

# Bethel Seminary Academic Catalog 2022-2023

## Spring 2023 Addendum

This addendum accompanies the published print version of the 2022-2023 catalog for Bethel Seminary. Any content changes, updates, and corrections will take effect during the Spring term of the 2022-2023 academic year. The Bethel Seminary [online catalog](#) is consistent with this addendum.

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## Course Descriptions

### Courses added or adjusted in Spring 2023

#### **TS615 • Forgiveness and Restorative Justice** **1.5, 3 credits**

Taking into account related concepts such as grace, mercy, restorative justice, and love, this course is a theological exploration of what it means to live our lives as both the forgiven and the forgivers in Christ. Practical assignments allow the opportunity to connect course topics to personal contexts and areas of interest.

#### **TS 605 • Theology and Contemporary Culture** **1.5,3 Credits**

An engagement with current, popular forms of cultural expression - movies, music, television, sports, social media, etc. - and their relevance to Christian thought and practice. This course emphasizes cultural hermeneutics: how interpretations of culture can shape and inform theological reflection, public action, vocational identity, and missional engagement.

Prerequisites: TS 512 or TS 513

#### **TS 630 • Eschatology and Hope** **1.5,3 Credits**

This course explores the themes of eschatology, or the doctrine of the "last things," with particular attention to the ways in which it contributes hope for humanity and for the purpose of creation. While engaging the thought of major contemporary theologians, this course focuses on the relation between eschatology and Christology, soteriology, and political and practical/pastoral theology. Attention is also given to the relation between eschatology and theodicy, Christian spirituality and ecological ethics.

Prerequisites: TS512 or TS 513 recommended.

#### **TS 632 • World Religions** **1.5,3 Credits**

This course is a study of the world religions that provide structures of belief and meaning for vast numbers of people in America and globally. A primary goal is to develop the understanding and sensitivities necessary to represent Christ attractively, and communicate His Gospel intelligibly, to adherents of these faiths. It is also an opportunity to develop an informed Christian theology of religions.

Prerequisites: TS 512 recommended.

Special Notes: Crosslisted with GC 632.

#### **TS 633 • The Church and Social Issues** **1.5,3 Credits**

An in-depth study of contemporary social challenges and questions, particularly in North American society, but with a view to the reality of globalization. The guiding question is: How does Scripture and the Gospel apply to the most difficult and pressing issues of the day and how can the church be involved? Particular issues are at the discretion of the instructor, but they will likely include (though not be limited to): diversity and racism, human sexuality, economics and poverty, and food and agriculture.

#### **TS 634 • Religious Pluralism** **1.5,3 Credits**

This course explores the theological issue of religious pluralism from a Christian and evangelical perspective. Students explore the historical and contemporary expressions of pluralism as represented by such thinkers as John Hick, John Cobb, and Raimundo Panikkar, among others. Special attention is given to Christological questions posed by pluralism and appropriate theological and apologetic responses.

Practical and constructive methodologies are incorporated.

Prerequisites: TS 512 with TS513 recommended.

#### **TS 672 • Baptist History and Theology** **1.5,3 Credits**

This course surveys the history, theological convictions and distinctive practices of the Baptist tradition. Contemporary developments, special challenges and promising opportunities will receive focused attention.

**TS 686 • The Pietist Tradition**

**1.5,3 Credits**

Pietism, "a religion of the heart," signifies a movement launched in the 17th century to reclaim the experiential dimension of Christian faith. This course traces the Pietist impulse in Christian history, evaluates its varied manifestations, and explores the relevance of a biblically-anchored Pietism to the renewal of the contemporary church.  
Special Notes: Crosslisted with HS686 and SP 686.

**TS 704 • Movie Theology**

**1.5,3 Credits**

A structured workshop in theological evaluation of the heart and mind of contemporary culture as reflected in significant motion pictures. Particular attention is paid to portrayals of the human condition and to religious themes. The goal of the course is to cultivate the art of listening and watching perceptively, with a view to learning whenever possible, and to affirmation or criticism as appropriate.  
Prerequisites: TS 512 [recommended](#).

**TS 735 • Spiritual Theology**

**1.5,3 Credits**

This course clarifies the nature of Christian spirituality, makes a case for studying it, examines its biblical, doctrinal and psychological foundations, and then, finally, explores its three Spirit-directed dynamics of relating (to God, others and creation), becoming (holy and whole), and doing (finding our place in the larger purposes of God). Practical assignments and directed experiences provide opportunities to move beyond theory to personal formation.

**TS 739 • Theology in a Global Context**

**1.5,3 Credits**

This course addresses key intersections between theology and culture and explores questions and issues related to contextuality in theologizing. It does so by close readings, discussions, and analysis of contemporary theologies coming from beyond the traditional Euro-American context, including African, Asian, Latin American and other non-Western contexts. Themes of focus include Christology, anthropology, and the doctrine of salvation.  
Prerequisites: TS 512 [or](#) TS 513.  
Special Notes: Crosslisted with GC 739.

**TS 751 • Seminar in Theology**

**1.5-3 Credits**

An in-depth study of a particular contemporary theological issue.  
Prerequisites: TS 512 and TS 513 [recommended](#).

**TS 754 • Perspectives on Evil and Suffering**

**1.5,3 Credits**

This course explores two distinct approaches to suffering and evil. Theologians, philosophers, and apologists try to explain why evil exists in a world created by a good God. Pastoral theologians and counselors attempt to help people who are suffering. Course participants attempt integration of the categories, resources, and responses typical of these two areas as they seek answers to the question, "What can theologians and caregivers learn from each other? .  
Prerequisites: TS 512 [recommended](#).  
Special Notes: Crosslisted with PC 754 and PH 754.

**TS 774 • Theology of Leadership and Vocation**

**1.5,3 Credits**

This course will enable students to articulate a theology of leadership in an increasingly post-Christendom context and will also explore the nature of vocation as understood historically and in the present. The course explores the theological nature and biblical rationale for effective leadership and also explores, more broadly, vocation as a gift and responsibility, but does so in the context of reflection on the nature of the kingdom of God. The course culminates in in-depth communal and personal reflection on the question of vocation.

**PH 754 • Perspectives on Evil and Suffering**

**1.5,3 Credits**

This course explores two distinct approaches to suffering and evil. Theologians, philosophers, and apologists try to explain why evil exists in a world created by a good God. Pastoral theologians and counselors attempt to help people who are suffering. Course participants attempt integration of the categories, resources, and responses typical of these two areas as they seek answers to the question, "What can theologians and caregivers learn from each other? .  
Prerequisites: TS 512 [recommended](#).  
Special Notes: Crosslisted with PC 754 and TS 754.