Master’s Programme in Theology

2017-2018
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Profile of the School
VID Specialized University (VID) was founded by The Norwegian Missionary Society in 1843 and has, since its establishment, developed and maintained an international profile preparing students for different positions in church and society in Norway and abroad, with a particular focus on multicultural contexts. Besides the theological programmes (Bachelor, Master’s, PhD) the School offers several Bachelor programmes in Christian and Cultural Studies.

The Master’s programme
The Master’s Programme in Theology is a two year intensive academic course of study, 120 ECTS credits, in theology based on the bachelor’s degree in theology and contains a specialization within the main subjects from undergraduate degree.

The Master’s program includes firstly (term 1) a term of topics related to encounters between religions and cultures (20 ECTS), as well as a method subject (10 ECTS). Then comes a term (term 2) with a course in New Testament and Systematic Theology (30 ECTS). The program then continues (term 3) with two specialization topics (15 ECTS each). In the last term a Master's thesis (30 ECTS) is to be written. It is possible to write interdisciplinary in practical theology. When choosing interdisciplinary projects, a co-supervisor from the relevant faculties may be appointed.

The Master’s program has many elective courses. Implementation of the normal teaching of these subjects requires that at least three students choose the same subject. Are there fewer students choosing a topic, the lessons will be given as guidance by appointment, but in a smaller scale than the curriculum requires.

At the master level, there will always be several foreign students. For this reason, teaching and academic work in the various subjects at this level are given in English. Examination papers and thesis can be carried out in Norwegian or English.

Learning Outcome

Knowledge
After graduation the students shall have
- advanced knowledge concerning the Christian faith both in an historical and a contemporary perspective and concerning the scholarly debate on its interpretation
- in-depth knowledge concerning the contemporary debate on the ecclesial and academic identity of theology
- advanced knowledge concerning the different disciplines of theology
- specialized understanding within a limited field of the subject

Skills
After graduation the students shall be able to
- analyse and relate to theological theories, interpretations and methods in an independent and critical way
- complete an independent theological research project according to current scholarly and research ethical norms

**General competence**
After graduation the students shall be able to
- discuss theological and ecclesial problems in a critical and independent way both in scholarly and general contexts
- analyse and process different sources of information for the purpose of understanding and interpreting local and global contexts for ecclesial work
- make the perspective of the Christian faith heard on different arenas in relation to scholarly, religious, cultural and social challenges

**Structure**

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**Organizing, Study and Work Methods**

**Language**
The language of instruction is English. The thesis and assignments may be written either in English or Norwegian.

**Tutor**
Every student will pursue his/her work under the supervision of a qualified tutor from the VID academic staff possessing academic competence at the doctoral level or equivalent.

**Types of study**
One year of study consists of ten months full time work and represents 60 ECTS credits. The number of credits for each separate module and course, together with all relevant information necessary for the student, are described in the different module and course descriptions. Methods of teaching are lectures and seminars, different types of group work, assignments based on the individual activity of each student and on his or her ability to work independently (or in groups), creatively and critically.

Quality of Study
The quality assurance system at VID is the tool to systematize and analyse information and feedback from participants in the programme. The system shall, in predictable and structured ways give VID information in order to develop both the study and the total learning environment.

Modes of assessment – final examination
The various modes of assessment are designed to be both adequate means of assessment of the quality of the student’s work and as a legal protection on behalf of the students. The different modes of assessment are developed in order to measure the learning outcome of each course and module.

The following modes of assessments will be applied during the education:
- written examination
- home examination (3-5 days)
- independent, written assignment of a certain length (Master’s Thesis)
- essay (length of paper stated in number of words)
- oral examination
- written assignment or theme presentation to a group or seminar
- oral assignment or theme presentation to a group or seminar
- oral opposition/criticism of an assignment or course presentation
- compulsory attendance (however, never the sole criterion for approval of a course or module)

Please note that any plagiarism, copying, downloading from the internet or use of written sources without proper reference will be considered a breach of contract of the rules of examination (cf. Examination Regulation).

Grading Scale
Each individual module will be evaluated and graded with a letter-grade (A-F) or Pass/Fail according to each separate module or course description.


Rules and regulations for studies

Requirements for Admission
To be admitted to the Master’s Programme in Theology candidates must have:

1. Completed a bachelor degree in Theology or
2. International students should note that: All students whose first language is not English or who have not completed the major bulk of their schooling in English, can enter VID by submitting their transcripts, meeting the academic requirements and doing the following: Proof of English language competency may be shown by completing the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). Results should be sent directly to VID. A minimum TOEFL score of 500 or a minimum IELTS score of 5.0 is normally required.

Course description

MTHEOL-322 Encounters of Religions and Cultures (20 ECTS)

Credits: 10
Term: Fall
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 38/12

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Kari Storstein Haug

Introduction:
Three different disciplines contribute to the illumination of the Encounters of Religions and Cultures from different perspectives: the perspectives of Science of Religion, Cultural Studies (Intercultural Communication) and Christian Studies. The course therefore consists of three subcourses:

- The Mission of the Church in Religious and Cultural Diversity (8 ECTS)
- Encounters of Religions (7 ECTS)
- Communication, Culture and Context (5 ECTS)

Learning outcome:
After having completed this course, the students will be able to
- explain how cultural and religious issues are inseparably connected individually and socially, nationally and internationally to the societies they live and work in.
- analyze and discuss different aspects of encounters between religions and cultures

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work, 60 hours.

The three courses will be taught simultaneously and as a comprehensive unity.

There will be a compulsory interdisciplinary program where the teaching method of Context Oriented Learning (COL) will be applied.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
The three courses are taught as a comprehensive unity. There is a compulsory interdisciplinary week during the term where the teaching method of Context Oriented Learning (COL) is applied. 75% presence is required in order to validate the COL-week.

Each student has to write the following essays:
1. The Mission of the Church in Religious and Cultural Diversity: One academic essay of 1500 words (+/- 10%)
2. Encounters of Religions: One essay of 750 words (+/- 10%) intended for the newspaper debate pages.
3. Communication, Culture and Context: One academic essay of 1000 words (+/- 10%)
Students who do not attend the COL-week have to write three academic essays of 3000 words (+/-10%), one within each course. Grades for the essays: Pass/Fail.

The module also contains a compulsory seminar in methodology/library science, normally 10 hours. 75% presence is required in order to validate the seminar. A multiple choice test covering central aspects of information literacy and academic writing, including knowledge of MHS guidelines for writing master’s thesis (can be found at: https://www.vid.no/en/library/writing-a-paper/), will finalize the module. Grades: pass/fail.

Assessment:
A three day interdisciplinary home examination. Each student will draw lots to determine the subject of his/her essay. The essay will be given a grade which will be the final grade for the whole course.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Students’ evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature:


See the different Course Descriptions
Course description

The Mission of the Church in Religious and Cultural Diversity (8 ECTS)

Credits: 10
Term: Fall
Language of instruction: English
ApprovedHR item ?/12

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Kari Storstein Haug

Introduction:
The course gives an overview and critical theological analysis of relevant theories and perspectives on the Church’s mission in interreligious and intercultural encounters

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- is familiar with the main changes in the world’s religious landscape since Edinburgh 1910, and the impact of globalization and secularization on the Church’s mission.
- has knowledge of different forms of interreligious and intercultural encounters.
- has thorough knowledge of the main theories and perspectives on Christian theology of religion and on Christianity as both an indigenous and universal religion.
- has knowledge about the main theological and ethical perspectives on the issue of Christian mission as an agent of religious change, with a special focus on the question of conversion.
- has knowledge of the basic theological issues and contemporary discussions related to the issue of ecumenism, with special regard to its connection to and relevance for Christian mission.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- can analyse complex forms of interreligious and intercultural encounters and discuss the challenges and opportunities for the Church’s mission which arise from these.
- is able to situate him/herself within the scholarly discussions both on theology of religion and contextualization.
- is able to reflect critically and constructively on the relation between witness and dialogue in the encounter between people of different faiths.
Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 24 hours.
See course description above

Obligatory assignments during the course:
See course description above

Assessment:
See course description above

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books

Compendium


Internet


Total 599 pages
Introduction:
This course gives an introduction to the field of intercultural communication and to relevant theories connected to transmission of the Gospel in different cultural contexts. Special attention will be given to theoretical approaches to globalization and to the challenges which the global church faces as a consequence of recent social and economic changes. This includes reflections connected to the numerical growth of the church in the South, the cultural aspects of the new ‘majority Christianity,’ and the transforming role of different faith-based organisations. The importance of the cultural and historical context of the local community as well as the role of the church as an agent of social and cultural change will also be highlighted.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has thorough knowledge about global cultural diversity and the processes of modernization and globalization.
- can analyse complex cultural encounters based on theories of intercultural communication.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has developed skills related to communication and co-operation with persons from different cultural backgrounds
- can engage in dialogue about personal faith with people with a different religious and cultural background
- has developed attitudes of empathy faced with intercultural encounters

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 12 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
See further course description above

Assessment:
See further course description above
Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Book

Compendium

In all 362 p.
Course description

Encounters of Religions (7 ECTS)

Credits: 7
Term: Fall
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:
The course deals with different aspects of religious encounters, such as conflict, dialogue and cooperation. The following issues are included:

The teachings of religions in non-Christian religions, especially the idea of “the religious other”.

Concepts of mission strategies and conversion are seen as a particularly interesting dimension of religious encounters.

Processes of religious change are understood as corresponding with social and cultural changes and interaction between different religions and cultures, leading to knowledge about new developments in religion (e.g. spirituality, religious revivalism, medialisation, religious expression among youth, and religious relations in the public sphere).

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- Has thorough knowledge of the teaching of religions in non-Christian religions.
- Can analyze examples of conflict, dialogue and cooperation between different religious groups, especially majority / minority issues
- Has advanced knowledge of processes of religious change

Skills
After having completed the course, the student

- Is able to discuss some mission strategies of a particular religion and relate this discussion to the phenomenon of conversion.
- Is able to identify patterns of religious encounters leading to conflict on one hand and to dialogue and cooperation on the other hand
- Is able to analyze processes of religious change in relationship to social and cultural changes
- Is able to write an essay for a daily newspaper about a contemporary issue related to religion in the public sphere

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. See also module description. Normally 24 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Each student has to write an essay of 750 words (+/- 10%) intended for the newspaper debate pages, where the topic is related to one of the themes discussed in the course.

**Assessment:**
See module description.

**Open for students with a right to study at VID:**
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Student’s evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**

**Books:**
Cheetham, David, Douglas Pratt and David Thomas (eds.). *Understanding Interreligious Relations*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014. (350 p. selected by the responsible lecturer)

In all 588 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-321 Introduction to Scientific Method (10 ECTS)
Credits: 10
Term: Fall
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11, revised UU item 35/15

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Knut Alfsvåg

Introduction:
The aim of this course is to deepen the students understanding of the scientific writing through a study of science theory, the understanding of theology as an academic discipline, and of different aspects of the writing process.

Learning outcome:
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate
- will know the most important issues in science theory
- will understand the basic issues involved in understanding theology as an academic discipline

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate
- will be able to identify relevant theological search questions and develop a method for investigating them
- will be able to work independently with methodological issues in either text oriented or empirical research
- will be able to evaluate feasability and grade of success of academic research projects

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 24 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
An essay of 1500 words related either to a possible topic for research or a general question of (theological) science theory.

Assessment:
Four hours’ written school exam, evaluated with grades
Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see www.Vid.no).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature:

Books

Compendium

Compendiums will be available in itslearning.
Course description

MTHEOL-320 Master Course in New Testament and Systematic Theology (30 ECTS)

Credits: 30
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: UU item 17/15

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturers: Jostein Ådna and Knut Alfsvåg

Introduction:
All master students in theology have to take this master course in New Testament and Systematic Theology. The course consists of the following sub-courses:
a. Pauline Letters and New Testament Theology (15 ECTS)
b. Christian Dogmatics (15 ECTS)

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
See sub-course descriptions.

Assessment:
A four days’ home exam and an oral exam. The students must pass both exams. After the home exam the students are given a preliminary grade to be adjusted after the oral exam.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master students at VID. Other students, who want to attend the course, must apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Admission requirement:
Bachelor degree in theology

Students’ evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of students’ evaluation.
Course description

MTHEOL-320a Pauline Letters and New Testament Theology (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: UU item 17/15

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Jostein Ådna

Introduction:
Besides the Gospels, the Letters of the Apostle Paul constitute the major part of the New Testament. Hence, a historical study of Paul’s career and an exegetical study of his letters will always be central in New Testament studies. The selection of texts for exegetical analysis concentrates on the two major letters First Corinthians and Romans, but also some passages from other Pauline Letters – as well as from the Letter to the Hebrews and the Revelation of John – central to Christology are included.
On the basis of the exegesis of the Gospels (as part of Bachelor of Theology) and the exegesis of Pauline Letters, this course also offers a systematizing overview of New Testament theology, including the Synoptic Gospels, Johannine writings (Gospel and Revelation), Paul and selected Catholic Epistles (Hebrews and 1 Peter).

Learning outcome:
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate will

• have basic knowledge about the apostle Paul and his letters in general
• have detailed knowledge about Romans and 1 Corinthians, in particular of the passages selected for exegetical analysis
• have a good knowledge of central Christological texts in the New Testament and of the development of Christology in the 1st century AD;
• have good knowledge about exegetical methodology applied to the Pauline Letters
• have acquaintance with important resources and instruments for exegetical work (dictionaries, lexica, concordances, software)
• have good knowledge of important issues in New Testament theology

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate will

• have the ability to apply the acquired insights as regards both methodology and content to exegetical analysis of further New Testament epistolary texts
• have the ability to undertake further synthesizing reflections on variations and connections within the New Testament and within the Christian Bible as a whole
• have the ability to apply exegesis of Pauline texts and New Testament theology didactically and homiletically
Organization and work methods:
Lectures, normally 36 hours. A two days exegetical seminar, 10 hours, at least one month before the submission date of the obligatory essay (see below).

Obligatory assignments during the course:
An exegetical essay of 3500–4000 words to be submitted by the tenth week of term 8.

Assessment:
See main description above.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master students at VID. Other students, who wish to attend the course, must apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Students’ evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of students’ evaluation.

Literature:

Texts

Books
For the exegetical study of the selected texts the students are supposed to use scholarly commentaries, based upon the Greek text and approved by the New Testament scholar teaching the course.


Compendium


Course description

MTHEOL-320b Christian Dogmatics (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15  
Term: Spring  
Language of instruction: English  
Approved: UU item 17/15  

VID Specialized University- MHS  
Responsible lecturer: Knut Alfsvåg

Introduction:  
The aim of the course is to let the students rework their studies of the methodological foundation and cognitive content of the Christian faith, and, building on that, let the students explore historical and contemporary avenues of thought concerning the understanding of God, salvation and the life as a Christian.

Learning outcome:

Knowledge  
After having completed the course, the candidate will

- have an in depth knowledge of how Christian doctrine is founded on the Bible and on central discussions and statements during the history of the church  
- have an in depth knowledge of problems related to, and different contributions to the Christian understanding of God during the history of the church and in a contemporary context  
- have a good knowledge of the different debates on the understanding of the person and work of Christ through the history of the church  
- have a good understanding of the significance of the understanding of the person and work of the Holy Spirit for the understanding of the life and work of the Christian church  
- be familiar with the main scholarly and denominational differences related to the understanding of the central questions of the Christian faith

Skills  
After having completed the course, that candidate will

- be able to formulate a relevant understanding of the Christian faith in a variety of contexts including those of the church, the academy and the society in general  
- be able both to formulate and to evaluate research projects related to the understanding of the Christian faith  
- be able to contribute to the ongoing research concerning the understanding of the Christian faith and its relevance in different contexts  
- be able to evaluate different contemporary approaches to the Christian faith

Assignments:
Two essays of 3000 words (+/- 10 %) each

**Assessment:**
See main description above.

**Students’ evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at ViD. The Quality system includes various forms of students’ evaluation.

**Work methods:**
Lectures and class discussions

**Literature:**

**Books**


**Compendium**


Kristiansen, Ståle Johannes and Svein Rise (eds.), *Key Theological Thinkers: From Modern to Postmodern*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2013, 3-76, 569-591 (95 p.)

Steiger, Johann Anselm —The communicatio idiomatum as the Axle and Motor of Luther’s Theology, in Lutheran Quarterly 2000, s. 125-158. (34 p.)
(Altogether 1064 p.)

In addition, the students should know and use
ELECTIVES 2 x 15 ECTS

Course description

MTHEOL-323 The Old Testament Understanding of God (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item: 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Magnar Kartveit

Introduction:
This course presents different understandings of God in the neighboring cultures of Israel, and highlights the way Israel's own understanding differs from or is similar to them. The course introduces the understanding of God in the neighboring cultures of Israel, and highlights the way Israel's own understanding differs from or is similar to them. Thus it provides a good knowledge of the way the understanding of God is in the Old Testament. This will provide a window to the larger theological issues in the OT and to the background of the New Testament theology and christology. A selection of OT texts will be read in Hebrew.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has advanced knowledge of the OT teaching of God.
- has a good overall knowledge of the OT and how this relates to similar topics in the NT
- knows how this has been handled in the history of research, know how to apply historical insights to new areas of study and analyze problems and issues in the current debate.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- is able to analyze theories, models and interpretations in the scholarly discussion and uses relevant parts of this material for future work and study,
- handles complex issues in church and society, involving philosophical and ethical components,
- is able to approach new projects, study their individual parts and problems and to suggests solutions for future action

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.
The course is presented in the form of lectures, seminars, discussion papers, field work in the current, public debate on the topic in newspapers, periodicals etc. The course is sponsored by teachers from different sections of theology and religion.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
One written presentation of 4000 words +/- 10%
Assessment:
Three days home exam. Evaluation with grades.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature

Biblical texts:
Genesis 1–3; 22; Exodus 3; 19; Deuteronomy 20; Joshua 6; Isaiah 2; 44; Psalm 22; 23; 24; 103. (15 pages in Hebrew)

Books:

Commentaries on the texts. (350 p.)

Total: 1125 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-324 The Book of Job – Suffering in the Old Testament (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15  
Term: Spring  
Language of instruction: English  
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS  
Responsible lecturer: Magnar Kartveit

Introduction:
The course will discuss topics familiar to all humans: Can suffering be justified? When parents lose a child, what have they done wrong? When a wife loses her husband, a child her father, is there a reason for this? Why may a good and benevolent human become ill and die in the middle of life? Suffering and pain will meet all humans once or more during life-time. Questions will arise in such connections. Some people may ask how to cope with troubles, others do not know how to grieve, most will become aggressive and find a scapegoat: health authorities, other car drivers, the community. All who have met with sorrow and suffering ask if life is fair, and look for light to be shed on the darker side of life.
The book of Job is a story about Job and a collection of speeches or dialogues between Job and his friends. At the end of the book God enters the scene with his comments. The whole book is about the relationship between human conduct and suffering, between ethics and reward, between choices and fate.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has advanced knowledge of the book of Job, and its use,
- has a good overall knowledge of the study of the Old Testament.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- is able to critically apply different methods in the study of OT texts and their use in sermons, teaching and public debate,  
- is able to handle other texts in a professional way, and to analyze current, connected problems in church and society, 
- is able to tackle ethical issues related to the problematic of Job, disentangle their elements and provide solutions on the basis of the general applicability and constructiveness of the knowledge acquired.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.
Students will use insights from courses in practical theology

Obligatory assignments during the course:
One written presentation of 4000 words +/- 10%
Assessment:
Three days home exam. Evaluation with grades

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
The Bible: The Book of Job; Genesis 2-3; Psalm 73; Proverbs 10. (45 p. in Norwegian).
The texts will be used in Hebrew (from BHS) with a Norwegian or English translation. This equals 90 p.

Students who read Norwegian may use the following articles, supplied by an adequate commentary on the book of Job, for instance the one mentioned below.

Kompendium:
Tidsavgrenset hovedfagsavhandling i kristendom. Oslo: Menighetsfakultetet, 1990. (80 s.)
Skarsaune, Oskar. “Vår talsmann Job,” s. 11-51 i Oskar Skarsaune, Thomas Bjerkholt og Jan Gossner, Den skjulte Gud, Oslo: Credo u. Å. (40 s.)
Yancey, Philip. “Job: Å se i mørket,” s. 45-70 i Philip Yancey, Den Bibel Jesus leste, Oslo: Luther forlag 2003. (26 s.)
From Pritchard, James B. Ancient Near Eastern Texts Relating to the Old Testament: Man and his God; Ludlul bel nemeqi; The Babylonian Theodicy. (12 s.)

Students without knowledge of Norwegian will read appropriate English literature, for example

Books:
Course description

MTHEOL-325 Old Testament Texts in the Church Lectionary (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Magnar Kartveit

Introduction:
This course uses Old Testament texts from the Church Lectionary for study and preaching. The texts are read in Hebrew with modern commentaries, relevant hermeneutical questions are addressed, and ways of preaching are discussed. The course is given in cooperation with the homilitical section at Practical Theology. A high degree of student involvement is presupposed.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

• has advanced knowledge of the OT texts for preaching in the Church of Norway, and their use,
• has a good overall knowledge of Old Testament studies.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

• is able to critically apply different methods in the study of OT texts and their use in sermons, teaching and public debate,
• is able to handle other texts in a professional way, and analyze current, connected problems in church and society,
• can tackle upcoming ethical issues in this connection, disentangle their elements and provide solutions on the basis of the general applicability and constructiveness of the knowledge acquired in the course.
• can approach new tasks, similarly based upon understanding a given material and applying it in a new setting.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
One sermon during the teaching period.

Assessment:
Three days home exam. Evaluation with grades

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Student’s evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**
A number of texts from the Church Lectionary, studied in Hebrew (*BHS/BHQ*). (50 p.)

**Books:**

Commentaries on the texts, depending on the choice of texts. (700 p.)
Total: 1150 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-326 Mission in the Early Church (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 24/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Jostein Ådna

Introduction:
The Christian church was a missionary church from its very beginning. The theological foundation and the practice of missionary outreach were, however, somewhat diverse and disputed within the numerically and geographically expanding church. This course makes acquainted both with the history and the theology of mission in the early church and, on this background, offers some hermeneutical reflection on biblically based mission in today’s world. Missionary central New Testament texts studied in previous courses (e.g., Rom 11:1–36; 15:7–33) are supplemented by a selection of further historically and theologically central texts from Matthew, Acts and Paul, to be read in Greek.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- will have good knowledge about selected NT texts, supplementing those NT texts relating to mission already studied in earlier courses
- will have good knowledge about the historical course of mission in the first century A.D.
- will have good knowledge about the theological understanding and reflection on the mission of the church within different strands of the NT

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- will have ability to apply the acquired knowledge about history and theology of mission in the NT to central hermeneutical reflections on mission today.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Either one essay or one seminar paper of 4000 words +/- 10%

Assessment:
Three days home exam. Evaluation with grades

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).
**Students’ evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of students’ evaluation.

**Literature**

**Texts**


In total 619 lines in Nestle-Aland

For the exegetical study of the selected texts the students are supposed to use scholarly commentaries, based upon the Greek text and approved by the New Testament scholar teaching the course.

**Books**

Issue 3 of *Swedish Missiological Themes* 99 (2011), contains five papers from the conference “The Missionary Speeches in the Acts of the Apostles”, 19–20 May, 2010, at the School of Mission and Theology. All or most of these papers will be included in the reading curriculum. (ca. 100 pp.)


Marshall, I. Howard, “Who were the evangelists?”. In *The Mission of the Early Church to Jews and Gentiles*: 251–263. (13 pp.)


(Also the original version in German, *Urchristliche Mission*, can be used.)


**Compendium**


In total ca. 780 pages
Course description

MTHEOL-327 Church and Leadership in the New Testament (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 24/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Jostein Ádna

Introduction:
The formation of Jesus’ church (cf. Matt 16:18), respectively the church of God (Gal 1:13; 1 Cor 1:2; 15:9), is a central topic in the New Testament. Both the diversity and variations in how communities of Jesus believers were organised and structured and how differences in social, cultural and religious traditions and orientations influenced them, are significant aspects to be considered. Particularly important is the theological understanding of the church, as exposed in the NT. Intrinsically connected to all these ecclesiological issues is also the question of leadership. There seem to have been considerable variations in how leadership was organised and performed in NT times.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- will have good knowledge about selected NT texts on church and leadership, supplementing those NT texts relating to these themes already studied in earlier courses
- will have good knowledge about historical developments in the early Christian communities and in leadership within these communities
- will have good knowledge about the theological understanding of the church and its ministry, including different leadership positions and models

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- will have the ability to apply the acquired knowledge to current reflection and debate on church and leadership.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 24 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Either one essay or one seminar paper of 4000 words +/- 10%

Assessment:
Three days home exam. Evaluation with grades

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course,
have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Students’ evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**

**Texts**


In total 702 lines in Nestle-Aland

For the exegetical study of the selected texts the students are supposed to use scholarly commentaries, based upon the Greek text and approved by the New Testament scholar teaching the course.

**Books**

Reading curriculum of approximately 650 pages to be taken from the following books. A decision about what chapters, passages and articles will be selected for compulsory reading can only be made when the first book listed, *The Chosen Lady*, foreseen as the main course book, has appeared. The person with course responsibility will clarify the precise reading curriculum in due time before the course is to be operative as an option for Fields of Specialization.


In total ca. 650 pages
Course description

MTHEOL-328 The Church in Historical Contexts I – Between Permanence and Change (15 ECTS)

Credits: 15  
Term: Spring  
Language of instruction: English

Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:
Course I: For students who chose 15 ECTS specialization in CH. It consists of the two subcourses:
The roots of the Church – doctrine, practice and spirituality of the Early Church
Theology in a Transitional Age—from a liberal to a post modern approach
Both subcourses must be studied together and completed by a joint exam.
The Christian Church is on the one hand a spiritual unit, instituted by God, with an unchanging message to the world throughout all ages and geographies. On the other hand, Christ entrusted the mission of the Church into the hands of human beings, meaning that the life of the Church in all aspects will always appear as a historical phenomenon, coloured by actual cultures, languages and ways of thinking of time and place.
The two epochs in focus in the two subcourses of the Early Church and Modern Time, represent opposite ends of the history of the Church. An immense gap of differences exists between the two eras. But at the same time strong lines of continuity combines the Church of today with the Church of all ages of the past.
See more detailed description under the two subcourses.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
See under the two subcourses.

Assessment:
Six hours written exam. Evaluation with grades.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).
The roots of the Church – doctrine, practice and spirituality of the Early Church (7,5 ECTS)

Credits: 7,5
Term: Fall
Language of instruction: English
Approved: UU SAK 26/14

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:
The first five centuries AD was a formative period for the Church and Christianity in which a tradition that might be regarded as the roots of Church were established. This subcourse focuses on early Christian doctrines, ethics, spirituality and institutional formation. The process that resulted in the definition of “orthodox” Christianity will be given attention. The internal processes of development as well as the interaction of the Church with society and culture will be emphasized.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has advanced knowledge about the development of doctrines, ethics, spirituality of the Early Church in its social and cultural context
- has advanced knowledge about issues related to the development and definition of what was regarded as “orthodox” Christianity

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has the ability to critically analyze and discuss current methods and interpretations of relevant topics dealt with in this course
- has the ability to develop and accomplish, under supervision, an independent, limited research project related to the field
- has the ability to teach subjects related to the Early Church at lower levels of university study, colleges, high schools (or equivalent)
- is able to discuss the matters of the subcourse with scholarly peers and to communicate the learnt material to a wider audience
- is able to apply the method and approach to the study of the Early Church to other fields in order to conduct advanced work tasks and projects

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and seminars where the students present papers. Normally 9 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Assessment:
See course description.
Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:
In all 526p.
Course description

Theology in a Transitional Age—from a liberal to a post modern approach

Credits: 7.5
Term: spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:
The main object of this course is to give a more advanced presentation of some main figures in the development of modern theology from the mid 19th to the late 20th century, complying with the set standards of the Master degree level. Focus will be directed both to the contents of their theologies and of the relation of these to intellectual history and society in general.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has a fairly good overview of the development of theology in modern times, i.e., over the last 150 years
- has a detailed and analytical knowledge of the theologies of the selected thinkers and groups/schools particularly focused in this sub-course

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has the ability to develop and accomplish – under supervision - an independent, limited research project related to the field
- has the ability to discuss the matters of the sub-course with scholarly peers and to communicate the knowledge to a wider audience
- has teaching competence relating to lower levels of university study, colleges and high school (or equivalent) in theology and religion
- has practical competence to draw from the achieved knowledge in congregational work in preaching, catechetics, and care of souls
- has theoretical competence in analysing modern trends on the basis of trends from the near past

Organization and work methods:
Lectures with individual oral presentations by all participants. Normally 9 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Assessment:
See the main course description

**Open for students with a right to study at VID:**
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Student’s evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**
**Books:**


In all 450 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-329 The Church in Historical Contexts II – Middle Ages and Pre-Modern Era (15 ECTS)

Credits: 10  
Term: Spring  
Language of instruction: English  
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS  
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:  
For students who chose additional 15 ECTS specialization in CH. It consists of the two subcourses:  
- The Colourful Middle Ages–Church, piety and religious life in a crucial epoch of the Christian Church  
- Between absolutism and pluralism – the Church on her way into the era of modernity  
Both periods in focus in the two subcourses include significant epochs of the life of the Church in the past dealing with aspects of theology, piety and spirituality, organisation and structures as well as relation to contemporary society both different from and with deep connecting lines to modern ecclesiastical life and theology.  
See more detailed description under the two subcourses.

Required previous knowledge  
The course The Church in Historical Contexts I must be completed before taking this course

Organization and work methods:  
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:

Assessment:  
Six hours written exam: Evaluation with grades.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:  
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).
Course description

The Colourful Middle Ages—Church, piety and religious life in a crucial epoch of the Christian Church

Credits: 7.5
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:
The main aim of this sub-course is to give a presentation of some selected aspects of the activities of the Church and of religious life in the long epoch of the Middle Ages in order to illustrate the vibrant complexity and importance of this period for later times. The series will be based on the most recent scholarly research on the selected topics. Issues to be addressed are: The Papal Church at the Curia and the peripheries, crusades and power, the fight between *sacerdotium* and *imperium*, monasteries, pilgrimages and penance, and the relation between life and afterlife.

Learning outcome

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has a good overview of the basic theological outlook of the medieval Church
- has a detailed and analytical knowledge of the selected features and facets of religious life in practice during the period

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has the ability to deal with the topics of this course in written works according to master degree requirements
- has the ability to discuss the matters of the sub-course with scholarly peers and to communicate the learnt material to a wider audience
- has teaching competence in relation to lower levels of university study, colleges, high schools (or equivalent) in the church history and religious life of the Middle Ages
- has theoretical competence in analysing and understanding theology production and the expressions of religious faith in a pre-modern world
- has reflective competence in looking at the features of medieval theology/religious life and modern theology/religious life in a comparative perspective

Organization and work methods:

Lectures with individual oral presentations by all participants. Normally 9 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Assessment:
See description of the main course above

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:

In all: 511 p.
Course description

Between absolutism and pluralism – the Church on her way into the era of modernity

Credits: 7,5
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:
The 200 years’ time span from the mid 17th to the mid 19th century displays deep and radical changes on the European continent laying the ground for what we call the modern world. The process involved profound innovations of political systems (from royal autocracy to democracy), social structures (from class society to liberalism), philosophy (from idealism to enlightenment, empiricism and materialism) and theology (from orthodoxy to pietism, rationalism, restoration and revivalist movements).

This course will give an outline of the historical development of the Church and her theological orientation with a special focus on showing how Church and theology communicated with society and philosophy in the actual period, and how the more pluralized Church was prepared for entering into the era of modernity.

Learning outcome

Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

• has good knowledge about the development of Church and theology in the pre-modern era in its religious, cultural and political context
• has advanced knowledge about the above mentioned selected issues

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

• has the ability to critically analyze and discuss current methods and interpretations of relevant topics dealt with in the sub-course
• has the ability to develop and accomplish, under supervision, an independent, limited research project related to the field
• has the ability to teach subjects related to the history of the Church in a qualified way at lower levels of university study, colleges, high schools (or equivalent)
• has the ability to discuss the matters of the sub-course with scholarly peers and to communicate the learnt material to a wider audience
• has the ability to apply the method and approach to the study of the topic to other fields

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 9 hours.

**Obligatory assignments during the course:**

**Assessment:**
See the description of the main course above.

**Open for students with a right to study at VID:**
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Student’s evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**

**Books:**

In all 507 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-330 The Modern Missionary Movement

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Torstein Jørgensen

Introduction:
The modern missionary movement emerged at the end of the 18th century and had an immense impact on church life, culture, society and politics in the subsequent centuries. This course deals with the emergence of the movement in its religious, cultural and political context focusing on its ideology and practice. Among issues related to the history of mission that the course will address are: the international politics of the missionary movement, missionary strategies, the relation between evangelization and colonization, understanding of race and female missionary roles. In addition it will discuss theoretical perspectives on conversion.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has good knowledge about the emergence, ideology and practice of the modern missionary movements in its religious, cultural and political context
- has advanced knowledge about the above mentioned selected issues

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has the ability to critically analyze and discuss current methods and interpretations of relevant topics dealt with in this course
- has the ability to develop and accomplish, under supervision, an independent, limited research project related to the field
- has the ability to teach subjects related to the history of mission at lower levels of university study, colleges, high schools (or equivalent)
- has the ability to discuss the matters of the course with scholarly peers and to communicate the learnt material to a wider audience

Required previous knowledge
The course The Church in Historical Contexts I must be completed before taking this course.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
**Assessment:**
6 hours written school exam. Evaluation with grades

**Open for students with a right to study at VID:**
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Student’s evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**
**Books**

**Compendium**

In all 1117 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-331 Texts from the history of dogmatics and moral philosophy

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Knut Alfsvåg

Introduction:
The aim of this course is to train the students’ ability to discuss central theological and ethical issues by letting them read and discuss central texts from the history of the church and European philosophy.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has a good knowledge of the major positions in the history of dogmatics and moral philosophy according to the primary sources

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- can present and evaluate the particular contribution in a given text
- can discuss the problems presented in the texts within the framework of contemporary theological reflection
- can formulate and undertake research projects related to the texts

Organization and work methods:
Teaching form will be a combination of lectures and seminars with student contribution and discussions. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Present and discuss relevant texts from the reading list in class during the course

Assessment:
A 5000 words essay on one or more of the authors from the reading list and some of their writings, handed in before the examination weeks. Oral exam related both to essay and other parts of the reading list. The candidate must pass both exams. The grade of the essay is adjusted after the oral exam.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**

**Books:**
Selections from

In all about 1000 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-332 The person and work of the Holy Spirit

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Knut Alfsvåg

Introduction:
The course aims at an in depth study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit as understood throughout the history of the church and in relation to contemporary theological reflection. As the work of the Holy Spirit in the Christian confessions is closely related to the church, this naturally includes a discussion of the understanding of church and worship.

Learning outcome

Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate

• should have good knowledge of the discussion of the person and work of the Holy Spirit both in an historical and a contemporary perspective

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate

• should be able to present and evaluate different approaches to pneumatology in the history of the church and within the context of contemporary church life
• should be able to explain the reasons for and implications of the historically important differences between the Christian denominations in their approaches to the understanding of the third person of the Trinity
• should be able to discuss the attempts within the ecumenical movement of creating a more unified pneumatology
• should be able to reflect on the relation between the doctrine of the Spirit, the doctrine of the church and the doctrine of sacraments and worship
• should be able to apply the understanding of pneumatology, ecclesiology and liturgy in an evaluation of contemporary developments in the world wide church
• should be able to undertake teaching work in pneumatology on various levels from the elementary to the academic
• should be able to formulate and investigate relevant research questions in relation to the understanding of the Holy Spirit and the church

Organization and work methods:
Teaching form will be a combination of lectures and seminars with student contribution and discussions. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Present and defend one or two short essays related to the topic of the course
Assessment:
A 5000 words essay on one or more of the authors from the reading list and some of their writings, handed in before the examination week. Oral exam related both to essay and other parts of the reading list. The grade of the essay is adjusted after the oral exam.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature:
Bryan P. Stone (ed.), *A Reader in Ecclesiology*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2012 (selection of 150 p.)

In all 1225 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-333 Missiological Research – Text, Context and Method

Credits: 15  
Term: Spring  
Language of instruction: English  
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS  
Responsible lecturer: Kari Storstein Haug

Introduction:
This course introduces the student to Theology of Mission as a research discipline, and trains his or her ability to appropriate relevant scholarly literature, theories, and source material, formulate research problems and discuss them within a missiological framework. Special attention will be given to the discussion of Christianity as both indigenous and universal.

Learning outcome

Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has advanced knowledge of Theology of Mission as research discipline, in particular its research history, central sources, themes and methodology.
- has thorough knowledge of the relevant theories and perspectives on contextualization.
- has knowledge of some of the most central ecumenical and confessional texts on theology of mission, and is able to analyse and evaluate them.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- is able to formulate practical and theoretical problems within the field of Theology of Mission, and choose the appropriate methods and theories to deal with them.
- can analyse different positions in the scholarly debate on contextualization and position him/herself in the scholarly discussion.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Presentation and evaluation of selected texts from the course literature in a seminar

Assessment:
An individual assignment (essay) of 5000 word (+/-10%) on a given topic. Oral exam related both to essay and course literature. The candidate must pass both exam. The essay counts 2/3, the essay 1/3 toward the final grade.
Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:

Compendium

Documents
About 100 pages of ecumenical and confessional texts on theology of mission

Total 903 pages
Course description

MTHEOL-334 Studies in Contemporary World Christianity

Credits: 15  
Term: Spring  
Language of instruction: English  
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS  
Responsible lecturer: Kari Storstein Haug

Introduction:  
This course introduces the student to the on-going studies of World Christianity, focusing particularly on main trends and aspects of contemporary Christian theology and Church practice in Asia and Africa.

Learning outcome
Knowledge  
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has a good understanding of different aspects of and perspectives on Christianity both as a global and local religion  
- is familiar with the methods utilised in studies of World Christianity  
- has knowledge of various expressions and interpretations of contemporary Christian theology and practice in Asia and Africa

Skills  
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- is able to present and critically analyse given texts on African and Asian theology in light of contemporary theories of contextualization  
- is able to formulate and undertake research projects related to contextual theology or intercultural theology

Organization and work methods:  
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:  
Essay of 1500 word (+/-10%) on a given topic

Assessment:
An individual assignment (essay) of 3500 word (+/-10%) on a given topic, handed in before the examination week. Oral exam related both to essay and course literature. The grade of the essay is adjusted after the oral exam.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:
About 300 pages of selected articles about African or Asian theology
In all 987 p.
Course description

MTEOL-335 Youth Theology

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Kari Storstein Haug

Introduction:
This course introduces the student to contemporary discussions on the significance and challenges of youth culture for the mission of the Christian Church today. It gives an understanding of the characteristics of youth culture, of young peoples’ faith, as well as knowledge about the on-going reflection on youth theology and how this challenges the Church in various ways.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- has good knowledge of different aspects of and perspectives on youth culture, nationally and internationally.
- has advanced knowledge of contemporary theories, models and discussions concerning youth theology.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- is able to present and critically analyse different youth cultures and youth theologies, and its significance for the mission of the church today.
- can apply theories of contextualization to the theological reflection concerning the Church’s work among young people.
- is able to formulate and undertake research projects related to the significance of youth culture for the mission of the church today.

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Essay of 1500 word (+/-10%) on a given topic

Assessment:
An individual assignment (essay) of 3500 words (+/-10%) on a given topic. Oral exam related both to essay and course literature. The candidate must pass both exams. The grade of the essay is adjusted after the oral exam.
Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:

Either

Or

Compendium Norwegian speaking students
**Compendium English speaking students**


Selected articles approx. 100 p.

**Total Norwegian 871 p.**

**Total English 878 p.**
Course description

MTHEOL-336 Basic principles, research history, methods and textual sources in Science of Religion

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:
This course focuses on basic principles in the understanding of religion as a topic to be scholarly investigated, and the understanding of Science of Religion as an academic discipline, also with regards to its relationship to other disciplines with an interest in religion as a topic. The course gives an overview of the research history and various methods of this discipline. The course also integrates a study of the contexts and discourses of selected texts, including important religious texts and some classic texts from the history of Science of Religion, presenting different ways of interpreting religious phenomena.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- can give an overview of the discussion on how religion can be studied academically.
- can explain the development and characteristics of Science of Religion as an academic discipline.
- can discuss the selection of appropriate methodology and theory for the study of a particular religious topic.

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- can analyse religious texts and classic texts from the history of the discipline with regards to the contexts and discourses of these texts.

Organization and work methods:
The course may be offered as a guided seminar with 18 seminar hours where students present reading reports and essay drafts for discussion. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Essay (2500 words +/- 10 %) is required before the exams, and handed in by the tenth week of the term. Graded passed / failed.

Assessment:
Six hours written examination. Evaluation with grades.
Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:
Bell, Catherine. *Ritual; Perspectives and Dimensions*. Oxford University Press, Oxford 1997 (268 p.)

Texts for reflection (to be found in compendium):

Total 1145 p.
Course description

**MTHEOL-338 Holistic religiosity**

**Credits:** 15  
**Term:** Spring  
**Language of instruction:** English  
**Approved:** HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS  
**Responsible lecturer:** Gerd Marie Ådna

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**Introduction:**  
This course focuses on new religious aspects of the 20th and 21st centuries. Philosophic, anthropologic and sociologic perspectives from the Science of Religion will illustrate both content and context. The course reflects further on how holistic religiosity is visible in different social media and on the experience of the visit to the Alternative Marked.

**Learning outcome**  
**Knowledge**  
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- will have extended and advanced knowledge of philosophical, anthropological and sociological aspects of the study of holistic religiosity within a science of religion approach

**Skills**  
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- can analyse the teaching of several groups that are defined as “holistic religiosity”, “new age” or “new religions movements”  
- can present the main spiritual ideas that are offered in these groups  
- can distinguish between different trends and groups  
- can discuss the anthropology within different groups  
- should be able to discuss ideas of sickness and health within a holistic framework  
- should be able to discuss how interactions with history and society affect the individual and communal spirituality within different groups and within traditional organized religious communities like the Church of Norway and others

**Organization and work methods:**  
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

An excursion to the “Alternativmessen” in Stavanger will be arranged during the Encounter program. This course is a follow up on this experience. Further, this course will offer a combination of lectures and seminars where the students are active in presenting their essays in process and articles read from the curriculum texts. Guests will be invited and / or excursions will be arranged.

**Obligatory assignments during the course:**  
Essay (2500 words +/- 10 %) is required before the exams, and handed in 4 weeks before the exams. Graded passed / failed.
Assessment:
6 hours written examination. Evaluation with grades.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature
Books:

In all 1113 p. (1237 p. incl overview)
Course description

MTHEOL-339 Women in the world religions

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 12/11

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Gerd Marie Ådna

Introduction:
This course presents the position of gender and the situation for women in the world religions and in the so-called holistic new age movements. The role of feminist aspects in critical research and academia will be emphasized.

Learning outcome
Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- will have knowledge about gender issues in the world religions and the holistic new age movements
- will have good knowledge about the situation for women in these religions and movements
- will have good knowledge of the role and contribution of feminist aspects in scholarly description and analysis of these religions and movements

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate:

- should be able to analyse the views of different world religions and holistic movements of gender and gender roles
- should be able to present more thoroughly the historical and ideological background for gender questions in two of these religious groups
- should be able to discuss how religion and society are influenced by gender differences
- should be able to discuss how symbols, teachings, rituals, social hierarchies and practices express gender differences
- should be able to discuss how globalization influences women’s status and roles in local contexts

Organization and work methods:
This course will offer a combination of lectures and seminars where the students are active in presenting their essays in process and articles read from the curriculum texts. Guests will be invited and/or excursions will be arranged. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Essay (2500 words +/- 10 %) is required and handed in 4 weeks before the exams. Graded passed/failed.

Assessment:
6 hours written exam. Evaluation with grades

**Open for students with a right to study at VID:**
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

**Student's evaluation:**
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

**Literature**

**Books:**


**Compendium:**


Total: 1094 p.
Course description

MTHEOL-317 Practical theology. Liturgics or Homiletics

Credits: 15
Term: Spring
Language of instruction: English
Approved: HR item 27/15
VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Hans Austnaber

Introduction:
The aim of this course is, firstly, to present practical theology as an academic discipline and a research subject. The student then chooses either to focus on homiletics or liturgics. In homiletics, the student is introduced to the history of homiletics and representative contributions on the principles, theology and process of preaching. In liturgics, the student is introduced to representative accounts of contemporary liturgical theology and theories of contextualizing Christian Worship.

Learning outcome

Knowledge
After having completed the course, the candidate

Practical theology
  • should have a good understanding of practical theology and its tasks
  • should know how qualitative methods may assist practical theological reflection
  • should have knowledge about current contributions to practical theology

Homiletics
  • should know important issues in the history of homiletics
  • should know more recent contributions to homiletical themes
  • should have knowledge of some important trends in homiletics

Liturgics
  • should have good understanding of main foci in contemporary main stream liturgical theology
  • should have familiarity with theory and methods which are utilized when contextualizing Christian worship and liturgies

Skills
After having completed the course, the candidate

Practical theology
  • should be able to formulate and undertake research projects in practical theology
Homiletics
- should be able to identify and use different ways of constructing the sermon

Liturgics
- should be able to present and critically analyze liturgies in light of liturgical theology and relevant theory on contextualization

Organization and work methods:
Lectures and group work. Normally 18 hours.

Obligatory assignments during the course:
Individual essay of 1500 words (+/-10%) on a topic related to knowledge in the learning outcome, normally presented in seminar

Assessment:
An individual assignment (essay) of 3500 words (+/-10%) on a given topic. Oral exam (with grades) is related both to essay and course literature. The candidate must pass both exams. The grade of the essay is adjusted after the oral exam.

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master-students at VID. Other students, who wish to follow the course, have to apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Student’s evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality-system at VID. The Quality-system includes various forms of student’s evaluation.

Literature:

Practical theology (about 400 pages)

Homiletics (about 600 pages)

Liturgics (about 600 pages)


Total: 433 + 615 + 585 pages
Course description

MTHEOL-342 Master’s Thesis

Credits: 30
Term: Fall
Language of instruction: English
Approved: UU item 14/15

VID Specialized University- MHS
Responsible lecturer: Terese Bue Kessel

Introduction:
During the Master’s Degree Programme, the student shall complete an independent research project resulting in a master’s thesis. The work is supposed to be completed in one term, which equals 30 ECTS-credits. The subject of the thesis should be within New Testament or Systematic Theology (cf., as basis, the course MTHEOL-320, term 8) or within one of the student’s fields of specialization (cf. Electives, term 10), and may be related to one of the other master degree disciplines or practical theology in an interdisciplinary way. The School of Mission and Theology, which appoints a member of its academic staff as tutor, must approve the student’s choice of field for the master thesis.

The student shall before the middle of the third term of the Master’s Degree Programme submit for approval by the School a project description containing a preliminary work title, research problem, current research, relevant theories and methodology, need for collection of data and a brief outline of the planned thesis. If fieldwork is foreseen and shall be conducted between the second and the third term, it must be prepared during the second term.

The thesis should be written with 1.5 line spacing, 2.54-cm margins and in Times New Roman 12 points (10 points for footnotes). The length of the thesis should be 28,000 words (+/- 10%). The thesis may be written in English or Norwegian. VID Specialized University will set a deadline for submission of theses each term.

Learning outcome:

Knowledge

After having completed the course, the candidate will:

- have acquired an understanding of his/her own capacities for collecting different kinds of data, analyzing these data, and writing a Master’s Thesis.
- have knowledge to understand key issues of theory and/or contextual/historical aspects of a limited academic area.
- have acquired understanding of how to apply different analytical approaches towards a text and combine them with personal analysis and reflections.

Skills

After having completed the course, the candidate will:
• have achieved experience and practical competence in text related research methods and analysis.
• have the ability to carry out textual analysis related to a selected topic.
• be able to express advanced theoretical and empirical knowledge through academic writing.
• be able to plan, carry out, and complete a large academic project.

Assessment:
Evaluation with grades

Open for students with a right to study at VID:
The course is open for all master students in theology at VID. Other students who want to attend the course must apply according to published deadlines (see student web).

Students’ evaluation:
Evaluations of our courses constitute a central part of the Quality system at VID. The Quality system includes various forms of students’ evaluation.

Organization and work methods:
The student will be appointed a tutor with whom she/he will be able to discuss the selection of literature and different analytical approaches towards the project. The tutoring should contain the following elements:
• Both student and tutor sign the Master’s Thesis contract
• Together they elaborate a detailed plan for the project including an estimated deadline for the different chapters
• Normally the student and the tutor meet four to six times during the project. Meetings can also take place through the internet, if this is agreed upon by both parties. The tutoring may be conducted together with other students/tutors.
• The total tutoring, which includes both meetings and the tutor’s reading of the text, equivalents twenty-five hours
• The tutoring-process normally ends one week before the deadline for the submission of the thesis.

The writing process
1. Drafts should be sent to the tutor in due time before the scheduled meetings.
2. The tutor may, in consultation with the student, ask a second reader to review and respond to individual chapters. If the reader is not one of the staff of the School of Mission and Theology, disbursement of the reader must be discussed with the School’s administration.
3. Concerning the style of the thesis, use the VID “General Guidelines for Writing Master and PhD Theses” (available at Vid.no). When relevant, one should also consult Patrick Alexander, SBL Handbook of Style, or similar, discipline-specific guidebooks. A completed thesis (28.000 words +/- 10%) does not include front-page, abstract, table of contents and bibliography.

Submission and grading of the thesis
4. The thesis should be submitted to VID Specialized University in three bound copies and one electronic version.
5. Deadline for submission will be at 12:00 a.m. at a date to be specified by the School.
6. If the thesis is not submitted within this deadline for any other reason than health problems documented by a medical certificate, grading (and graduation) will be postponed to the following term.
7. The thesis will be graded by a committee consisting of the tutor and one external examiner.
familiar with the field of study of the specific thesis.

8. Grading is based on an evaluation of the written thesis according to the *Grading scale* in the Master’s Degree