

# HAMPTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL *of* RELIGION

*Darrell K. Williams, Hampton University President*

WHERE SCHOLARSHIP IS  
MINISTRY



# MASTER OF ARTS

INFORMING YOUR  
THEOLOGY

ENRICHING YOUR  
MINISTRY

BLESSING YOUR  
LIFE



## **Master of Arts Degree in Practical Theology (MA)**

Thank you for your interest in the Master of Arts (MA) degree program in Practical Theology at Hampton University. This booklet includes course listings and brief program descriptions.

Forty-eight hours of academic course and field-based work, arranged in five eighth-week sessions, lead to the Master of Arts (MA) degree in Practical Theology. This degree offers two specialized areas of concentration: Theological Studies and Worship Studies. The program is designed for students interested in ministerial leadership through the rigorous study of religion, theology, and worship in various forms and traditions of ministry.

This expanded university-based program of religious and theological study is undergirded by the larger academic environment of Hampton University as a comprehensive research institution. In addition, communities of faith will serve as hands-on laboratories and teaching sites for supervised practicum as a part of field education and practical experiences in religious education and leadership.

# MASTER OF ARTS

## Concentration: Theological Studies

The Theological Studies concentration is designed to equip students to systematically apply Biblical truths and the knowledge of Christ to contemporary issues that confront our ever-changing society. A rigorous study of theories and principles prepare students for advanced programs in the theological disciplines.

FIRST YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 601	Old Testament Literature Survey	3	REL 637	Biblical Theology	3
REL 603	New Testament Literature Survey	3	REL 631	Systematic Theology I	3
REL 605	Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics	3	REL 632	Systematic Theology II	3
REL 607	Introduction to Biblical Exegesis	3	REL 627	The Phenomenon of Religion: Integrating Faith and Life	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

SECOND YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 609	Church History Survey	3	REL 648	Theological Seeds of Evangelism and Discipleship	3
REL 629	Historical Theology	3	REL 633	Christian Ethics and Theology	3
REL 613	Theology of Christian Education	3	REL 655	Practicum I: Theology Internship	3
REL 649	Supervised Ministry Practicum	3	REL 660	Practicum II: Theology Project	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

**TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS: 48**

# MASTER OF ARTS

## Concentration: Worship Studies

The Worship Studies concentration is designed to equip individuals interested in pursuing graduate studies in the art and science of worship, while providing the solid biblical and theological foundation required to meet the needs of the traditional and contemporary church. Students will be equipped to function and apply knowledge and skills gained in a variety of cultural contexts and communities.

FIRST YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 601	Old Testament Literature Survey	3	REL 620	Exploring Contemporary and Traditional Worship	3
REL 603	New Testament Literature Survey	3	REL 627	Phenomenon of Religion: Integrating Faith and Life	3
REL 605	Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics	3	REL 631	Systematic Theology I	3
REL 615	Historical Development of Christian Worship	3	REL 637	Biblical Theology	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

SECOND YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 616	Theological Constructivism: Building a Theology of Worship	3	REL 619	Dynamics of Worship	3
REL 617	The Worship Leader	3	REL 623	Congregational Acclaim: Planning for Worship	3
REL 618	Principles of Worship	3	REL 656	Practicum I: Worship Internship	3
REL 649	Supervised Ministry Practicum	3	REL 661	Practicum II: Worship Project	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

**TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS: 48**

# MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM

## Course Descriptions

### COMMON CORE COURSES

#### **REL 601 – Old Testament Literature Survey** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides an introduction to the literature and history of ancient Israel with special attention given to the thirty-nine books of the Hebrew Bible. Ancient and Near-Eastern texts will be considered in light of the context needed for understanding early Judaism.

#### **REL 603 – New Testament Literature Survey** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides an introduction to the twenty-seven books of the New Testament taking into consideration our Jewish and Greco-Roman heritage and the context in which the New Testament developed.

#### **REL 605 – Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides foundational tools for inductive Bible study applied to the Old and New Testament literature. Skills and tools needed for biblical observation, interpretation, application and communication will be explored.

#### **REL 627 – The Phenomenon of Religion: Integrating Faith and Life** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is an investigation into the nature and role of philosophy in religion, the dynamic relationship between faith and reason, the use of religious language, arguments for and against the existence of God, as well as an exploration and defense of the attributes of God.

#### **REL 631 – Systematic Theology I** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is the first of a two-part systematic study of the Christian faith by introducing systematic theology as an organized approach to exploring the knowledge of God as God is revealed in His word. (This course is a requirement for Worship Studies Concentration. REL 631 and REL 632 are required for the Theological Studies concentration.

#### **REL 637 – Biblical Theology** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides an account of the history of the Christian church from its inception in the first century to the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century, including the development of Christian doctrine by major figures and movements leading to the present day.

### THEOLOGICAL STUDIES CONCENTRATION COURSES

#### **REL 607 – Introduction to Biblical Exegesis** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of how to derive a deeper meaning from biblical text by exploring traditional and emerging methods of interpretation. The role of technology in exegesis and interpretation will be addressed.

#### **REL 609 – Church History Survey** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of the major themes, issues, and personalities in church history. Students examine the social, historical, intellectual, cultural and political influences upon the theological development of American Christianity from 1620 to the present.

#### **REL 613 – Theology of Christian Education** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course introduces the principles and aspects of Christian education and theology which lead to the spiritual formation and growth of individuals in the Christian faith. The biblical and historical roots of Christian education, current practices, trends, issues and challenges will be presented.

#### **REL 629 – Historical Theology** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is a topical course that will examine the major works of influential modern theologians.

### **REL 632 – Systematic Theology II** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is the second of a two-part systematic study of the Christian faith, which explores more deeply systematic theology as an organized approach to exploring the knowledge of God as He is revealed in His word.

### **REL 633 – Christian Ethics and Theology** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is a survey and examination of various ethical systems, and representatives of those systems from within a Christian framework. The course is an inquiry into ethical decision-making through discussion and case studies.

### **REL 648 – Theological Seeds of Evangelism and Discipleship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is a foundational study of the theological, biblical and historical roots of discipleship and evangelism. It is designed to give students a better understanding of how theology and life work together to advance the mission of Christianity locally and globally.

## **WORSHIP STUDIES CONCENTRATION COURSES**

### **REL 615 – Historical Development of Christian Worship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is an introduction to the study of worship, exploring the basic aspects of congregational worship life and the various tasks involved in leading corporate or congregational worship. In addition, this course focuses on the development of worship and spirituality in various cultural contexts.

### **REL 616 – Theological Constructivism: Building a Theology of Worship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course examines theology as a spiritual discipline and an act of worship undertaken by the Church in service to God for the sake of the world. Its focus is the affective dimension of worship as a theological enterprise. Major figures and delivery systems of spiritual formation will be examined.

### **REL 617 – The Worship Leader** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course explores how the worship leader can become more effective in the life of the church and congregation from a renewal theology perspective. Roles and relationships of the worship leader will be emphasized. The worship leader and the pastor, in addition to other key pivotal relationships in the ministry of the church, will be explored.

### **REL 618 – Principles of Worship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides a strong foundation in the principles and practices of Christian worship through an examination of biblical, ecclesiastical and historical perspectives on various worship genres within the context of different cultural settings. A priority of this course will be for students to define worship, identify its purpose(s), and describe it in the life of the church and the believer.

### **REL 619 – Dynamics of Worship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is an exploration of the rudiments of biblical worship and the essential practices that make the worship leader effective and dynamic in the life of church ministry, particularly in our world today.

### **REL 620 – Exploring Contemporary and Traditional Worship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is designed to cover basic and trending aspects of congregational worship life in both traditional and contemporary contexts.

### **REL 623 – Congregational Acclaim: Planning for Worship** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course will explore planning, strategies and skills needed for leading congregational or public worship. Students will explore the team approach and examine strategies to manage conflict, and to build healthy group dynamics and productive teams. Students will plan and execute a major worship project in the context of their ministry setting and theological concentration.

## **MASTER OF ARTS FIELD-BASED EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS\***

### **REL 649 – Supervised Ministry Practicum (Pass/Fail)** (3 cr. hrs.)

In this course, students will work closely under the guidance and supervision of a cooperating church and pastor in the context of his or her theological concentration. This course is designed to facilitate the writing of a series of ministry reflection papers based upon observation and participation in a variety of ministerial and religious experiences. The course will require regular periodic submissions of reflections, assessments and interviews.

**REL 655 – Practicum I: Theology Internship**  
**(Pass/Fail)** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides real time experience in ministerial settings with pastoral practitioners who provide an experiential understanding of the challenges and rewards of hands-on ministry. Students will plan a major project in the context of their ministry setting and theological concentration.

**REL 656 – Practicum I: Ministry Internship**  
**(Pass/Fail)** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides real time experience in ministerial settings with pastoral practitioners who provide an experiential understanding of the challenges and rewards of hands-on ministry. Students will plan a major project in the context of their ministry setting and theological concentration.

**REL 660 – Practicum II: Theology Project**  
**(Pass/Fail)** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is a continuation of the Practicum I: Internship and continues to provide real time experience in ministerial settings. Students will execute a major project in the context of their ministry setting and theological concentration.  
*(Non-thesis or Integrated Project Model used).*

**REL 661 – Practicum II: Ministry Project**  
**(Pass/Fail)** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is a continuation of the Practicum I: Internship and continues to provide real time experience in ministerial settings. Students will execute a major project in the context of their ministry setting and theological concentration.  
*(Non-thesis or Integrated Project Model used).*

## Admission Requirements

- Application and \$50.00 Processing Fee
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- (3) Letters of Recommendation
- Official College Transcripts
- Writing Sample of the Applicant's Background
- Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science from an accredited institution of higher learning.



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