

Module descriptions for Certificate in Christian Ministry 2010

Details of the Certificate in Christian Ministry (NQF5)

Christian Studies (4 x 6 credits)	Biblical Studies (4 x 6 credits)	Practical Theology (8 x 6 credits)	Practical Theology	Information Skills (6 credits)
Introduction to Philosophy & Worldviews	Old Testament Foundations A	Reconciliation & Peacemaking	Counselling and Pastoral Care	Computer and Information Literacy
History of Western & African Christianity	Old Testament Foundations B	Christian Spirituality	Youth Issues	
Introduction to Theology	New Testament Foundations A	Character of a Christian Leader	Christian Worship	Practical (18 credits)
Theology of Mission	New Testament Foundations B	Cross-Cultural Communication and Education	Homiletics	Christian Ministry Fieldwork

Module Descriptions

Christian Studies

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

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.

Practical Theology

Reconciliation and Peacemaking

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

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.

Christian Worship

This module explores Christian Worship through the scriptures and the different traditions of the church and examines the theory and practice of worship in contemporary churches and life.

Counselling and Pastoral Care

This module is an introduction to the practical theology of pastoral care and counselling. The nature of practical theology, pastoral care and the relation between theology and psychology are explored. Models and techniques of the pastoral conversation are learnt and practiced and a sense of pastoral identity is developed.

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.

Homiletics

This module will equip the student with the skills of public speaking and specifically sermon preparation and delivery. Throughout the module attention will be given to increasing the student’s ability to express ideas clearly and competently in both written and oral communication in preaching, giving the student a comprehensive understanding of the theory and praxis of expository preaching.

Youth Issues

The module will enable students to understand the contemporary issues facing South African youth in the context of community and society, such as, alcohol and drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, teenage pregnancy, gang violence and malnutrition. The module also encourages the student to read and evaluate perspectives provided by South African social scientists and psychologists across the racial and cultural spectrum.

Practical

Christian Ministry Fieldwork

The ministry practical is a practical extension of the academic programme in the Certificate in Christian Ministry programme. It is designed to be a multidisciplinary application of what has been learnt theoretically and measures the practical capabilities of the student within a field or sphere of learning.

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.