

7. APPLIED THEOLOGY

Applied Theology focuses on the everyday dimensions of life and learning. It believes that lay theological training needs to integrate biblical scholarship with the texture of everyday living. The sub-disciplines within the department of Applied Theology embrace the inner life of the believer, the work arena, the church context, lifelong learning and being wounded healers. Theories and practices from other disciplines such as philosophy, psychology and sociology are drawn upon and critically interfaced with biblical truths.

There are three sub-disciplines under Applied Theology:

AT	Pastoral Theology
CM	Church Ministries
CO	Counselling

7.1 PASTORAL THEOLOGY

The study of theology lays the necessary foundation for the application of biblical insights to the ministry of the church. The courses in this area are suitable for the training of all who have leadership positions or responsibilities in the church. These courses are also helpful for any who wish to extend spiritual help to others.

AT151 CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY

(1.5 credits)

‘History is but biography.’ The study of the lives of men and women down the ages makes history come alive. The course will acquaint students with selected key figures of church history. We will seek to understand the times they lived in, the challenges they face, and the qualities that made them great men and women of faith.

AT331/332 FIELD EDUCATION

(3 credits, offered at the beginning of each academic year)

Field Education (FE) is a two year compulsory program (**1.5 credits per year, totalling 3 credits**) where MDiv students undertake supervised ministry in a host organisation (a church or parachurch). Each year, students will be assigned to a specific ministry within the host organisation so that they can acquire practical training and experience in pastoral ministry.

Note: AT331/332 are compulsory courses for MDiv students undertaking the MDiv program (AY2012 onwards). For students under the earlier MDiv programs (i.e., AY2011 and earlier), they are to fulfill the Field Education of AT325/326 (6 credits) instead.

AT246 PREACHING IN THE CHURCH: HOMILETICS

(3 credits)

Preaching is the art of communicating the Word of God from the heart (to another heart). But art does not mean unrestrained, impromptu and extemporaneous ‘sharing’ of the Word. The Scriptures were written to a specific setting which is separated from our world by a massive chasm of language, culture, time, history, practices, values etc. It is only logical that the preacher must first engage in a disciplined and unmitigated study of the Word before he can make it clear to his listeners. This module consists of three parts: (i) the basic concepts of preaching and mechanics of translating a text to a message; (ii) the challenge of postmodernism to biblical preaching; (iii) the exploration of topical sermons

AT391 **APPLIED THEOLOGY GUIDED STUDY**
(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Applied Theology. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a MCS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

From 2013 on, a new Applied Theology course, Introduction to Leadership (AT257) will be offered as an MDiv required course.

7.2 CHURCH MINISTRIES

It may be asked why laity training would have this sub-department? We are glad at BGST to welcome laity who may eventually choose to work full-time in the church. We also have pastors who come to us for upgrading and these need to have the opportunities to reflect on their pastoral work. In both cases we have the challenge of promoting a laity training which recognizes the importance and value of working with clergy as well as training of clergy who recognize the need to incorporate the laity meaningfully and strategically into the ministry of the church. In this way we are nearer to reaching the understanding that whether clergy or laity, we are together ‘the whole people of God.’

CM101 **PASTORAL THEOLOGY: THE ESSENTIALS OF MINISTRY**
(3 credits, offered bi-annually on Semester 2)

This course seeks to provide students (both lay-leaders and those preparing for ministry) with a theological foundation and practical understanding of pastoral ministry. It integrates three dimensions of learning, namely (a) personal reflection, (b) ministry insights and (c) research based learning. Some of the topics covered are the call to ministry, meaning of ordination, women in pastoral office, shepherding, the pastor of the worshipping community, ministry of sacraments, pastoral visitation, etc.

CM201 **A PHILOSOPHY OF CHURCH MINISTRY**
(3 credits, offered occasionally)

An introduction to the various aspects of the pastoral ministry to encourage the acquisition and development of skills relevant to the pastoral ministry. There will be two groups of students. The first will be those who either intend to enter the professional pastoral ministry or who may be open to a call by God in that direction. The second will be those who do not have a call to the pastoral ministry but who wish to explore the place of lay ministries within the church. The distinctiveness of this course is the way in which both groups are urged to interact with each other in crafting a philosophy of church ministry. Field trips to churches, discussions with pastors and key lay leaders will be an important part of this course.

CM391 **CHURCH MINISTRIES GUIDED STUDY**
(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Church Ministries. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a MCS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

In 2013 – 2015, a new Church Ministry course, Liturgy and Worship (CM220) will be offered as an MDiv required course.

7.3 COUNSELLING

The desire to help others comes naturally to many who seek training. Our focus on laity training recognizes the need for those who wish to acquire both an understanding of counselling and basic skills needed to be effective in this area.

CO101 THE COUNSELLOR AS A PERSON: SELF-AWARENESS AND MATURITY IN CHRIST

(3 credits, offered bi-annually)

This course will explore issues of self identity, feelings, thoughts and behaviour of the counsellor, personal growth and maturity in Christ. The Practicum is a major portion of this module.

CO391 COUNSELLING GUIDED STUDY (1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Counselling. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a MCS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.

Other counselling courses that are offered occasionally include Counsellor Development: Personal Framework for Biblical Counselling, Divorce and Remarriage, Counselling Skills: Dealing with Crisis Situations, Reconcilable Differences: Hope and Healing for Troubled Marriages and Gender and Sexuality.