

Lay School for Mission

Northern Great Lakes Synod

Curriculum and Course Descriptions

Note: Semesters will be repeated in order
Students can join the Lay School at the beginning of any semester.

Semester I (Winter, 2010)

Gospels (18 hours) - *An examination of the four gospels exploring the common message presented by the four evangelists, but also the unique aspects of each work.*

World Religions (12 hours) - *An examination of the essentials of the Christian faith, and then a comparison with other religions of the world including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism.*

Evangelism (9 hours) - *A course that will explore how sharing the good news is a part of discipleship. How can evangelism be done, both as a individual discipline and as part of the life of the community? How can we see evangelism as a natural part of discipleship, and not something scary or bizarre?*

Worship and Liturgics (15 hours) - *This class will focus less on leading worship and more on understanding the symbols we use, the church calendar, and the liturgical structure of worship.*

“Coordinator’s Choice” (6 hours) – *A class unique to the site that will allow instructors to share material of importance for the life of the church and for which they have a passion.*

Semester II (Fall, 2010)

New Testament Epistles (22 hours) - *A review of the letters of the New Testament and the various ways in which they reflect the gospel message. Consideration will be given to the context of each letter and how it spoke – and speaks today.*

Acts (12 hours) - *The Book of Acts will be studied with an emphasis on how it proclaims the power of the gospel to create community, and how that power is working in churches today. This course will be in essence a course of the life of contemporary community of faith in light of witness of the Book of Acts.*

Systematics - First Article (11 hours) - *A study of the first article of the Nicene Creed – what do we believe about God as creator of all that exists? What are the historical foundations behind the development of these beliefs?*

Ecumenism (9 hours) - *A study of ecumenism, with a special emphasis on how ecumenism plays out in the local community and how we find common mission with members of other communities of faith.*

“Coordinator’s Choice” (6 hours) – *A class unique to the site that will allow instructors to share material of importance for the life of the church and for which they have a passion.*

Semester III (Winter, 2011)

Pentateuch (12 hours) - *A study of the first five books of the Old Testament. The stories of the Pentateuch will be examined, not merely as history, but as theological statements, and the legal material will be considered in light of our contemporary culture.*

Systematics - Second Article (11 hours) - *A study of the second article of the Nicene Creed – who and what is Jesus, and what is it about the human condition that necessitates Christ and the cross? What are the historical foundations, especially regarding the nature of Christ?*

Ethics (6 hours) - *A brief course on ethical behavior in light of the cross and God's call to righteousness.*

Spiritual Development (9 hours) - *An exploration of spiritual practices, especially prayer, and how as we develop them they develop us in our faith journey. There will be an emphasis on learning and doing spiritual practices, not just learning about them.*

Overview of Ministry in the Congregation (16 hours) - *This class will take a quick overview of a number of congregational ministries including education, stewardship, social ministry, youth ministry, and other ministries that are routinely a part of congregational life. The course will introduce students to resources available in each area of ministry.*

“Coordinator's Choice” (6 hours) – *A class unique to the site that will allow instructors to share material of importance for the life of the church and for which they have a passion.*

Semester IV (Fall, 2011)

Prophets (15 hours) - *A study of the Old Testament prophetic material, including the former prophets and the latter prophets. Consideration will be given to how the prophetic message is heard today.*

Exegetical Techniques (10 hours) - *An introduction to the way in which texts are “exegeted.” This course will be of value in considering any Biblical text.*

Systematics - Third Article (11) - *A study of the third article of the Nicene Creed – how does the Spirit work in our lives? Included in this course will be an examination of our theology of the church and the historical background that impacted the theological beliefs.*

Preaching (18 hours) - *Students will learn how a sermon is developed and deliver one sermon in class or a worship setting. The focus will be on the thought process that goes on in preparing a law-gospel message rather than on the mechanics of delivery.*

“Coordinator's Choice” (6 hours) – *A class unique to the site that will allow instructors to share material of importance for the life of the church and for which they have a passion.*

Semester V (Winter, 2012)

Writings (12 hours) - *A review of the “writings” of the Old Testament, especially the Psalms.*

Apocalyptic in the Bible and in Contemporary Society (12 hours) - *An exploration of the apocalyptic books (Daniel and Revelation), along with other apocalyptic passages, as well as how apocalyptic is a part of popular theology.*

Lutheran Confessions (22 hours) - *This course will introduce and explore the Lutheran confessional documents, especially the Augsburg Confession and Luther’s Large Catechism. Other confessional documents will be briefly noted. The history of the Reformation and the historical events that led up to the Reformation will also be examined.*

Stewardship and Spiritual Gifts (9 hours) - *An examination of stewardship as central to discipleship. What are the gifts we each have, and how do we use them in the context of faithful living?*

Polity: Life Together (5 hours) - *A course on the structure and life of the church, with an emphasis on how we work together to accomplish the mission of Jesus Christ. Generally this course will be taught by the bishop.*