

Bachelor of Theology in Community Leadership 2010

(minimum 3 years, 374 credits)

Majoring in Community Development

MODULES	Total credits
BASIC LEVEL (first year)	
Christian Studies I (24 credits) Biblical Studies I (24 credits) Practical Theology I (24 credits) Psychology I (1x24 credits) Sociology I (1x24 credits) Information Skills (6 credits)	126
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (second year)	
Christian Studies II (32 credits) Biblical Studies II (32 credits) Sociology II (32 credits) Practical Theology II (32 credits)	128
ADVANCED LEVEL (third year)	
Christian Studies III (48 credits) Sociology III (48 credits) Community Development Practical (24 credits)	120

Module Descriptions

BASIC LEVEL (first year)

Christian Studies I

History of Western and African Christianity

This module reviews the origins and growth of Christianity from the early church through to the 20th century, focusing on the history of theology, the Church and missions in the West and in Africa. The module will emphasise the dynamic process of God's providence sustaining Christian faith in diverse historical contexts and will bring students to an awareness of how Christianity today has been shaped by history.

Introduction to Philosophy and Worldviews

This module provides an introduction to worldviews in general with particular focus on western philosophy and how philosophy has interacted with theology and shaped our world.

Introduction to Theology

This module is designed to introduce the student to the methodology and discourse of systematic theology and provide a framework within which to relate both the various theological disciplines (e.g. biblical theology, historical theology, systematic theology) and the various doctrines of the Christian faith. Special attention is given to the relationship between theology and its cultural contexts, particularly within a South African context.

Theology of Mission

The biblical and theological foundations of mission are studied from creation to Israel and then from Christ to the visions of the eschaton. An understanding of the task of world evangelisation is developed. The influence of key movements and mission paradigms will be explored, focusing in particular on current debates on the nature of missions and evangelism.

Biblical Studies I

New Testament Foundations

This module is designed to introduce the learner to the scope of the New Testament, as the testimony of the early Church, concerning the crucified and resurrected Jesus. The module follows the canonical order of the New Testament and is split over two terms. Attention is given to historical background, interpretive issues related to literary genre, and to the theology and integrity of the New Testament.

Old Testament Foundations

This module is designed to introduce the learner to the scope of the Old Testament, as a shared testimony, concerning its central character, Yahweh. The module follows the ordering of the Hebrew Bible and is split over two terms. Attention is given to historical background, interpretive issues related to literary genre, and to the

theology and integrity of the Old Testament. This module is an important backdrop for New Testament Foundations.

Psychology I

Children, Youth and Society

This module studies the current cultures, problems and issues facing children and youth in society, along with strategies for ministry. Consideration will be given to a number of issues which young people face in South Africa such as peer pressure, substance abuse, depression and suicide, sexual abuse, child abuse and violence.

Counselling Skills

In this module the student is introduced to counselling methodologies and techniques. This module will focus on characteristics of an effective counsellor, crisis counselling and specialised counselling needs.

Developmental Psychology I

This module provides an overview of the major theories of Developmental Psychology. It aims to help the student understand the models of human development from conception to adolescence, to address contemporary concerns in life-span development, and to enhance the awareness of methodological approaches by which human development is investigated.

Introduction to Psychology A

A survey of persons, ideas, and principles in the scientific studies of human behaviour is given. The historical development and current status of psychology and investigative activities and significant findings are reviewed.

Sociology I

Cultural Anthropology

This module seeks to introduce the student to the fundamentals of the science of anthropology and its methods and techniques, especially as they relate to the church and missions. The concepts of culture, worldview, social and kinship structures, values and belief systems are examined.

Introduction to Development

The aim of this module is to lay the conceptual foundation for further in-depth discussions on community development issues. The module will, therefore, introduce both macro theories pertaining to development and the basics of what we understand by community development. The underlying meaning of popular community development jargon will be critically revisited and debated to set the scene for further modules in community development. This module will also attempt to highlight the relationship between mission and development.

Introduction to Sociology A and B

These modules provide an introduction to the principles, concepts, history, and major approaches to the study of society. Special attention is given to major sociological implications for the family, religion, government, education, and science. Part B includes the issue of poverty.

Practical Theology I

Character of a Christian Leader

A particular emphasis is given to developing spiritual leadership through understanding the “being” of leadership, the development of character which can lead to more effective “doing”, and the skills in the practice of being a leader.

Christian Spirituality

This module provides an introduction to Christian Spirituality as it has unfolded through time and explores different facets of contemporary spiritual life and practice.

Cross-cultural Communication and Education

This is a foundational course in communication and education introducing the study of the communication process in cross-cultural contexts. The dynamics of interpersonal, intercultural, group and mass communication will be studied, focussing on communication in teaching and learning. This includes the study of public speaking, audience analysis, listening, speaking and conflict management.

Reconciliation and Peace Making

The purpose of Reconciliation and Peace Making is to lay the foundation for a biblical and theological approach to conflict management that will guide the church and community leader in responding to interpersonal conflict both in the church and in the community.

Information Skills

Computer and Information Literacy

The module focuses on the ability to define an information need, and thereafter being able to find, evaluate, use, and communicate information. The latter skills are supported by basic computer literacy in the Microsoft Office Suite, the World Wide Web and e-mail. models. It also examines some of the critical issues in regard to family counselling in the African context.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL (second year)

Sociology II

Community Mobilisation

To “own” something means taking responsibility for it. Ownership of community projects is vital for sustainable development. But how is it done? To mobilise the community in line with positive development activities is an aim of most development project. This module will look at best practices and bad practices in this regard to highlight the value of community participation as a prerequisite for community mobilisation.

Resource Mobilisation

The module will outline the important difference between fundraising and resource mobilisation, and why development efforts have focused on the latter. It introduces a framework to understand resource mobilisation as three key components – resource providers, resources and mechanisms for resource mobilisation. This framework is then used to relate these three components to the local community context – what kind of resources are needed, what kind of mechanisms work, and what kind of resource providers exist. The course seeks to introduce the learners to the conceptual framework for resource mobilisation, as well as the process of studying the resource mobilisation environment they work in as community workers.

Sociology of Institutions A and B

Sociological theory is applied to important institutions in society such as the family, religion and community life.

Christian Studies II

Comparative Worldviews

This is an introduction to the major world religions and their particular worldviews. The uniqueness of Christ is presented against the challenges of religious fundamentalism on the one hand, and religious pluralism and secularism on the other.

Discipleship of Children and Youth

Special consideration is given to approaches of discipleship, which lead to personal growth and development as applied to children and youth. (This includes raising the student’s own awareness.)

Doctrine of Humanity and the Church

This module explores what it means to be human, emphasising the theological significance of being created in God’s image, and the nature and effects of sin upon humanity. The doctrine of the Church, formed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, is investigated focusing on its nature, ministry and mission. Throughout the module attention is given to the spiritual, ethical and social implications of these doctrines for the Christian faith.

Doctrine of the Triune God

The doctrine of the triune God is investigated, focusing on the biblical foundations, theological significance and practical application of the doctrine. Particular emphasis will be given to understanding contemporary theological discussions related to Trinitarian concepts and God’s relation to the world.

Biblical Studies II

Biblical Hermeneutics

This module investigates how scripture has been interpreted in the past, in order to discover those methods most appropriate to exposition and application. In addition, it seeks to develop knowledge of and skills in the process of exegesis.

Old Testament Writings

The study and meaning of wisdom in the literature of the Old Testament are investigated. Special attention will be given to the nature of Hebrew poetry, literary structure and the importance of developing a biblical theology of the wisdom writings. Exegesis of representative passages is included.

Pentateuch

This module is a focused study of the Torah (or Pentateuch) with particular attention given to the nature and character of these writings as Israel's core testimony concerning Yahweh. Some attention is given to the theological motifs (Law and Justice, Political Deliverance, and Economics and the Poor) embedded within the Torah and the role of these motifs in community identity formation.

Synoptic Gospels

This module is a focused study of one of the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke-Acts) within its historical and literary context and places a significant emphasis on the *descriptive task* (exegesis of representative passages within the specified Gospel) to note distinctive theological themes. Special attention is also given to the *synthetic task* of locating the Gospel within the broader canon of the NT Gospels.

Practical Theology II

Constructive Conflict Resolution

This module introduces students to the theory and practice of conflict resolution and teaches them specific communication skills to enhance their relationships. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore their attitude toward conflict and to reflect on their personal approach to conflict. The module makes use of case studies to assist students to reflect on the strategies, tactics and approaches used during conflict situations and emphasises the link between communications, behaviour and conflict.

Faith Based Organisations (FBO's) and Development

This is an interactive module designed to prepare the student to develop ways to support the development of human community in the larger society. Special attention is given to the church as a generator of community, the family as a nucleus of support for the faith community, the church in modern and post-modern society, the church as a community of moral conviction, and the nature of communities for effective development.

Leadership and Empowerment

This module explores the theory and practice of leadership in the context of the church and faith-based organisations. Attention will be given to issues such as the process of effectively utilising and developing human resources, sharing control and responsibility, teamwork, conflict management, strategic planning and managing diverse communication styles.

Perspectives on Social Transformation

This module reviews several perspectives on community development and the social transformation process. The study covers development as transformation, people-centred development, expanding access to social power, development as responsible well being, and development as a Kingdom response to powerlessness.

ADVANCED LEVEL (Third year)

Christian Studies III

African Worldviews

An overview of African Worldviews is given with special reference to South Africa. This will include a study of the African Independent Church movements with a view to understanding traditional modes of spirituality and their relevance for the contemporary church in Africa.

Ethics and Contemporary Theology

The *Ethics* module is designed to help the student build a Christian world and life view. Biblical, theological and non-theological studies are integrated so that the student can respond to current moral, intellectual and social questions.

Contemporary Theology is a study of selected theologians of the twentieth century who have influenced contemporary theological thinking. Attention is given to theological movements, which have influenced the church.

Faith Development and Spiritual Formation

This module is firstly designed to explore how people make meaning out of life's experiences. The primary theory of James W Fowler is given special attention. Consideration is given to the application of this theory to the general areas of developmental psychology, the theology of Christian formation and maturity. The second aspect of the module is the bringing together of the theory and practice of Christian spiritual formation.

Organisational Leadership and Management

This module explores the theory and practice of leadership and management in the context of the church and other community-based and faith-based organisations. The management component of the module will examine practical issues such as strategic planning, organising meetings, and effective team-building.

Transformation of Youth Culture

The module covers the historical position of children and youth in cultural studies. Firstly, it aims to direct the student into a missiological dialogue on the transformation of the church and society in light of the growing global phenomena of "youth culture". Secondly, it aims to equip students to reflect upon the position of children and youth in their own context and to gain a clearer understanding of the role of children and youth ministry practitioners within such a context.

Urban Mission

Urban Mission is an in-depth introduction to the theory and practice of urban mission both locally and internationally, with special reference to cross-cultural contexts. The module deals with the theological rationale of urban mission and introduces learners to the use of tools from the social sciences.

Sociology III

Community Research Methods

This module aims to orientate the student to participatory research (i.e., its tools, techniques and methodologies), with the goal of helping a community identify a problem, collect and analyse information, and act upon the problem in order to find solutions and to promote social and political transformation. The module will implement participatory tools of secondary resources, direct observation and semi-structured interviewing.

Community Development in Practice

This module covers the field of development from a sociological point of view with an emphasis on both the theoretical and practical facets of the developmental process. These themes will be related to current development challenges in SA and will be studied against the background of global trends as well as specific community issues. Whilst strong emphasis will be placed on a holistic and people-centred orientation to development theory and praxis, the economic prerequisites and requirements for development will also be stressed. Theoretical insights will be translated into skills required for hands-on community development.

Urban and Rural Development

This module seeks to explore in depth the dynamics that are involved in cities as unique spaces of social interaction on the one hand, and those involved in rural areas on the other. Urban social development issues are discussed from various perspectives, including economic, social and political factors that impact urban life. The module accords special attention to the impact of urbanisation on the poor, elderly, youth, and other marginalised groups. It also seeks to help students outline the challenges facing rural development in developing countries and in South Africa in particular. Specific themes discussed are the role of the rural areas in the social and political economy of developing societies, and current approaches towards the management of these areas. The various issues and themes are explored through field-based reflection, lectures and group discussions.

Community Development Senior Project Paper

This module provides an opportunity for final-year Community Development students to research and write a major paper about a topic of interest in their field.

PRACTICAL

Community Development Fieldwork

Fieldwork is a practical, community-based extension of the academic programme in a defined module of study in Community Development. Fieldwork is a multidisciplinary application of what has been learned theoretically. It measures the practical capabilities of the student within a field or sphere of learning.