Outcomes for Diploma in Theology Programme

10 April 2014

Spiritual Formation

- That the student will know and clearly understand what is true biblical spirituality
- That the student will know that the goal of the Christian life is continual transformation into the likeness of Jesus Christ
- That the student will know the ways to Christian growth that the Lord uses
- That the student will know that true Christian spirituality must be total in one’s life and calling and issue as an overflow from the heart for a healthy and holistic Christian life

Spirituality and Specialized Biographical Studies


Spirituality as Christian Growth (Sometimes referred to as “The Spiritual Disciplines”)


Spirituality and the Inner Life (Also sometimes referred to as “The Spiritual Disciplines”)


**Theological Works on Spirituality**


**Specific Spiritual Formation Issues**

**A) Spiritual Formation and Children and Youth:**


**B) Multiculturalism and Spirituality**

C) Guidance/Discernment and Spirituality


D) Vocation/Calling and Spirituality


E) Christian Community and Spiritual Formation

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church*. Chicago: Moody, 1996.

F) Spirituality and Purity, Marriage, Family, etc.


G) Spirituality and Suffering


H) Spirituality and Prayer

(I have not included many spiritual works on prayer.)
Collections with Various Topics on Spiritual Formation


General Reference Works


African Spirituality

- Describe the nature and function of a worldview
- Identify the essential elements of African Traditional Worldview
- Discuss the role of Jesus Christ as the one and only mediator between God and the fallen man against the African Traditional mediators or intermediaries
- Formulate a biblical viewpoint about the Bible and dreams as means of communication between God and man
- Evaluate the African Traditional viewpoint of suffering, sickness, healing and prosperity from a biblical standpoint
- Formulate a biblical approach necessary to counter African Traditional Religious influences in and outside the church

Recommended reading:


Supplementary reading:

Van der Walt, B.J. 1997. WINDOW ON THE WORLD (On the nature of worldviews and the value of a Christian worldview for Africa), Potchefstroom University, Potchefstroom

Old Testament Introduction I

- An overview of the Old Testament from Genesis to Nehemiah.
  - Structure and Outline of the Book
  - Author of the Book
  - Purpose and Message
  - How Does it Fit into God’s Story

Prescribed resource for this module is:
Other helpful resources include:
© Edwards, B.H., Nothing but the Truth, 2006 (ed)
© Young, E. J., Introduction to Old Testament
© Hill and Walton, Survey of the Old Testament
© Study Bibles

Old Testament Introduction II

- An overview of the Old Testament from Nehemiah to Malachi.
  - Structure and Outline of the Book
  - Author of the Book
  - Purpose and Message
  - How Does it Fit into God’s Story

Prescribed resource for this module is:

Other helpful resources include:
© Edwards, B.H., Nothing but the Truth, 2006 (ed)
© Young, E. J., Introduction to Old Testament
© Hill and Walton, Survey of the Old Testament
© The Holman Pocket Bible Handbook. 2004
© Study Bibles

New Testament Introduction I

- Biblical understanding of the nature and origin of the New Testament
- Biblical understanding of the goal of the New Testament
- Biblical understanding of the history, authority and finality of the New Testament

Study Material - Prescribed Material


Recommended Reading and Video:


New Testament Introduction II

- Master and apply principles of interpretation
- Have insight in the revelation of the four gospels
- Have insight in the geography of the land of the Bible
- Make a more biblical conclusion concerning the synoptic problem

Prescribed Material


Van der Walt, T. undated: THE FOUR AUTHORS AND THEIR BOOKS (Lectures prepared for the Diploma in Theology Course), chapters 1-7 (unpublished)

Recommended Reading:


Systematic Theology – Christian Doctrine I

- God’s Revelation and Scriptures
- The Trinity: One God, Three Persons
- Creation and Providence
- Man, the pinnacle of God’s creation
- Adam’s Sin & Its Consequences
- The Covenant between God and Man
- The Person of Jesus Christ
- The Works of Jesus Christ

Systematic Theology – Christian Doctrine II

- The Holy Spirit of God
- The Spirit's Calling and Conversion
- Works of the Holy Spirit
- The Spirit’s Order of Salvation
- The Church of God in the World
- Discipleship and Endurance
- The Final State after Death
- The Final Coming of Jesus Christ


The Church: Ecclesiology

- To acquaint the student with the major outlines of the field of Ecclesiology or the doctrine of the Church appropriate for Diploma level study.
- To acquaint the student with the major authors in this area of theology.
- To help the student think more clearly and with more articulation through certain problem areas within this area of theology.
- To prepare students for church leadership.
- To help the student gain a greater appreciation of life in the church and to challenge him/her if there are areas of change both in thinking and practice.

Overview Theology Books on the Doctrine of the Church (in some instances only ecclesiology sections of a particular book, denoted by an asterisk *). Many of the classical or standard reference ST works should also be considered. I have not included all these in full bibliographical form but list them only by surname here: Calvin, Turretin, Pictet, à Brakel, Heppe, Brown, Dick, Hill, Van Oosterzee, H. Berkhof, Hodge, Dabney, Smith, Bloesch. Nor have I included the standard books on the sacraments.


Malan, Cesar. *The Church Is Mine* [reprint by Evangelical Press]


**Part 2: Towards a Practical Theology of Life in the Church**

Anyabwile, Thabiti M. *What is a Healthy Church Member?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.


*DeYoung, Kevin and Ted Kluck. *Why We’re Not Emergent (By Two Guys Who Should Be)*. Chicago: Moody, 2008.*

*Dever, Mark, *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004)*


Pastoral Practice

- Recognising the elements of the call to the ministry. The question that the student must be able to answer is this: "Am I truly called of God?"
- Understanding the role of the shepherd in light of God's word. The question is this, "If I am a shepherd, what functions must I perform as a shepherd?"
- Counting the cost and understanding the challenges that the ministry holds. The question here is, "Am I prepared to count the cost and face the demands of ministry or not?"
- Reviewing some of the basic requirements of a man who wishes to enter pastoral ministry. The question to be answered is, "Do I, as a man, possess the necessary gifts and abilities to be a pastor?"
- Stressing the importance of pastoral spirituality and godliness as a part of the minister's make up. The question is, "Am I pursuing a life of Christian piety or godliness to increase my usefulness as a pastor?"
Knowing the importance of the pastor’s family and the role it plays in his ministry. The question is, "Does my family help or hinder me in the ministry?"

Highlighting various aspects of the work of the ministry especially the practical elements such as visitation - home, hospital, sickness. The question is, "Will visitation be an important part of my ministry or not? Do I see its importance as an evangelistic tool?"

Developing basic counselling skills especially of those who are afflicted with HIV/AIDS, those who suffer loss of loved ones, etc. "Do I know how to counsel those who are dying, those who have AIDS and families suffering the consequences of sin?"


Preaching I

- explain and apply the words ‘proclaiming’, ‘shepherding’, ‘teaching’ and ‘prophesying’
- describe and clarify the preliminary steps in the process of writing a sermon
- identify and use different sources needed in the process of writing a sermon
- define and describe different types of sermons
- define and clarify the different components of a sermon
- state and clarify the requirements for a good sermon delivery
- construct a sermon outline of not more than a one-printed page (10 or 12 pt, 1 cm line spacing).

PREScribed MATERIAL


Supplementary Material:


Evangelism I & Evangelism II

- formulate a biblical foundation for evangelism as well as personal evangelism
- discuss practical principles for effective personal evangelism
- demonstrate people skills in approach, tact and delivery of gospel message
- use language properly in conveying the gospel message
- demonstrate insight of cultural and religious diversity when speaking to others
- explain his/her place in Christ as a sinner saved by grace
• demonstrate reliance on the Holy Spirit to bring about change through the salvation message
• state goals for an effective evangelistic program on the local church level to ensure follow-up and discipleship.

**Prescribed Material (included in this study guide)**
Packer, J. I. *Evangelism & The Sovereignty of God*

**Other helpful resources**
Hybels, H. *How to Become a Contagious Christian*
Boston, T. *The Art of Manfishing: A Puritan’s view of Evangelism*

**Christian Leader Training for Elders, Deacons and Pastoral Caregivers**
• Rooted and Established in the Word
• Modelling a Lifestyle of Christian Character and Integrity
• Deepening Knowledge of Key Christian Truths and Their Application in ‘Real Life’ Situations
• Improving Skills in Key Areas of Christian Ministry
• Deepening Spiritual Maturity
• Growing in Meaningful and Mutually Accountable Relationships
• Improving Abilities to Raise and Equip the Next Generation of Leaders
• Developing Skills for Effective Interaction with Modern Contextual Realities
• Continuing ‘Whole Life Development’
• Developing Effective ‘Self-Management’ Habits

**Christian Missions**
• explain fundamental biblical texts for formulating a biblical theology of missions
• synthesize the various biblical texts into a basic theological principle on missions
• describe the role of each local church in missions ministry
• state goals for personal and church involvement in missions.


**Farming God’s Way**
An overview of Farming God’s Way
• THE MESSAGE PART 1 - Two laws of breaking poverty
  - On time
  - At a high standard
• THE MESSAGE PART 2 The way out of poverty is to make a profit—increase
- On time
- At a high standard
- No wastage
- With joy
  - THE METHOD PART 1
  1. Prayer
  2. Planning
  3. Land preparation
  4. Lime
  5. Base Dressing
  6. Planting

THE METHOD PART 2 AND FIELD DEMO
  7. Micro Nutrients
  8. Weed control/Boron
  9. Top Dressing
 10. Harvesting

Practical field demonstration

Teaching Children

An overview of Teaching Children
  - Biblical View of Children
  - Biblical Teaching at Home
  - Children’s Ministry is part of the Church
  - Teachers Training
  - Child Evangelism
  - Lesson Planning, Preparation and Presentation

English I

Better understand what you read, be able to discuss it, and be able to summarize it; have increased your useable vocabulary; use the present and past progressive tenses, as well as the simple past and present perfect tenses, and be familiar with the past perfect and future tenses; understand and use gerunds and infinitives; use conjunctions to combine independent clauses or independent and dependent clauses; and know how to structure written compositions.

Technology Skills I & II

  - word processing: creating and changing documents; using different ways of lay-out; storing documents correctly; integrating documents with other packages
  - spreadsheet: representing numerical data in a professional manner
  - databases: storing data in a structured and organised way; changing and manipulating data; processing data to usable information
  - web browsing programs: navigating on the internet; searching and finding on the internet; using e-mail.

Study Skills & Methods

  - be conversant about tertiary education and advanced studies
  - be conversant about him/herself as learner
- utilise contact sessions between the lecturer and the learner effectively in the learning process
- manage time effectively and efficiently
- prepare for the exam effectively and improve on exam writing skills
- practise problem-solving skills individually and as part of a group
- be better equipped with life skills so as to cope with stress
- display a minimum level of reading skill.
- evaluate his/her own calling from God and commitment to study.

Topics Covered:
- Discuss Study Skills
- Guidelines to Write an Assignment
- Guidelines for Doing Field Research
- The Importance of Time
- Introductory to a Library System
- The Use of Reference Books
- Motivated Study and Study Ethics
- Basic Essentials of Study
- Study Inside and Outside the Classroom
- The Role Players in a Church Service
- How to Study Practical Suggestions
- How to do Revision
- How to Write Exams & Tests
- How to Study for and how to Write out a Sermon: Practical Suggestions
- Selecting Facts to Make a Sermon
- Analyse Bible Paragraphs When Preparing Sermons
- Bible Passage Analysis: Make Your Own Sermon
- Analyse Bible Pericopes When Preparing Sermons

Bible Interpretation

- Define and discuss the following terms:
  - Exegesis
  - Hermeneutics
  - Neo-Marcionism
  - Biblical Theology
  - Salvation or Redemptive History
  - Covenant
  - Type and Typology
  - Epoch
  - Genre
  - Fallen Condition Focus
  - Exegetical Point
  - Homiletical Idea
  - Categories of Psalms

- Develop a Christ-centered and redemptive message from a variety of passages throughout the Bible.


**Old Testament III**

- identify the unifying theme of the Old Testament
- discuss the relationship between the Old Testament and the New Testament
- identify principles and methods for interpretation of the Old Testament
- interpret narrative text and law


**Teaching the New Testament III**

- Demonstrate insight on the particular canonic of the book of Acts
- Describe the different views on the structure of Acts
- Discuss the contents of Acts
- Explain Paul's preparation to be an apostle to the Gentiles
- Discuss the nature of the Pauline epistles
- Describe how the Pauline letters were written and distributed
• Formulate a justifiable viewpoint on the particular canonics of Romans, First and Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First and Second Thessalonians and the Pastoral Epistles.
• Demonstrate Paul’s knowledge of the culture of his target audience.


**Ethics**

Explain the following basics of a Biblically rooted, Christian way of life and be able to guide others on such a way

• Norms and systems of Ethics
• The significance of conscience
• Appealing to the Bible in Ethics
• Conflicts of duties
• Context and significance of the Decalogue
• Contents of the individual Commandments Application of each Command to specific ethical problems

The textbook for this course is *The Ten Commandments* written by Prof. P. J. de Bruyn, and published in 2008 by the Potchefstroom Theological Publications in Potchefstroom. You are expected to read and study thoroughly the entire text book. You will be tested on all of this material in addition to insights from class discussions and assignments.

Other helpful resources include:


**Apologetics: Christianity and Other Religions**

• Explain the biblical foundation and significance of Christian apologetics.
• Define categories of false religions in southern Africa and the major world religions with a particular focus on Islam.
• Compare and contrast the main beliefs of cults and religious sects in relation to orthodox Christian belief as taught by the Bible.
• Successfully identify and respond biblically to common syncretistic groups and cults in contemporary southern Africa.
• Contrast the biblical world view with other world views such as the traditional African world view and the Western world view.
• Articulate how the Christian church must respond to the challenge of false beliefs.
• Develop patterns of Christian living and spirituality which will generate questions about “the hope that is within us” from people in our communities.
• Provide insight for biblical evangelism efforts to reach out to peoples of other faiths.
• Develop a church strategy for reaching out to peoples of other faiths.

Many books have been written about Christianity and other religions. Here is a list of books that may be the most helpful for your assignments and course projects:


Liturgics/Worship

• Describe the biblical and theological foundations of worship in a Christian church.
• Explain the relationship between private and corporate worship before and during and after worship services so that the liturgy in the daily lives of Christians (in their homes, workplaces and societies) correspond with their worship in church services.
• Provide a bird’s eye view of historical developments and the main trends of Liturgical developments (especially those of the second, sixteenth and twentieth centuries).
• How to stimulate and implement corporate worship styles that facilitate maximum participation of all the members of the congregation in the liturgy.
- Do a valid biblical assessment of the various liturgical symbols and rituals in your own denomination or church tradition and how to use them in meaningful ways.
- Teach worship leaders in your church to assess their own spiritual attitude in leading corporate worship services.
- Describe the biblical and theological foundations of the celebration of the liturgy of the sacraments and plan and lead worship services that will facilitate the most meaningful celebration of the sacraments in your church.
- Describe the biblical and theological foundations of the liturgy of marriage and funeral services and plan it in such a way that the core of the Gospel will be experienced in the most meaningful way to enrich the lives of all participants.
- Formulate theological and contextualizing principles and practice of choice of music and songs in worship.
- Analyze the various types of internationally well known traditional as well as contemporary hymns and the music and songs most used in your own church.


Other helpful resources include:
BUYS, P.J. 2006. Summary of prominent features of Evangelical worship since the Protestant Reformation. Class Notes, Mukhanyo Theological College

Church Government
- Describe the historical development of special offices in the church since New Testament times
- Explain the biblical qualifications for office-bearers
- Explain the role and characters required for office bearers
- Explain the nature and purpose of Christian discipline
- Apply the biblical rule of Matthew 18 with regard to Christian discipline
- Formulate a biblical basis for order in the church.

Global Church History
- To edify students through the field of Church history.
• To help students prepare for more in-depth Church history courses.
• To begin to acquaint students with how to read, do oral reports, and write about Church history.


**African Church History**

• Have a broad knowledge of the history of God’s Church in Africa.
• Know the general trends, main events, influential people, and significant details in the history of Christianity on the African continent.
• Recognize how God has used many different means to plant, provide for, and protect His Church in the various regions of Africa.
• Understand the influence of socio-political developments in Africa on the growth and development of the African churches, and
• Understand the history of your own church tradition and know how it fits in with the history of God’s Church in Africa.


**Biblical Counselling**

**GENERAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:**
- To equip students to minister God’s word to people in such a way that they will be able to deal with specific problems and crises in accordance with God’s revealed will and to his glory;
- To teach students to lead people to a commitment to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord by working with them through their personal problems and crises;
- To teach and train students in the use of a simple counseling model;
- To bring students to understand the importance of this ministry in the sense that people find it harder than ever before to deal realistically with the complex life situations in which they find themselves. Yet there is a nearly complete ignorance or a denial of the root problem: sin and their giving the devil a foothold. That can only be dealt with by rebirth and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the use of medication and secular therapies can never adequately equip people to deal with their personal problems and crises.
- Through this course students should grow spiritually.

**STUDENT BEHAVIORAL OBJECTIVES:** At the successful completion of the course students will
- Know they have a basic competence to counsel people suffering from spiritual, emotional and relationship problems - and will therefore be eager to engage in this ministry;
- Be keen to develop their basic competence to a full competence through practicing biblical counseling in their own personal situations and that of others;
- continuing study of the Bible and material on biblical counseling and personal sanctification.
- Engage in training other members of the Body of Christ in this ministry.

ADAMS, Jay E: Christian Living in the Home, 1982
CRABB, Dr Larry: The Marriage Builder, 1992
WELCH, Edward T: When people are Big and God is Small, P&R Publishing, 1997
Teaching Skills

• discuss the biblical requirements of a teacher and point out how the act of directing to a full life in Christ is involved in the learning process
• explain the relationship between teacher and student, within a learning context, pointing out three major relationships that have a direct impact on learning and explain how to use them to improve one’s teaching practice
• discuss the importance and impact of expectations and student needs on learning and how it can be used to improve learning
• give reasons why a teacher should always teach for the purpose of life change and explain five universal and trans-cultural principles for applying any truth to anyone
• explain how to enable students to master the irreducible minimum of a teaching session
• conduct a teaching session, implementing the principles involved to teach for life change.

Creative Bible Teaching by Lawrence Richards/Gary Bredfeldt

Preaching Skills II

• Describe and clarify the preliminary steps in the process of writing a sermon
• Identify and use different sources needed in the process of writing a sermon
• Define and describe different types of sermons
• Define and clarify the different components of a sermon
• State and clarify the requirements for a good sermon delivery
• Construct a sermon outline of not more than a one-printed page (10 pt 1 cm line spacing)

McQuoid Stephen: The Beginner’s guide to Expository Preaching

Preaching Skills III

• apply the grammatical-historical method of exegesis for preaching purposes
• construct a sermon outline of not more than a one-printed page (10 or 12 pt, 1 cm line spacing)
• write a sermon manuscript of between five and seven printed pages (10 or 12 pt, 1 cm line spacing)
• utilise the textual-thematic sermon type
• utilise the didactic sermon format
• deliver a sermon in line with the requirements for a good sermon delivery
• demonstrate God-centeredness in preaching
• demonstrate sensitivity for audience-relatedness.

Church Order

- Seek to draw the link between Scripture and Church Order. Primary question is not: How ought this article of the Church Order to function in the life of the churches? It is instead: Does this article agree with God’s revealed will?
- Become thoroughly acquainted with the Church Order (CO) of Dordt.
- Learn to understand the CO in light of its history in the Dutch (Continental European) Reformed tradition.
- Become aware of other systems of Church polity and compare these different approaches to that of the Reformed CO.
- Cultivate an appreciation for the confessional character of Church organization and the importance of CO for ministry leadership


Creeds and Confessions

- The difference between the act of faith, the act of confessing, and ecclesiastical Creeds and Confessions
- The origin and content of Creeds
- The Creeds and Confessions in the framework of a Theatrical Metaphor which stimulates Confessional participation of every believer
- The possibility of retrieving the Reformed Confessions for a contemporary witness towards liberation
- Evaluating the Confession of Belhar as a Contemporary African Confession
- Understanding and embracing the seven Classical Reformed Confessions
- Understanding the necessity of continually contextualizing the Reformed Confessions without in the least changing their substance


Church Planting

- Explain the essential ingredients that make up a mature New Testament church, capable and motivated to reproduce itself (often referred to as the three ‘selves’ of the mature church: self-identity; self-support; self-propagation)
- Begin and guide the preparations for a sound church-planting ministry within your own cultural setting
- Explain in detail each of the steps in the church planting process
- Evaluate what is happening in the development of an emerging congregation so as to be a positive corrective influence
- Assist any existing church that is not reproducing by studying its needs and facilitating the implementation of necessary changes in order to be able to do so.

Rolland Allen, Missionary Methods: Pauls or Ours? (London: World Dominion, 1956)
Harvie Conn, Planting and Growing Urban Churches (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997)
*Darrin Patrick, Church Planter: The Man, the Message, the Mission* (Crossway Books, 2010)

**New Testament IV**

- Formulate a justifiable viewpoint on the particular canonicities of Hebrews, First and Second Peter, Jude and James.
- Formulate a justifiable viewpoint on the particular canonicities of the three Johannine Epistles and Revelation.
- Understand the place of the catholic Epistles, Hebrews and Revelation within the “big story” of the Bible.
- Critically evaluate various methods of interpreting the New Testament.
- Apply your own method of interpretation to a text in a responsible way.


**Recommended Reading:**

**Church Administration**

- describe the role of the church council and church committees within the local church
- demonstrate skills in planning and programming of various church activities
- outline the proper procedure at meetings as well as the role of the chairman, secretary, and treasurer
- demonstrate basic skills in running the financial affairs of a small-scale organisation
- demonstrate basic administration skills.

**Topics Covered:**
- The importance of time
- General administration of a church
- Planning and Programming of Church Activities
• The role of a Chairman or President
• The role of a Secretary
• The role of a Treasurer
• The Agenda of a Meeting
• The Minutes of a Meeting
• Procedures at Meetings
• The Role of a church Council
• The Role of a Council of Deacons
• Registers, Certificates and Forms
• Administration and Diary Skills
• The Role of a Financial Committee
• Handling of church money: General
• Handling of church money: Book-keeping Terminology
• Handling of church money: Income and Expense Accounts
• Handling of church money: Book-keeping books and Elementary bookkeeping
• Handling of church money: How to draw up a budget
• Handling of church money: Budget Analysis
• Handling of church money: Comparing Income and Expenses with the Budget

**Biblical Foundations of Servant Leadership**

- Enable students to understand the important role that leaders play in directing and shaping organizations and society / communities.
- Enable a student to develop a tool to assess and develop leadership abilities.
- Develop a value-based Christian servant-hood leadership model.
- Enable the student to evaluate the importance of gender in leadership, importance of good communications, and why leaders sometimes fail.
- Show how passion can be renewed in leading an organization by understanding the privileges of leadership.

**Research Skills**

- How to reflect on a topic and question it
- How to find sources to guide the search for answers
- How to justify the logic of your arguments
- Make a plan and write your draft
- Edit your style to make it clear, direct and readable

**English II**

- Better understand what you read, be able to discuss it, and be able to summarize it;
- Have increased your useable vocabulary;
- Use the present and past progressive tense, as well as the simple past and present perfect tenses, and be familiar with the past perfect and future tenses;
- Understand and use gerunds and infinitives;
- Use conjunctions to combine independent clauses or independent and dependent clauses;
- And know how to structure written compositions.