



## Master of Arts in Christian Studies Degree Program – Course Listings

### **MA Common Core Course Listings**

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| BTHS 5103 | <b>Old Testament Studies (3)</b><br>An examination of contemporary issues in Old Testament studies. Emphasis on exegesis and major theological topics.  |
| BTHS 5203 | <b>New Testament Studies (3)</b><br>An examination of contemporary issues in New Testament studies, exegesis, and theology. This course will examine the major texts and themes with an emphasis on Biblical Theology.  |
| BTHS 5303 | <b>Biblical Hermeneutics (3)</b><br>A Study of the goal, means, and contemporary application of biblical interpretation. The course will examine how to find the meaning of the biblical text to communicate it effectively. The course will examine the interpretation of the various genre of the biblical text. The formation of the biblical Canon will also be examined.   |
| BTHS 5403 | <b>Christian Theology (3)</b><br>A survey of theological method and the principal doctrines of the Christian faith, to include revelation, Scripture, God, humanity, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, the church, and last things. The course will seek to present Christian truth, edify the church, and advance Christian mission.   |
| BTHS 5503 | <b>Spiritual Formation (3)</b><br>A scriptural approach to the study of Christian spirituality and the practice of spiritual disciplines. The course will utilize biblical, classical, and contemporary materials to introduce the student to the theology, purpose, and practice of biblical spirituality. This course will also assist the student in pursuing intimacy with and conformity to Jesus Christ through personal spiritual disciplines. |
| BTHS 5603 | <b>Christian Worldview (3)</b><br>An examination of biblical and theological essentials of a Christian view of reality and life. The course will also address philosophical aspects of worldview and essential Christian distinctions from major alternative worldviews.  |

### **Christian Leadership**

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| LEAD 6113 | <b>Christian Leadership (3)</b><br>Christian leadership character qualities and competencies for effective ministry in the local church and in other ministries. Emphasis will be given to Biblical leadership qualities and contemporary Christian ministry. Required.  |
| LEAD 6123 | <b>The Church and Contemporary Leadership (3)</b><br>An evaluation of leadership methodologies and an analysis of their contributions to the practice of Christian ministry. Critical thinking and reflection are explored and applied to contemporary issues facing the Church in the postmodern era. Students gain skills in the analysis and application of Christian worldview and leadership development. Required.                               |
| LEAD 6163 | <b>Christian Ethics (3)</b><br>An introduction to Christian ethics, its biblical foundations, methodology, and major moral issues in both societal and local church contexts. Some prominent contemporary issues will be addressed. Emphasis will be given to moral decision making practices.   |
| LEAD 6133 | <b>Pastoral Ministry (3)</b><br>This course is a study of the nature, scope, and application of Pastoral ministry. Attention will be given to the Biblical office and model, the contemporary context, and the comprehensive ministries of the Pastor. The course will also give attention to the gathering and use of important resources for the Pastor to fulfill his ministries.   |
| LEAD 6153 | <b>Teaching and Discipleship (3)</b><br>This course will examine biblical, historical, and contemporary principles and practices of effective teaching, learning, and discipleship. This course will emphasize the practice of making disciples in various local church contexts. Large-group, small-group, one-on-one, traditional face-to-face, as well as technology-aided methodologies and resources will be explored.                            |
| LEAD 6203 | <b>Leadership and Ministry to Families (3)</b><br>This course will provide an overview of leadership principles and strategies necessary to formulate an effective individual, congregational, and organizational philosophy and practice of family discipleship. Contemporary leadership issues related to family dynamics will be explored. Students will develop a plan intended to equip a local congregation to evangelize and disciple families. |

## OBU Graduate College

**Christian  
Apologetics**

- APOL 6313 **Biblical and Theological Foundations for Apologetics (3)**  
This course will present the biblical and theological nature of apologetics. The student will study the biblical mandate for apologetics ministry, examining Old and New Testament examples of apologetics and ministry. Students will be encouraged to develop a personal apologetic approach based on biblical and theological models.
- APOL 6323 **Apologetics in Contemporary Christian Ministry (3)**  
This course will focus on the apologetic contributions of the 20th and 21st century apologists, including Chesterton, Lewis, Van Til, Craig, and Keller. Analysis will center on two aspects: apologetic strategies and approaches, and apologetic topics and content. Emphasis will be given on applying insights from contemporary apologists to the student's ministry context.
- APOL 6333 **Apologetics and Evangelism (3)**  
This course will focus on the use and usefulness of apologetics in evangelism. Some attention will be given to the various worldviews embraced by non-Christians that students are seeking to reach with the Gospel, and in the way in which apologetics can help minimize or eliminate some of the obstacles posed against the Gospel by alternative worldviews. Students will survey contemporary strategies in evangelistic apologetics, and develop their own ability to respond to questions and objections posed during evangelistic encounters. Prerequisite: BTHS 5603, Christian Worldview
- APOL 6343 **Christian Responses to Alternative Religious Movements (3)**  
This course will: (1) survey various non-Christian religions, including Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, and the New Age, with an interest on discussing apologetic issues involved in engaging with adherents of non-Christian religious traditions; and (2) explore the history, beliefs, and practices of new religious movements and worldviews in the North American context, including Mormonism (Latter Day Saints) and the Jehovah's Witnesses. Various Christian responses to these NRMs will be examined with the purpose of assisting students in developing a biblically-based response to the NRMs in their local ministry setting. Prerequisite: BTHS 5603, Christian Worldview
- APOL 6353 **Christian Responses to Evil and Suffering (3)**  
The presence of evil and suffering poses both a philosophical and pastoral challenge to contemporary Christian ministers. This course will survey various Christian responses to the "problem of evil," focusing on how the student can equip the local church to respond to evil and suffering in their midst. The course will also examine briefly various non-Christian responses to suffering, particularly the response of modern atheism. Brief consideration will be given to how a naturalistic worldview has permeated parts of contemporary Christendom, and challenges this poses for local church ministries. Attention will be given to the respective positions on the problem of evil. Prerequisite: BTHS 5603, Christian Worldview
- APOL 6363 **Christian Responses to Postmodernism and Relativism (3)**  
This course involves an examination of relativism, and challenges to Christian theism posed specifically by aspects of postmodern thought and culture. Particular focus will be paid to relativistic and postmodern notions of truth, rationality, and religious pluralism, and the effect this has upon local church ministry. The course will also survey various works of popular culture and evaluate their apologetic implications. Prerequisite: BTHS 5603, Christian Worldview