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It also explores ways of creating a classroom learning environment that encourages English language and literacy development for all learners. Prerequisites: LING 220, LING 351 and LING 350, or permission of instructor.

**LING 373 TESOL Field Experience** (2, F)

Taken concurrently with TESOL Methods: ELA, this weekly practicum experience working in a non-formal setting with adult learners of English as a second language provides students completing the Intercultural Studies TESOL Concentration or TESOL Minor an opportunity to put their learning into practice. Prerequisites: LING 220, LING 351, and LING 350, or permission of instructor.

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## Theology (minor)

**Department of Theology:** Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, chair. W. Christopher Stewart, Associate Dean

**Faculty:** John N. Brittain, Jonathan P. Case, Richard K. Eckley, Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, J. Michael Walters

**Web site:** [www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/religion-philosophy](http://www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/religion-philosophy)

**Phone:** 585.567.9460

**Minor:** (12 hours)

The theology minor provides concentrated study in Christian doctrine, apologetics, and church history.

Minor required courses:

THEL 313	Systematic Theology.....	4
	Remaining hours .....	8

(selected from the following list except THEL 209)

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**THEL 209 Introduction to Christianity** (4, F&S)

An introductory survey of the main beliefs and practices that constitute the Christian tradition. Christianity will be approached in a way that overcomes the traditional division between doctrine and practice. The Biblical, theological, historical, ethical, and spiritually formative aspects of Christian faith will be explored. The course aims to enable the student to develop a personal theology and life perspective that is informed by Christian faith and Christian spirituality. Prerequisite: BIBL 101. This course is a prerequisite for all other THEL courses. Faith Foundation: Theology.

**THEL 215 Christian Apologetics** (4, S12 and alternate years)

The course seeks to “give reason for the faith that is written within us” by making theological reply to those questions raised when Christian faith collides with contemporary situations. Classical and contemporary questions and methodologies will be considered.

**THEL 220 History of Christianity** (4, F)

Examines the ancient, medieval, Reformation and modern development of Christianity in its various contexts. Attention will be given to the lives of prominent men and women as well as doctrines and institutions developed in each era. Connections with current theological issues and church practice will be considered.

**THEL/PHIL 300 Christianity and Postmodernism** (4, F)

Explores relationship between Christian faith and practice and postmodern culture. Primary & secondary readings drawn from a variety of disciplines and sources explore the implications of postmodernism for church, individuals, the media & popular culture.

**THEL 313 Systematic Theology** (4, S)

Survey of the main tenets of the Christian faith. Doctrines examined in light of Biblical basis and constructive formulations. Introduces the student to Christian theology and equips the student to develop a personal theology.

**THEL 315 Wesleyan Tradition** (4, S)

Study of the Wesleyan movement from the Wesleys to the present. Emphases on the history of The Wesleyan Church and the doctrine of holiness.

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- THEL/MIN 316 Worship in the Church** (4, F12 & alternate years)  
 An introduction to liturgical theology including explorations into the Biblical and theological foundations for worship and the sacramental life of the church. Special emphasis is given to the task of contextualization in planning worship services, and examining the pastoral role in the church's liturgical life and witness.
- THEL 320 Spiritual Formation** (4, F)  
 Examines the nature and process of spiritual growth and maturation in the life of the Christian. As an academic course of study, this class arises out of ascetical theology and thus emphasizes the writings of early, medieval, and later Christians. Primary emphasis is given to the role of the classical spiritual disciplines in the formation of character.
- THEL 333 Major Figures in Theology** (2 or 4, OD)  
 In-depth study of one or more figures in Christian theology with an emphasis upon primary source material for examining the theologians in the context of their lives and times.
- THEL 334 Studies in Theology** (2 or 4, OD)  
 Topics of current theological interest. Specific schools of theology, doctrines, or theological trends will be considered.
- THEL 337 Theological Foundations of the Family** (4, F)  
 Study of major conceptual designs for family. Will emphasize a comparative analysis of religious models and the relationships between these influential systems and family practices. Introduces students to the role of the family in ethical value formation.
- THEL/PHIL 340 The Nature of God** (2, F)  
 Introductory course in philosophical theology, focusing on the concept of God. Philosophical analysis of divine attributes (such as God's power, knowledge, goodness, and relation to time).
- THEL 346 Elements of Catholic, Muslim and Orthodox Theology** (4, F)  
 An examination of the development of Catholic and Orthodox theology and practices from the early Middle Ages with a particular emphasis upon major figures, and differences between the traditions. An introduction will be given to Islam with particular attention paid to Christian-Muslim interaction from the seventh century through to modern times and to syncretistic folk religion, the dervish, etc.
- THEL/PHIL 350 Reason and Religious Belief** (2, F)  
 Introductory course in religious epistemology, focusing on the sources of religious knowledge and the rationality of religious belief. Philosophical analysis of arguments for God's existence, the problem of evil, and the roles of faith and reason in religious belief.
- THEL 325 American Church History** (4, OD)  
 Examines the historical and theological roots of the varied Christian traditions in the US. Attention will be given to European traditions transplanted in the new world and to the ways they developed in the American context; also consideration of the indigenous American Christian traditions and the resulting variety of ecclesial configurations.
- THEL/HIST 368 The Reformation** (4, OD)  
 A survey of the continental, English, and Roman Catholic reformation of the 16th century.
- THEL/PHIL 455 Aquinas** (4, F12)  
 Seminar on the thought of Thomas Aquinas involving a close reading of Aquinas' most important work, the *Summa Theologiae*, with occasional supplementation from other relevant primary and secondary literature.
- THEL/PHIL 475 Kierkegaard: A Man for All Disciplines** (4, S12)  
 Reading seminar on some key works of the "melancholy Dane," including (for example) *Either/Or*, *Fear and Trembling*, *The Sickness Unto Death*, the *Philosophical Fragments* and *Concluding Unscientific Postscript*. A "man for all disciplines," Kierkegaard's writings continue to attract interest for their philosophical and theological insight as well as their literary sophistication.
- THEL/PHIL 485 Issues in Philosophical Theology** (4, S12)  
 Seminar in which selected topics in Christian theology are examined via close reading and discussion of historical and contemporary works of philosophical theology. Examples of topics considered: Divine Attributes, Divine Providence (and Human Freedom), God and Ethics, Faith. The specific issue(s) to be considered will be identified each time the course is scheduled. Repeatable when topics are diverse.
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## Urban Ministry (minor)

(see also Intercultural Studies urban ministry concentration)

**Department of Theology:** Kristina LaCelle-Peterson, chair. W. Christopher Stewart, Associate Dean

**Faculty:** Richard K. Eckley, Paul W. Shea, J. Michael Walters

**Web site:** [www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/religion-philosophy](http://www.houghton.edu/academics/programs/religion-philosophy)

**Phone:** 585.567.9460

**Minor:** (15-16 hours)

CRFM 231	Foundations of Educational Ministries.....	2
<i>or</i>		
MIN 210	Intro to Christian Ministries .....	2
URMN 212	Urban Ministry .....	4
URMN 250	Evangelism and Social Action in the Urban Context .....	3
URMN 300	Urban Ministry Field Experience and Seminar .....	3
URMN 328	Community and Society in Australia and New Zealand.....	4
URMN 350	The City in Biblical and Theological Perspective .....	4

### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**URMN 212 Urban Ministry** (4, F)

What is the ministry of the church and individual Christians within diverse, complex metropolitan areas? Introduction to the Bible and to research in behavioral sciences on the city with field trips and projects in the community. This course has a fee.

**URMN 250 Evangelism and Social Action in the Urban Context** (3, May)

Examination of the Biblical basis of evangelism and social justice. Through Biblical, historical, and sociological/anthropological analyses and personal observation projects, students will assess ways in which evangelism and social action are related and will have an opportunity to develop their own theology and strategy of outreach. Taught at West Seneca campus.

**URMN 300 Urban Ministry Field Experience and Seminar** (3, OD)

Supervised field experience in a core-city church or parachurch organization. Seminar with weekly cluster meeting of participating students to synthesize academic and field experience as a group. Requires 120 hours of field work. Prerequisites: URMN 212 and declaration of minor.

**URMN 325 Life in the City** (3)

(See Off Campus Programs – Houghton College City Semester for description.)

**URMN/INCL/MIN/MISS/PSY/SOC 328 Community and Society in Australia and New Zealand** (4, F)

Examines social institutions in urban Australia and New Zealand. Analyzes social problems and institutional and community responses by churches and faith-based organizations, and compares them with those of governments, non-government organizations and prosocial community organizations. Community: Psychology or Sociology.

**URMN 350 The City in Biblical and Theological Perspective** (4, OD)

In-depth survey of the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation examining the city as symbol and social reality. Analysis of various theological perspectives (Augustine, Ellul, Cox, Mouw, and others). Prereq: URMN 212, and declaration of minor.

For more Urban Studies opportunities please see the City Semester listing under Off Campus Programs.