Cuttington University

**Doctor of Theology (Th.D.) in Systematic Theology**

The Doctor of Theology in Systematic Theology will explore all that is stated, presupposed, and entailed by the Christian Revelation. It will cover the connections of themes and insights from Scriptures, and in the light of the Christian experience attempt to outline some working principles that have emerged over the two thousand years of Christian scholarship (e.g. covenant, election, human nature, Christology, ecclesiology, eschatology, Trinity), using the full testimony of the scriptures. It will explore the philosophical foundations of the faith; and seek coherence between the Testaments. It will explore African Traditional Theology and philosophy.

Here is the suggested schedule of courses for the **ThD in Systematic Theology**.

**Semester I**

* DT 701 Research Methods 1
* DT 740 Christian Revelation and Philosophical Inquiry
* DT 742 Theological Anthropology

**Semester II**

* DT 703 Research Methods 2
* DT 744 The Trinity
* DT 746 Heresy and the Nicene Creed

**Semester III**

* DT 705 Transformational Leadership Within the African Context
* DM 719 African Theologies in Leadership: The Liberian Church
* DT 748 Christology

**Semester IV**

* DT 750 Ecclesiology
* DT 752 African Theological Perspectives

**Semester V**

* DM 733 Conflict Dynamics
* DT 754 Western Influences of Theology

**Semester VI**

* DT 798 Directed Study (with Assigned Supervisor)

**Semesters VII & VIII**

* DT 799 Dissertation Project Seminar

**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

Departmental/Program Requirements

**DT 701 Research Methods 1**

*This course prepares the student to conduct and evaluate social science research, utilizing various research methods. Basic issues involving formulation of research questions, research design, data collection and analysis are dealt with.*

**DT 703 Research Methods 2**

*This is an advanced research methods course focusing on qualitative and quantitative research, analyses, notations, and overall integrity in outputting a quality research work.*

**DT 705 Transformational Leadership Within the African Context**

*Exploring the struggles and successes of leadership within the African context, and how to apply best practices for effective leadership within the Church, Academy, and beyond.*

**DM 719 African Theologies in Leadership/The Liberian Church**

*Concepts of basic expected norms of traditional African culture, idioms and thought patterns relevant to leadership (especially patriarchal attributes) are incorporated into theological teachings with emphasis on the Liberian Church. This course will provide the impetus for pupils to share African Theologies with the wider global community.*

**DM 733 Conflict Dynamics**

*The conflicts dealt with in this course will be focused on issues dealing with school dynamics. Some issues will be the relationship and boundaries between boards and heads of schools, heads and church relations and heads and students’ relations.* *The course will explore ways of prevention, identification, mitigation, and resolution of conflicts. The goal is to provide tools that help leaders create and maintain healthy organizations, to enhance missional leadership and produce results.*

**Concentration in Systematic Theology**

**DT 740 Christian Revelation and Philosophical Inquiry**

*This course explores central theological claims through a logical or empirical lens: Revelation, Creation, Incarnation, Trinity, Salvation, eschatology, and other themes in the scriptures.*

**DT 742 Theological Anthropology**

*This course explores humankind as creatures of God’s glory who are set in the universe as guests, owners, servants, and friends. It will cover the themes of creation, Sin, nature, Grace, salvation, freedom, and the consummation of all. It will address problems associated with Gnosticism, and the donatist and pelagian heresies of the 5th century.*

**DT 744 The Trinity**

*This course explores the traditional language used in the Christian tradition to speak of and reveal a triune God. It will inspire an appreciation of our trinitarian heritage by focusing on both its classical formulations and the insights intrinsic to them. This will include the nature of God-talk, its alternative concepts, ontological concepts emerging from Plato, Aristotle and Aquinas; critical insights from the Cappadocian Fathers; and major heresies association with an attempt to present the Nicene faith.*

**DT 746 Heresy and the Nicene Creed**

*This course will investigate the structure and politics of the Niceno-constantinopolitan creed in light of the differing views, (claims about the incarnation and counter-claims) that competed at the time of the making of the Creed for acceptance by the Christian Church. It will cover the heresies of marcionism, sabellianism, docetism, patripassianism, arianism, adoptionism, apollonarianism, Nestorianism, eutychianism, and the insights of those who defended the faith against them.*

**DT 748 Christology**

*This central theme with be the singular focus of this course. It will explore concepts of salvation in the both Testaments, the wider Latin and Greek world; the patristic, medieval, reformation, and modern views both of the person of Christ and of the work of Christ; drawing out the emphases of these periods.*

**DT 750 Ecclesiology**

*This course explores the nature and function of the church by providing the biblical foundations of this now mystical body. The course will explore the early and medieval periods as well as the reformation and modern periods, noting its differing conceptual development. It will consider the nature of the sacraments in its early and modern configurations. It will engage both pneumatology and eschatology as cognate concepts.*

**DT 752 African Theological Perspectives**

*This course will enable the student to appreciate the insights of Africans to theological reflection generally from the early to medieval periods, and what they offer specifically to our consideration of the Incarnation, and eschatology. The course will explore the issues of culture, identity, and theological reflection. It will draw on East, West, and South African theologians; identify ‘the problematique’ of each and describe different strands of theology emerging in contemporary Africa.*

**DT 754 Western Influences of Theology**

*This course attempts to identify over the centuries the impact of key movements and preoccupations in western civilization that have shaped the theological discourse we pursue today. We will cover the heydays of Aristotelianism, renaissance, reformation, enlightenment, romanticism, and existentialism. In describing the limited contours of the language we inherit, the attempt is to empower the student to move on in their language and construct, and not to be limited by these historic strictures to the language we now use. It attempts to liberate us from the compulsion we may feel to be bound by their inherent presuppositions alone.*

**DT 798 Directed Study (with Assigned Supervisor)**

*This course is part of the culminative work leading to a successful dissertation project. The supervising faculty will give guidance to students as they do preparatory and supportive work toward their final project. The final submission for this course is the student’s Dissertation Proposal, which must be approved before the student can advance to DT 799.*

**DT 799 Dissertation Project Seminar**

*This year long seminar provides students with a structured process to implement their research design, analyze results of the project, and write a dissertation. The dissertation is a culmination of the program that offers a theologically framed research design with key results and observations. The seminar concludes with a presentation and oral defense. Dissertation research can run currently with coursework. The Project Supervisor can make the determination in collaboration with the student.*