanding of human nature with attention to methods and skills in pastoral care and counseling. Students participate in an assessment of their personal interactive styles.

## ***Fourth Year***

### ***COS 411—Hebrew Bible II***

This course continues to examine the Word of God as it was expressed through some of Israel's prophets, selected psalms, and passages from the Book of Job.

### ***COS 412—The Wesleyan Movement***

This course is a critical reflection on significant individuals, decisive events, and fundamental tenets of the Christian faith as found in the development of United Methodism. Utilizing the categories of *grace* and *faith* as focusing lenses, the student appropriates particulars of the Wesleyan heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel in contemporary life.

### ***COS 413—Worship and Sacraments***

This course examines the sacraments, rites, and liturgy of The United Methodist Church and the pastor's role as worship leader.

### ***COS 414—Personal and Social Ethics***

This course analyzes the biblical and theological bases for Christian behavior—personal, professional, and social. Emphasis is given to the acquisition of pastoral skills in moral discernment and ethically responsible decision making and action.

## ***Fifth Year***

### ***COS 511—New Testament II***

This course continues the third-year New Testament course, but focuses on the exegesis of assigned texts. It emphasizes the integration of previous learning in exegesis and biblical studies with contextualization in the practice of ministry. Special emphasis includes the books of Matthew, John, James, and Revelation.

### ***COS 512—Contemporary Theology***

This course critically reflects on significant individuals, movements, events, and fundamental tenets of the Christian faith that have shaped contemporary theologies in the past century or so. Through study of varied theological expressions in the modern and postmodern decades, the student enters into the church's enduring task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel for contemporary life. Attention will be given to selected primary sources.

### ***COS 513—Our Mission from God: Transforming Agent***

The mission of the church is to serve God and neighbor by proclaiming the gospel for the redemption of the world. Redemption is God's holy activity that transforms individuals, societies, and all of life. When faithful to its mission, the church serves as an agent of God's transforming redemption. Based upon this understanding of the nature of the church and its mission, this course seeks to help pastors gain theological understanding and practical ministry skills for leading congregations to carry out the mission of the church as God's agents of transformation.

### ***COS 514—Theology and the Practice of Ministry***

This course emphasizes the integration of the role of the practicing pastor with the church's theological heritage and its particular Wesleyan expression. The course also stresses theology as an ongoing task of critical reflection for the purpose of action. Consideration is given to issues, events, and institutions that form the context within which the pastor is required to think, speak, and act with theological clarity.