



MASTER OF ARTS IN APPLIED THEOLOGY (THESIS/NON-THESIS)

The Master of Arts in Applied Theology program aims at providing Christians with a solid theological background which, in accord with the Lasallian spirit, is both faithful to the Judaeo-Christian Tradition and responsive to the exigencies of the times, as well as appropriate to ministerial and personal needs.

The program is primarily, though not exclusively, lay in character and praxis-oriented, inculturated and interdisciplinary in nature. It is aimed at equipping practitioners of various ministries in the Church and interested persons with an advanced background in theology as officially envisioned in the Second Vatican Council, the documents of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences, and the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines.

Those who follow the masters program and earn a total of 18 units from prescribed offerings will receive the Diploma in Applied Theology.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE THESIS PROGRAM

Basic Courses	9 units
Major Courses	12 units
Required Seminar	3 units
Elective Courses	6 units
Thesis	6 units
Total	36 units

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NON-THESIS PROGRAM

Basic Courses	9 units
Major Courses	12 units
Required Seminar	3 units
Elective Courses	9 units
Integrating Seminar	3 units
Total	36 units

BASIC COURSES

Foundations of Applied Theology I (REV680M)

3 units

Basic realities and process within the framework of the mutual interaction between the Judaeo-Christian Tradition and contemporary human experience, the fundamental notions of Revelation and Faith shall be dealt with. The process of "doing theology", particularly with cultural resources, will be explained and illustrated.

The Bible from a Cultural Perspective (REV681M)

3 units

This introductory course deals with the realities related to the formation and interpretation of the Jewish-Christian scriptures from a socio-cultural viewpoint. Presentation, analysis and discussion of texts from both the Old and the New Testaments will serve as illustration of the cultural way of approaching the bible.

Methods of Research (REV527M)

3 units

Students will be introduced to the various approaches and methods of doing research. Practical exercises in aid of understanding such approaches and methods will be provided in view of their application to the field of applied theological research.

MAJOR COURSES

Trends in Biblical Studies: Old Testament (REV673M)

3 units

A survey of the contemporary trends in the study of the bible in the area of the Old Testament. The course is an updated overview of scholarly findings on the subject and their relevance to contemporary issues.



Trends in Biblical Studies: New Testament

3 units

A survey of the contemporary trends in the study of the bible in the area of the New Testament.

A Lay-Centered Church (REV940M)

3 units

A historical and systematic study of the theology of the Church from the perspective of the laity who constitute ninety-eight percent of it. The course will focus on the role of the laity in the Church as envisioned by the Second Vatican Council.

Doing Christology in a Cultural Context (REV675M)

3 units

The course examines the process of the first disciples' experience of Jesus and how they articulated the significance of Jesus as the Christ in their own culture. The theological and hermeneutical principles as well as the phases of the process are presented as guides to doing Christology culturally today.

Theology of Signs and Symbols (REV712M)

3 units

An examination of the notion of the "sacramental" within Christianity and how this relates to life experiences, Particular sacraments celebrated in the Church will be utilized as examples of this understanding of sacramentality.

Foundations of Moral Life in a Cultural Perspective (REV679M)

3 units

The course pinpoints and elaborates the changes in moral theology within the Church since Vatican II. The basic themes of Christian moral life such as fundamental option, moral norms, conscience and sin are discussed taking into account the cultural context in which they are to be understood.

REQUIRED SEMINAR

Applied Theology Seminar with Interdisciplinary Practicum

3 units

An exercise in doing theology in an interdisciplinary manner centered on an aspect of life in society. Sample themes are: Culture and theology, society and theology, nature and theology, politics and theology, wealth and theology, arts and theology, health care and theology, military life and theology, prisons and theology.

ELECTIVE COURSES

APPLIED HERMENEUTICS

Liturgical Dance: Theory and Practice (REV718M)

3 units

A study of the importance and role of dance in the context of worship with practical dance exercises.

Narrative Theology and the Craft of Storytelling: Theory and Practice (REV943M)

3 units

This course studies the way of theologizing through stories and provides basic training in the telling of stories for proclaiming the Gospel.

Formative Counseling/Spiritual Direction (REV601M)

3 units

This course will stress formative spirituality; the blending of psychology, cultures, theology, and mysticism. It will emphasize the blending of formative counseling/spiritual direction and can be helpful for religious educators, guidance counselors, and formation personnel in Religious Life and seminaries.

Trends in Biblical Studies (REV673M)

3 units

Modern biblical exegesis, especially text-, source-, form-, and redaction-criticism, major trends in interdisciplinary hermeneutics, including religious appreciation of the text in its symbolic depths.

Methods of Applied Research and Statistics (REV526M)

3 units

A study of the fundamentals of behavioral research, research design, types of research, analysis and interpretation.



Evangelization and Information Technology

3 units

An introduction to the importance and the character of technology in the context of communication, particularly evangelization, by familiarizing students with the uses of the latest communication media available in explaining the Christian Faith.

Dialogue with Other Faiths

3 units

This course examines the identity and mission of the Church in the context of religious pluralism and its challenges, and proposes a theology of religious dialogue as well as theological principles to be taken into consideration in inter-religious dialogue.

Brain Studies and the Dynamics of Learning

3 units

Findings from brain research can enhance the process of learning and the development of educational strategies. This course is a presentation of these insights and a critical analysis of how these are useful in the educational process.

Philosophy and Science

3 units

This course deals with the basic structure of the scientific method and with the major theories of modern physics within that context. This is treated with a view to the historical, philosophical and social implications of the practice of science in its contemporary form.

HISTORICAL STUDIES

History of Christian Spirituality (REV605M)

3 units

An overview of influential trends, significant persons and movements in the history of spirituality from the time of the early Church up to the twentieth century.

History of Christianity in Asia

3 units

An overview of the historical development of Christianity in Asia from its inception to the present-day. Major events and their consequences are presented and analyzed from an Asian perspective.

History of the Church in the West

3 units

An overview of the history of Church in Western Europe with special attention on the events, trends, movements and persons which have had a significant influence on the Churches of the Third World.

SCRIPTURE

Praying the Psalms (REV946M)

3 units

A study of the psalms from the perspective of biblical spirituality within the framework of Christian prayer life.

Bible Study Methods

3 units

This course explains different contemporary methods of studying the bible communally and personally in view of practical application.

The Bible and Lectio Divina

3 units

A course on the structure and use of the meditative approach to the reading of the bible known as lectio divina.

Portraits of Jesus in the Gospels

3 units

An exegetical-contextual study of the Christologies found in the four gospels, presenting their respective understanding of Jesus and His mission.

Bible and Theater

3 units

A course aimed at the use of theater to communicate biblical themes. After an introduction to the craft of theater and explanation of the basic skills necessary for presentations, participants will utilize their knowledge to put lip a showcase as a culminating activity.



MORAL THEOLOGY

The Marital Way of Discipleship (REV941M)

3 units

Married people live their Christian commitment to the Kingdom of God precisely as married persons. The course will analyze how marriage historically became regarded as a second-rate dedication in the Church, elaborate the theological reasons for an alternative view on marriage, and discuss ethical issues arising from married life.

Social Teachings of the Church

3 units

An exploration of the basic texts that illuminate how the Christian community has understood and shaped its response to the social concerns of its time. Emphasis is given to foundational texts of the Catholic tradition.

Political Ethics

3 units

An exploration of the relation of Christian life to political life, particularly the relationship of conscience to the historical realities of community and traditions and the need for integrity.

Business/Professional Ethics

3 units

People engaged in various professions for the purpose of livelihood and service need a code of ethics to enhance not only their humanity but also that of the people they affect. The course will deal with both general ethical principles on which specific professional ones will be based. Case studies will be undertaken to illustrate these principles in the professional life.

Bio-Ethics (Sustaining Life: Ethical Challenges)

3 units

An examination of the major global issues of our time, including food, energy, environmental preservation and poverty. Ethical frameworks for responding to these issues are developed out of both ecclesiastical and secular resources.

Sexual Ethics for the Christian

3 units

A study of sexuality and sexual behavior, especially in unmarried Christians. It investigates the moral tradition, the elements which form a contemporary Christian vision of sexuality and how these relate to sexual conduct.

SPIRITUALITY

Lay Spirituality and Spiritualities

3 units

Is there a distinctive manner of being Christian as a lay person? The course is a critical study of the various ways lay Christians have adopted to live as followers of Jesus in history. From this analysis elements constituting a lay spirituality will be discussed.

Spirituality and Education

3 units

The service teachers render leads them to focus on aspects of the Christian faith relevant to the teaching profession. After an examination of the challenges educators face in their ministry, the course will correlate these with the Judaeo-Christian Tradition of faith and spell out its implications for Christian educators.

Women and Spirituality

3 units

Being woman is a particular way of being human in society. How can women be fully dedicated to the Kingdom of God in a manner respectful of their being women in history? The course will tackle gender issues alive in society today, examine them critically and discuss how spiritualities followed by women, past and present, respond to these concerns of women.



Incarnational Spirituality

3 units

What is the bearing of the belief in the mystery of the Incarnation on the manner of being Christian in the World? This course will discuss the general understanding of spirituality after Vatican II as rooted in the experiences of people and their culture in contrast to the widespread "fight from the world" attitude in earlier Christian spirituality as well as suggest and elaborate the qualities which an incarnational spirituality ought to have.

Discipleship as a Single Person

3 units

Increasingly present-day circumstances are leading many women and men to opt, for a variety of reasons, to remain single. They need a spirituality which is relevant to their needs, circumstances and mindset as single persons. This course will explore how the general principles for a Christian spirituality can be contextualized for this group of Christians and will present models of such a spirituality.

Seminar in Lasallian Studies

3 units

The spirituality of St. John Baptist de la Salle, the patron of Christian educators, has much to offer in terms of spiritual insights and values suitable not only to teachers, but to the Christian faithful in general. The seminar will consist of readings from the writings of St. La Salle and analysis of these, student presentations and class discussions of selected themes in Lasallian spirituality.

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

A Survey of Asian Theologies (REV942M)

3 units

An overview of the concerns, the themes and methodologies of Asian theologians and an analysis of representative writings of particular theologians.

Grace and Sin (REV716M)

3 units

A contextual and critical examination of the various views on the theology of grace and sin in the Christian tradition in view of inculturation today.

Models of Contextual Theology

3 units

An analytic and evaluative examination of the various models of doing theology in context with illustrations from the work of various theologians.

Doing Local Theology

3 units

Communities today are encouraged to do theology rather than just learn it. This course specifies what such communities need to know by way of purpose, method and resources in order to formulate on their own an understanding of the Christian Faith in their locality.

Appropriating Philosophy for Applied Theology

3 units

The systematized knowledge of a people known as philosophy has traditionally been utilized in theology. What is the relation between culture and philosophy? How important is cultural analysis and how should it be done? What are the dynamics involved between philosophy and theology? What needs to be taken into account by practitioners of theology when using philosophical presuppositions, concepts and vocabulary?

Issues in Hermeneutics

3 units

This course is a basic analytic introduction of the development, of the, issues and methods involved in interpretation, especially in relation to theological concerns.

A Survey of Western Theologies

3 units

An overview of the concerns, the themes and methodologies of Western European-Noah American theologies which are relevant to theological discussions in Asia or which have had a significant influence on Asian theologizing. The study includes reading and analysis of selected theological texts produced in the West.



De La Salle University

Life: Theological Origins and Purpose

3 units

A theological examination of the relationship between God as Creator and human beings and the world as creature, and how the divine purpose sheds light on creation as a whole and on human life and living in the world in particular. Singular attention will be given to cultural issues and dimensions in understanding creation and eschatology.

Liberation Theologies: Methods and Themes

3 units

After a historical examination of the origins of liberation theologies in the Church, particularly in Latin-America, the course will discuss the theological methods of liberation theology and its related theological themes. The course will include a critical evaluation of liberation theology as a whole.

Understanding Protestant Christianity

3 units

A descriptive exposition of what being Protestant Christian means from a specifically Protestant point of view as illustrated historically, ecclesiologically and doctrinally. The course will include a critical reading of some writings of the reformers as well as of outstanding contemporary Protestant theologians.

Philosophy of Religion.

3 units

A study of the various theories of religion as a socio-cultural phenomenon, tracing its emergence within a cultural environment, and analyzing the process of the unfolding of religious attitudes and beliefs.

INTEGRATING SEMINAR

Integrating Seminar (REV651M)

3 units

A seminar course integrating all topics (for the non-thesis program). A requirement is a presentation and defense of a project paper.

THESIS

Thesis (REV851M)

6 units