

## IN519 THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MINISTRY - FALL 2025

3 Credits: letter grade only

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### Course Description

This introductory course for all incoming MAM students introduces theological education for ministry, with a focus on gaining basic skills in biblical literacy, theological reflection, practical theological strategies for ministry context analysis; and practices for a flourishing discipleship and ministry.

**Course Learning Objectives** By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Identify key theological concepts and vocabulary.
- Implement methods of contextual and practical theological reflection
- Identify major genres and themes of the Bible, and implement strategies for personal and ministerial study.
- Articulate and perform practices for a flourishing discipleship and ministry.
- Implement basic methods of theological and biblical research and writing.

### Master of Divinity Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

### MA in Mission & Discipleship Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

### MA in Ministry Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Articulate and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures in conversation with contemporary and ecclesial contexts.
- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Develop pastoral and practical theological methods and strategies for cultivating renewed and transformative ministry contexts.
- Construct a biblically, theologically, and contextually coherent expression of Christian pastoral identity and practice in life and ministry.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

### Required Course Texts

Julia Gatta. *The Nearness of God: Parish Ministry as a Spiritual Practice*. ISBN: 978-0819223180

Harold Percy. *Your Church Can Thrive: Making the Connections that Build Healthy Congregations*. ISBN: 978-0687022564

Aundi Kolber. *Try Softer*. ISBN: 978-1496439659

Alister E. McGrath. *Theology: The Basics, 4th Edition*. ISBN: 978-1119158080

Maria Lichtmann. *The Teacher's Way: Teaching and the Contemplative Life*. ISBN: 978-0809143030

Teresa A. Blythe. *50 Ways to Pray: Practices from Many Traditions and Times*. ISBN: 978-0687331048

