

2021-2022

Academic Programs



YELLOWSTONE
Theological Institute
EST. 2012

Where Faith Meets Adventure and the Arts

YELLOWSTONETHEOLOGY.ORG | 406-404-1600 | BOZEMAN, MT



Yellowstone Theological Institute educates minds and enlightens hearts.

We believe in a world where we are lifted up by experiencing deeper, more meaningful relationships with God and one another in Christ. As an intentionally non-denominational school, YTI prepares our graduates to minister in any setting. We want students to learn, grow, and explore the relationships between community, culture, and Christian experience—all surrounded by the spellbinding beauty of the northern Rockies—then embrace the God-directed life to which they are called.

Students can choose to pursue a Master of Arts (MA), Master of Divinity (MDiv), or Master of Theology (ThM) degree. YTI also offers a variety of Diplomas, along with the local-church based Equip program. Each path is based on a curriculum of biblical scholarship with unique real-world application. We understand that faith itself is an adventure into new perspectives, connection, and love. Yellowstone Theological Institute seeks to provide creative and meaningful mentorship to its students, facilitating a deeper understanding of ourselves, one another, and God.

With a diverse and passionate faculty, construction underway on a beautiful campus in the mountains, and a pioneering mission of faith, adventure, and the arts, YTI is ready to help you push past your comfort zone and blaze new trails in your journey of education, faith, and spiritual growth. Join us as we seek God's heart and discover fresh ways to embody love in our communities and our world.

“Studying at YTI has been a life-changing experience for me. They have dramatically improved my understanding of the Bible, theology, and church history, enabled me to gain proficiency in writing, and have helped me to achieve personal growth in many aspects of my life.”

— YTI MASTER'S STUDENT

MA: Master of Arts

Our Master of Arts (MA) program has been carefully created to give students the education, resources, and means to grow and thrive in a variety of roles. With courses available on campus or online, the two-year program's curriculum has been thoughtfully designed to combine biblical studies, theology, spirituality, history, philosophy, literature, adventure, and religion, as well as ministry training.

At YTI, our MA program is made up of a 45-hour curriculum that gives students the means to change the conversations about God in the community. As part of their studies, attendees learn from professors who have years of ministry experience and share real-world teaching to help students learn to lead in an evolving world and diverse society.

The Master of Arts will serve graduates in many career roles, including ministry, church leadership, teaching, social work, writing, and counseling, as well as serve as a foundation for doctoral work.

MA and Diploma courses are offered on two convenient schedules. Each term, several week-long intensives are offered Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm (including a lunch break), in addition to a selection of night classes which meet weekly for ten weeks. Additional course requirements include reading, assignments, projects, and interacting with professors.

The majority of classes are held at YTI's campus in Bozeman, along with a selection of classes offered in Bellingham, Wash. Most classes can also be attended via live online video.

PREREQUISITE CLASSES

*Required for **first year students with no former biblical training**; does not count toward degree requirements:*

BIB 531 The Biblical Narrative

*Required for **students electing to write a thesis as their capstone** (Non-credit, meets for one three-hour session):*

CSC 501 Research Methods Colloquy

SEQUENCING

Students need to complete the following courses in the first 4 terms of study, prior to taking ministry courses:

BIB 530 Interpretation

BIB 532 OT 1: The Torah and Histories

BIB 533 OT 2: The Prophets and Poetry

BIB 534 NT 1: The Gospels and Acts

BIB 535 NT 2: Romans to Revelation

THEO 530 Historical Theology I

THEO 531 Historical Theology II

THEO 532 Theology for the Church

PROGRAM LENGTH

45 Hours

FORMAT

5-day intensives (6 hours/day) or 10-week night courses (1 night/week), which may be attended either in person or online via live video. All students must attend at least one course in Bozeman each year. Some courses are offered only as residential courses; see course descriptions for details.



Master of Arts Concentrations

BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Biblical Studies concentration in the MA program is designed for the student who is currently in vocational ministry, but wants a deeper understanding of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. This concentration allows the student to study not only the overall trajectory of Scripture, but also develop advanced historical, linguistic, theological, and contextual insights into the texts.

- BIB 530** Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- THEO 530** Historical Theology I
- THEO 531** Historical Theology II
- THEO 532** Theology for the Church
- MIN 530** Christian Vocation
- CUL 531** Apologetics

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 3 Electives:

- LAN 530** Biblical Languages: Overview and Tools
- BIB 537** Justice and Righteousness in the Biblical Narrative
- BIB 630** Advanced Biblical Studies
(May be repeated with content changes)

Choose Capstone:

- CSC 631** Mentored Ministry Project
- CSC 632** Thesis

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

“Ministry,” in its most basic form, is service done for the sake of the “other” — that is, for God, neighbor, family, and even enemy. In Christian circles — including the church proper as well as parachurch ministries — ministry includes pastoral ministry, worship ministry, and family ministries, as well as children, youth, and senior adult ministries. In the Christian ministry concentration, a student can prepare for traditional church ministry, including pastoral care, preaching, teaching, administration, and leadership. Students can take specialty courses in the focus they wish to pursue.

- BIB 530** Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- THEO 530** Historical Theology I
- THEO 531** Historical Theology II
- THEO 532** Theology for the Church
- MIN 530** Christian Vocation
- CUL 531** Apologetics

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 3 Electives:

- COM 531** Introduction to Preaching and Teaching
- LED 531** Basic Leadership: A Servant and Collaborative Approach
- MIN 531** Introduction to Pastoral Care
- MIN 630** Advanced Ministry Studies
- Other courses** to be determined with advisor

Capstone:

- CSC 631** Mentored Ministry Project

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

The Christian Studies concentration provides maximum flexibility in designing a personalized master's program. Along with courses covering the Old and New Testaments, Theology, and Spirituality, students have the option to select four (4) electives from Biblical Studies, Theology, World Religions and Culture, Spirituality, Leadership, Arts, and Adventure courses. The concentration allows for an educational experience tailored to the student's own interests and ministry objectives.

- BIB 530** Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- THEO 530** Historical Theology I
- THEO 531** Historical Theology II
- THEO 532** Theology for the Church

May Substitute for THEO 532:

- THEO 538** Intro. to the Wild God

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 1:

- SPR 533** Christian Spiritual Theology
- THEO 533** Ethics: The Christian Life
- CUL 538** Imagination and Theology
- THEO** Theology Elective

Choose 4 Electives:

Select from any BIB, THEO, CUL, MIN, SPR, LED, ARTS, or ADV courses

Choose Capstone:

- CSC 631** Mentored Ministry Project
- CSC 632** Thesis

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

The theological studies concentration in the MA program is designed for the student who wants to gain a deeper understanding of how human beings understand God, and specifically how Christians have constructed their theological positions over the last 2,000 years. Additionally, the theological studies concentration gives students the tools through which to construct faithful theological systems for the contemporary context in which they find themselves.

- BIB 530** Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- THEO 530** Historical Theology I
- THEO 531** Historical Theology II
- THEO 532** Theology for the Church
- MIN 530** Christian Vocation
- CUL 531** Apologetics

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 3 Electives:

- THEO 630** Advanced Theological Studies
(May be repeated with content changes)
- Other courses** to be determined with advisor

Choose Capstone:

- CSC 631** Mentored Ministry Project
- CSC 632** Thesis

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

Today’s church often suffers from a lack of visionary leadership. The church, caught between long held assumptions about ministry and mission and a rapidly changing culture, often finds itself in steep numerical decline with a lack of vision, and a means by which to implement a new vision. The MA concentration in Entrepreneurial Leadership gives the ministry student an advanced education in contemporary leadership models and trends, as well as a method by which to create church transition models for the “turnaround” congregation that seeks to be relevant to the changing culture.

- BIB 530** Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- THEO 530** Historical Theology I
- THEO 531** Historical Theology II

- THEO 532** Theology for the Church
- MIN 530** Christian Vocation
- CUL 531** Apologetics

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 3 Electives:

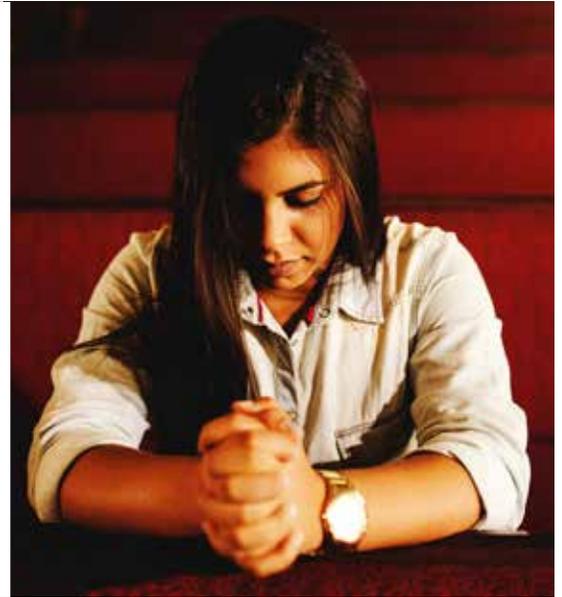
- LED 531** Basic Leadership: A Servant and Collaborative Approach
- LED 532** Entrepreneurial Leadership
- LED 533** Leading Through Conflict
- LED 630** Advanced Leadership Studies

Choose Capstone:

- CSC 631** Mentored Ministry Project
- CSC 632** Thesis



MDiv: Master of Divinity



YTI is committed to equipping students called to formal, denominational ministry. The base degree for this ministry is the Master of Divinity, or MDiv. The MDiv is mandated as a three-year, full-time degree, or a part-time degree, consisting of a minimum of 72 hours. It consists of courses in biblical studies, theological studies, spiritual studies, world religions and culture, arts and adventure, and practical ministry studies. For the student whose denomination requires biblical languages, YTI provides a language laboratory in biblical Hebrew and Greek. However, the Master of Divinity can be obtained without languages.

The YTI MDiv program features a seminar style, mentored education by professors who not only have terminal degrees, but also have an extensive amount of practical ministry experience. The student will not only learn in the traditional classroom, but that classroom will also be translated into the daily world of the student. Additionally, the arts and adventure aspect of our programs takes place in the artist's studio, concert hall, or

PROGRAM LENGTH

72–81 Hours

FORMAT

Residential in Bozeman, Montana.

the beautiful outdoor setting of YTI's home in the Northern Rockies.

Once an MDiv student is admitted to the program, he or she is assigned an advisor who will guide them through the program. Courses are selected from YTI's course catalog. A student can take up to three courses per term, or 27 hours per school year. Additionally, the student can take extra courses in subject areas in which he or she is interested.



Required Master of Divinity Courses

TEXTS AND LANGUAGES

- BIB 530** Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 531** The Biblical Narrative
(Prerequisite for 1st year students with no prior biblical training)
- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- BIB 630** General Epistles (Advanced Bible)
- LAN 530** Biblical Languages: Overview and Tools
- LAN 531** Biblical Languages Lab

FAITH AND LIFE

- THEO 530** Historical Theology I
- THEO 531** Historical Theology II
- THEO 532** Theology for the Church
- THEO 533** Contemporary Theological Reflection
- THEO 534** The People of God: Being the Church
- THEO 536** Ethics: The Christian Life

WORLD RELIGIONS AND CULTURE

- CUL 531** Apologetics: Speaking of Christ in a Pluralistic World
- CUL 532** World Religions
- CUL 533** World Religions: Historic and Marginalized Expressions

ADVENTURE AND THE ARTS

- ADV 531** Introduction to Adventure Studies
- ART 531** Introduction to Theology and the Arts

PRACTICUM

- COM 531** Introduction to Preaching and Teaching
- COM 532** Advanced Preaching and Teaching
- LED 532** Entrepreneurial Leadership
- MIN 531** Introduction to Pastoral Care
- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
OR SPR 531 Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality
- CUL 536** Christian Mission: Theology & Practice
- CSC 631** Mentored Ministry *(3 terms)*
- LED 531** Basic Leadership: A Servant and Collaborative Approach *(optional)*
- CUL 539** Evangelism *(optional)*

CAPSTONE

- Review and Jury *(fee only)*
- Thesis or Project *(fee only)*



ThM: Master of Theology



The Master of Theology is the highest degree offered by Yellowstone Theological Institute and prepares students for a variety of careers, most notably as a teacher at Bible college or similar training position. The degree is typically earned in 18 to 24 months. It is primarily for students who have already earned a Master of Arts or Master of Divinity

degree. Incoming Master of Theology students who have already earned a master's degree in Bible or theology will complete a total of 18 hours of seminars and thesis work. Students lacking an adequate background in biblical and theological studies will be required to complete an additional 18 hours of levelling courses for a total of 36 hours.

REQUIRED COURSES

- THM 501 Research Methods Colloquy (0 hours)
- THM 530 Readings for Advanced Studies (3 hours)
- 3 Advanced Seminars in Area of Study (9 hours)
- THM 631 Thesis (6–12 hours)

LEVELLING COURSES*

* Required for students entering with insufficient background in biblical and theological studies.

- BIB 530 Biblical Interpretation
- BIB 532 Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533 Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry
- BIB 534 New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535 New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation

Choose 1:

- THEO 532 Theology for the Church
- THEO 538 Introduction to the Wild God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

CONCENTRATIONS

The Master of Theology may be earned in the following concentration areas:

- Biblical Studies**
- Theology**
- Culture**
- Missional Theology**
- Leadership**

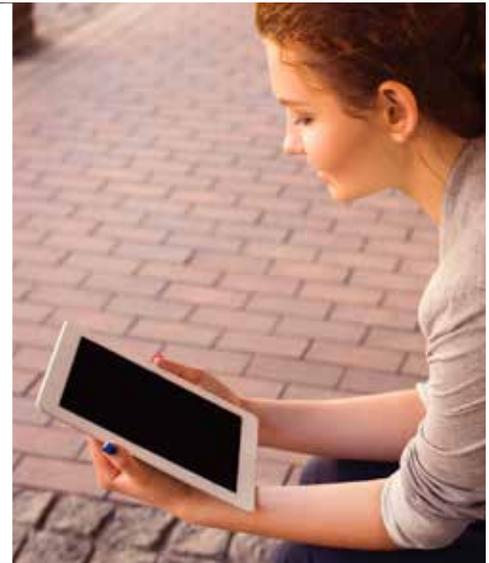
PROGRAM LENGTH

18–36+ Hours

FORMAT

5-day residential intensives either in person or online via live video. Select classes offered as weekly night courses. All students must attend at least one course in Bozeman each year. Some courses are offered only as residential courses; see course descriptions for details.

DCT: Diploma of Christian Theology



YTI's Diploma of Christian Theology arms students with a thorough foundation for ministry. The program includes 30 hours of classes that will help students grow and deepen their faith, with three core biblical and theological classes required for every Diploma program. Diploma-focus subjects provide students with more depth in specific areas.

The Diploma programs at Yellowstone Theological Institute are accessible to students from a variety of educational backgrounds as they explore their faith through hands-on classroom learning, community involvement, and mentorship in ministry.

Meant to be flexible, it's designed for students to be able to take as many or as few classes as they'd like, with classes available both in-person and online. Typically, the diploma program can be completed in 18 months.

CORE CLASSES

- BIB 530** Interpretation
- BIB 531** The Biblical Narrative*
- THEO 532** Theology for the Church

**Required for all Diplomas except Biblical Studies*

PROGRAM LENGTH

30 Hours

FORMAT

5-day residential intensives either in person or online via live video. Select classes offered as weekly night courses. All students must attend at least one course in Bozeman each year. Some courses are offered only as residential courses; see course descriptions for details.



Diploma Concentrations

BIBLICAL STUDIES

- BIB 532** Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories
- BIB 533** Old Testament 2: The Prophets & Poetry
- BIB 534** New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts
- BIB 535** New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation
- LAN 530** Biblical Languages: Overview and Tools

Choose 2 Electives:

- Elective** Any BIB course
- Elective** Any BIB, THEO, SPR, CUL, ADV, or ART course

CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

- THEO 530** History of Theology I
- THEO 531** History of Theology II
- THEO 534** The People of God: Being the Church
- THEO 538** Introduction to the Wild God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- CUL 538** Imagination and Theology

Choose 2 Electives:

- Electives** 2 BIB, THEO, SPR, CUL, ADV, or ART courses

CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

- LED 531** Basic Leadership: A Servant and Collaborative Approach
- MIN 531** Introduction to Pastoral Care
- THEO 534** The People of God: Being the Church

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 1:

- MIN 534** Introduction to NexGen Ministries
- MIN 535** Focus: Ministry to Youth
- MIN 536** Ministry to Adults
- MIN 537** Ministry to Children

Choose 2 Electives:

- Elective** Any COM course
- Elective** Any MIN course

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP

- THEO 538** Introduction to the Wild God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- COM 531** Introduction to Preaching and Teaching
- CUL 535** Theology and Culture
- LED 531** Basic Leadership: A Servant and Collaborative Approach
- LED 532** Entrepreneurial Leadership
- LED 533** Leading Through Conflict
- LED 630** Advanced Leadership Studies

IMAGINATION AND THEOLOGY

- THEO 533** Contemporary Theological Reflection
- CUL 535** Theology and Culture
- CUL 537** Worldview
- CUL 538** Imagination and Theology

Choose 1:

- SPR 530** Spiritual Formation
- SPR 531** Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Choose 2 Electives:

- Electives** 2 BIB, THEO, SPR, CUL, ADV, or ART courses



EQUIP: The Local Church Theological Training Initiative

What would it mean to young ministers and interns if seminary came to them? That is what Equip: The Local Church Theological Training Initiative is all about.

That need is especially great in Montana. One of the top 10 fastest growing states in the U.S., Montana has seen its population grow by 9.8% in the last 10 years, spiking business, home, and religious growth. In the past decade, Bozeman has averaged two new church plants per year — and more churches require more trained ministers.

The cost of education is another major hurdle for those following a call to ministry. With the spiraling cost of seminary training, many churches are calling new ministers straight from the pews, with no actual practical and theological education. Many of these churches are turning to online education, and although marginally less expensive, it tends to be lacking the personal encounter and dialog that meaningful theological education demands.

As seminaries and divinity schools dedicated to training men and women in ministry continue to struggle with funding, recruitment, course delivery, and even relevance, Yellowstone Theological Institute's Equip program is pioneering a new way of ministry training in a rapidly changing cultural landscape.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIPS

- › Church partnerships are developed throughout the region by YTI faculty.
- › We aid in setting up internship programs in large, medium, and small churches.
- › To the extent they are able, churches financially underwrite their interns

STUDENT COHORTS

- › Cohorts of 7-10 students are set up in Montana's strategically located cities.
- › Some of these cohorts will come from one church.
- › Most will be made up of men and women from a variety of churches.

COURSES AND SUPERVISION

- › The Equip: LCTTI cohorts meet for one year for study and supervised ministry.
- › 3 to 4 courses are delivered as weekly intensives each term by YTI faculty.
- › Faculty teach the course, interview the students, and work with pastors during the week.
- › Local pastors are trained as student supervisors, for which a fee is paid.
- › At the end of each year, the student is awarded a Diploma of Christian Theology.



Equip Courses

Foundations: Interpretation and Narrative

Illustrates the overarching narrative of the biblical story and delineates the manner in which the Bible is responsibly interpreted.

Old Testament: Text and Narrative

Covers the narrative and contents of the Old Testament, visiting historical contexts, literary types, and theological implications.

New Testament: Text and Narrative

Covers the narrative and contents of the New Testament, along with the process the early church used to determine the canon of the New Testament Scriptures.

Basic Theology: Method and History

Covers the nature of theology and the development of Christian theology for the last two millennia.

Theology: The Wild God in a Postmodern World

Discusses the nature of the Christian God and how our belief influences our understanding of not only God, but also "self," "earth," "society," "mission," and the "future."

Basic Leadership: Servant, Collaborative and Entrepreneurial

Casts a vision of the church leader as a faithful, critical thinker and a creative visionary, along with examining the leadership skills a church leader needs in the 21st century, how to deal with congregational problems, and how to inspire the leadership in a congregation.

Preaching and Teaching

Discusses the composition of the sermon, teaching lessons, and speech making. Addresses the physical delivery of the sermon, with its positives and pitfalls.

Spiritual Practice

Discusses the spiritual formation and practice of the individual involved in ministry.

Introduction to Pastoral Care

Covers the spiritual care that a minister gives to his or her congregation, including discussion of the issues that arise requiring specialized care, as well as the problems inherent in the process.

Worldview and Mission

Discusses how to relationally engage people from a variety of religious and secular worldviews.





Masters/Diploma Courses



BIBLICAL STUDIES AND LANGUAGES

BIB 530 Biblical Interpretation

In this course, students will learn the basics of biblical interpretation with its cultural elements and theological implications. This course is basic for the Master of Arts degree.

BIB 531 The Biblical Narrative

(Prerequisite for 1st year students with no former biblical training)

The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is a unique document. BIB 531 gives an overview of the essential narratives of the scriptures, with special attention to the cultural contexts and theological function of those narratives.

BIB 532 Old Testament 1: The Torah and Histories

The Old Testament is vast, spanning from the creation of the cosmos to the exile and return of God's people Israel. In this course, we examine the fundamental texts of the Hebrew faith, called the "Torah" and the "Histories." The Torah consists of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. The Histories cover Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah. The course focuses on the narrative and theology of the Torah and Histories in the quest to understand Judeo-Christian origins, holiness, obedience, and disobedience.

BIB 533 Old Testament 2: The Prophets and Poetry

The Old Testament is vast, spanning from the creation of the cosmos to the exile of God's people Israel. In this course, we examine the particular contexts, images, and stories of the prophetic and poetic books within their historical contexts (Isaiah-Malachi, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, and the Five Scrolls), focusing on the theology and interpretation of these texts over time.

BIB 534 New Testament 1: The Gospels and Acts

The New Testament continues and consummates the drama begun in the Old Testament. In particular, it focuses on Jesus of Nazareth as the solution to the cosmic problem originating in Genesis 3. This course focuses on the person, work, and teaching of Jesus provided for us in the four Gospels, as well as the birth of the church in Acts.

BIB 535 New Testament 2: Romans to Revelation

Following the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the earliest expressions of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church are articulated by Paul, the apostle. This course covers the narrative, history, and theology of the Paul's epistles: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Philemon, 1 & 2 Timothy, and Titus; as well as the general epistles: Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, John's epistles, Jude, and the Apocalypse of John. The course covers the context, theology, and history of reception of these writings.

BIB 630 Advanced Biblical Studies

The advanced Bible course examines individual biblical books, types of biblical literature, or sections of scripture. The course covers text, interpretation, historical contexts, linguistic issues, theological themes, and ethical issues. The course content changes on a regular basis. *(Course may be repeated with content changes.)*

LAN 530 Biblical Languages: Overview and Tools

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic. The student of the Bible needs to have an adequate understanding of these languages to interpret effectively the texts. Today there are abundant computer programs available to the Bible student, so the need to master the biblical languages seems superfluous. However, an overview of the biblical languages is crucial for a basic understanding of interpreting Scripture accurately. LAN 530 provides the overview and introduces several accessible computer programs.



LAN 531 Biblical Languages Lab

The Biblical Languages Lab provides a basic overview of the fundamental elements of Hebrew and Greek, including alphabets, word forms, and various parts of speech. The course prepares those in ministry to interact with commentaries and other references that utilize the original languages in which the Bible was written. When LAN 531 is offered, it will focus on one language, either Hebrew or Greek during that specific term.



THEOLOGICAL, SPIRITUAL, AND CULTURAL STUDIES

THEO 530 Historical Theology I

THEO 530 Historical Theology I is a basic historical survey of the development of theology from the first century through the medieval Renaissance. It takes care to investigate the first creeds, the canonization of Scripture, catholic orthodoxy and heresy, the medieval papacy, and the formation of the schools at Paris and Oxford. The course gives the student a contextual background for Christian theological claims.

THEO 531 Historical Theology II

THEO 531 Historical Theology II is a basic historical survey of the development of theology from the Reformation through the Enlightenment, early Evangelicalism, the 19th century, modern theology, and the postmodern turn. The course gives to the student a contextual background for Christian theological claims.

THEO 532 Theology for the Church

THEO 532 examines the earliest articulations of Christian belief with its evolution to the present day. The course takes the students from the biblical confessions through the patristic creeds to the Reformed confessions to contemporary Christian doctrines in the postmodern era. The student will develop a firm understanding of theological method and how to instill in the church the process of theological reflection. The course has a special emphasis on classic Christian teachings (doctrine) for the contemporary church.

THEO 533 Ethics: The Christian Life

THEO 533 details how Christian theological belief manifests itself in the life – the actions and words – of the individual believer. The course covers the biblical, theological, and experiential aspects of Christian ethics. Application is made for clergy and lay people.

THEO 534 The People of God: Being the Church

The church today is suffering a case of mistaken identity. Many Christian believers are unsure of what the church is, why it exists, and what its actual mission is. THEO 534 covers in detail the genesis, nature, and function of the church as the “Body of Christ.”

THEO 537 A Theology of Peace and Justice

THEO 537 familiarizes the student with the biblical, theological, and cultural concepts of righteousness and justice. The course also discusses how a uniquely Christian theology of justice can be enacted.

THEO 538 Introduction to the Wild God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

THEO 538 introduces the student to a “renewed” doctrine of the Trinity, describing the very nature of God – the nature of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – as well as their roles as described in the biblical revelation and in the experience of the church. It is an important, foundational course to understand how the Holy Spirit desires to work in the hearts and lives of believers, the church, and the world.

THEO 630 Advanced Theological Studies

This course examines trends in theology with relevance for the contemporary church. Content changes regularly. Examples of possible topics include “Protestant Theology,” “Reformed Theology,” “Wesleyan Theology,” “Pentecostal Theology,” “Christianity and Science,” “Christianity and Literature,” “Faith, Beauty and the Arts,” “Salvation in a Pluralistic World,” “American Theology,” etc. *(Course may be repeated with content changes.)*



SPR 530 Spiritual Formation

SPR 530 studies the various interpretations, and methods of Christian spiritual formation, as well as its goal in the life of the individual, and the spiritual communities with which they are involved. The course utilizes the works of Christian writers throughout history, from the apostle Paul to Eugene Peterson. *[Course may be repeated with content changes.]*

SPR 531 Discipleship: Practicing Christian Spirituality

Discipleship, or Spiritual Practice regards the manner in which both ministers and Christians-in-general attend to the care of their own spiritual life in Christ. To that end, this course will examine the place of intentional spiritual practices in a person's life through creating, sustaining, and deepening a dynamic relationship with God. Our spiritual practices focus on creating healthy individual and communal spirituality, as well as how we can help others cultivate a healthy spirituality.

SPR 532 Natural Spirituality

19th century poet Gerard Manley Hopkins declared, "the world is charged with the grandeur of God." Many people in the 21st century have turned away from organized religious practice and towards an understanding of spirituality that is focused on nature itself. This is not a new, or unique phenomenon. SPR 532 discusses the inherent nature of the human person; the nature of the relationship between person and the natural environment; the historic movements of natural spirituality; the 19th century Transcendentalists, and, details a legitimate Christian approach to natural spirituality.

SPR 533 Christian Spiritual Theology

Expressions of Christianity have frequently oscillated between one of two directions: piety or legalism. As Christian worship and practice becomes more formal, it often morphs into a dry, habitual routine, or a rigid legalism. The idea of "piety" or "pietism" early on was seen as a reaction to this "spiritless" rigidity. SPR 533 discusses the origins of Christian piety, or spirituality, tracing it through the desert fathers and mothers to the medieval mystics, the German pietists, the Anabaptists, and the contemporary charismatic movements. Most importantly, it outlines a theology for Christian spirituality for today.

SPR 536 Prayer

SPR 536 discusses the nature, theology, and practice of prayer.

SPR 630 Advanced Studies in Spirituality

This course examines advanced topics in Spirituality. Content changes regularly and may be repeated twice for credit. *[Course may be repeated with content changes.]*

CUL 531 Apologetics: Speaking of Christ in a Pluralistic World

What does it mean to live and promote the "good news" of Jesus in a pluralist world? This course covers the practice of following and witnessing to Christ in a world of competing religions and worldviews. The course gives an overview of select world religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism), secularism, scientism and consumerism, with a selection of Christian engagements.

CUL 535 Theology and Culture

Culture is the context in which theology is written and practiced, as well as the milieu in which the Divine is perceived. CUL 535 examines different cultural models and the ways in which cultures are identified and interpreted (cultural hermeneutics) as well as the manner in which theology can be articulated in different cultural expressions.

CUL 536 Christian Mission: Theology and Practice

In the 21st century, the very nature and theology of the Christian mission is being revisited and revised. CUL 536 discusses the theology and practice of mission in local, national and international cultural contexts. Beginning with the nature of the gospel, this course enables the student to understand mission as the lifestyle, and cooperative effort of every Christian and church.

CUL 537 Worldview

What is a worldview? Most people in the world today have no concept through which to understand how other cultures view one another. The lens through which a person views others is called a "worldview." CUL 537 discusses how a worldview is formed, maintained, adjusted and critiqued. Additionally, it discusses the worldviews of other cultures.



CUL 538 Imagination and Theology

The “imagination” and its relationship to theology is a burgeoning area of study today. CUL 538 discusses the relationship between imagination and theology historically, and examines the role of the imagination in theological construction.

CUL 539 Evangelism

CUL 539 details the nature of evangelism – the sharing of the “good news” in our world. The course gives an overview of the “good news” and describes how it can be embodied and shared as a witness to the Christian faith.

CUL 630 Advanced Cultural and Religious Studies

This course covers a variety of subjects concerning culture, environment, science and theology, and world religions. The content rotates regularly. *[Course may be repeated with content changes.]*



COMMUNICATION, LEADERSHIP, AND MINISTRY

COM 531 Introduction to Preaching and Teaching: From Text to Hearer

This course studies preaching from sermon construction to the delivery of the message, with special attention given to preaching context, verbal delivery, and the variety of preaching styles.

COM 532 Advanced Preaching and Teaching

This course examines advanced preaching styles such as narrative, exegetical, and conversational. Sermon construction is emphasized, including delivery of the message, with special attention given to context and hearers.

COM 630 Advanced Communications Studies

This course examines advanced communications issues in the areas of pastoral care, congregational communication, communications for diffusing congregational conflict.

LED 531 Basic Leadership: A Servant and Collaborative Approach

LED 531 explores a shared form of leadership, one that combines the servant leadership paradigm modeled in the New Testament, with a contemporary approach that considers the various ways in which leaders communicate appropriately with their teams.

LED 532 Entrepreneurial Leadership

Entrepreneurial Leadership explores what it means to be a Christian leader in a postmodern, post-denominational culture. The class explores the latest in contemporary leadership theory with a focus on creative or “entrepreneurial” leadership. The class applies these leadership principles in conversation with biblical and theological resources in order to explore the student’s vocation, as well as enhance the mission of the contemporary *ekklesia*.

LED 533 Leading Through Conflict

LED 533 describes and gives the psychological, ideological and physical roots of the conflicts and ethical issues a local church leader will encounter. The course uses case studies to help the leader understand and practice how to resolve these conflicts and issues.

LED 630 Advanced Leadership Studies

This course examines advanced trends in leadership with relevance for the contemporary church. *[Course may be repeated with content changes.]*

MIN 530 Christian Vocation

MIN 530 introduces the student to concepts of “ministry calling”, “ministry discernment” and the nature of vocational ministry. Additionally, the student will discuss the “character of the minister” and the theo-ethical concerns that affect the minister and ministry. *[Core for all MA ministry majors.]*

MIN 531 Introduction to Pastoral Care

Introduction to pastoral care is an important aspect of pastoral ministry, including self-evaluation, exploration of human spiritual/emotional frailty, practice of basic techniques, and understanding movement toward both personal and familial wholeness.



MIN 532 Basic Church Care

MIN 532 is an introductory course to pastoral ministry through studying its biblical-theological foundations and practical responsibilities. Students will learn how to shepherd and provide effective leadership in a local church or parachurch context.

MIN 534 Introduction to NexGen Ministries

MIN 534 introduces the student to ministries for the "Next Generation" – young men and women from ages of 18-27. It includes a study of their cognitive processes, familial stresses, physical evolution, cultural orientation, political dispositions, and theological awareness.

MIN 535 Focus: Ministry to Youth

MIN 535 familiarizes the student with the various forms of ministry to youth (ages 12-18). No other stage of a human being's life witnesses the physical, emotional, and spiritual life changes as does the "youth" category. This sub-group of the Next-Generation are a crucial demographic when regarding the future of the local church. The course focuses on the student's creation of meaningful ministry for these young men and women.

MIN 536 Ministry to Adults

MIN 536 introduces the student to ministries for adults and senior adults. Adulthood is concerned with a very different set of developmental issues than the youth and young adult stages. Issues such as marriage, career, debilitating illness, retirement, and aging, to name only a few of the issues, radically influence the ministries for adults and senior adults. A healthy, well-disciplined adult generation in any congregation brings stability and wisdom to a congregation.

MIN 537 Ministry to Children

MIN 537 introduces the student to children's ministries – young boys and girls from birth to age 11. Childhood is the stage of human life where physical and intellectual growth are at a peak. Additionally, the child's spiritual development is at its peak. For the children's minister, the spiritual development of the child's imagination is of paramount concern.

MIN 538 Clergy Self-Care

MIN 538 introduces the student to the crucial importance of self-care in ministry. The course discusses the stress-causing situations of ministry, and a variety of strategies to effectively cope with these situations.

MIN 630 Advanced Ministry Studies

This course examines advanced trends in ministry with relevance for the church. *(Course may be repeated with content changes.)*



ADVENTURE AND THE ARTS

ADV 531 Introduction to Adventure Studies

ADV 531 introduces the student to the fundamental nature of "adventure" ministry, as grounded in a basic theology of adventure. It defines "adventure," then touches on the biblical, theological, and anthropological backgrounds for ministries that embrace the outdoors. It investigates the human understanding of adventure and why humans actually need adventure. Finally, the course discusses how a renewed theology of adventure can influence mind and body. Students will develop their own theology of adventure with implications for ministry with people of all ages and stages of life, including people with disabilities.

ADV 532 Foundations for Church Recreation Ministry

ADV 532 provides a practical philosophy for church recreational ministry and examples of how recreation can and should operate within the church and also as an evangelistic tool for the church. ADV 532 seeks to reconfigure recreation ministry from a youth activity, or an afterthought, to an integral part of the church's ministry and mission in contemporary culture. Group games, camping, hiking, fishing, and select sports will be covered. Students will develop their own proposals for recreation ministries in their context.

ADV 630 Advanced Adventure Studies

This course examines advanced trends in adventure studies with relevance for church-based camping ministry, sports ministry, adventure therapy, and careers in adventure or recreational leadership. *(Course may be repeated when content changes.)*

ART 531 Introduction to Theology and the Arts

Why do human beings experience attraction to the fine and performing arts? Why is art such a powerful representative of the human experience, including its



experience of the Divine? Introduction to Theology and the Arts presents a history of the integration of belief and artistic creation. In this process, the student will come to understand the role of the imagination as the conduit for aesthetics in human understanding; the role of the arts in social commentary and social justice; and, develop a rudimentary theology of the arts.

ART 532 Theology of the Arts: Making and Being

Of all the animal beings in creation, human beings are “artists” – admirers and makers of meaningful beauty. Indeed, quite often human beings find it easier to articulate a feeling, a belief, a love, a beautiful experience, or unpleasantness, through artistic rendering, rather than simply through words. ART 532 explores a theology of the arts that enables the student to understand why humans are profoundly influenced by art, and, how art has a greater connection to the Divine than previously realized. Students will study the topics of imagination, creativity, art forms and theologies of beauty.

ART 535 Introduction to Worship Arts Ministry and Leadership

ART 535 introduces the student to the various forms of worship ministries in the local church, including worship service planning (liturgies); the role of music; the roles of other fine, or performing arts; the role of responsive readings; the nature of corporate prayer; and the incorporation of the sermon. Additionally, the course gives overviews of the role of the worship leader in traditional, contemporary, and “emerging” worship services. Finally, the course gives overviews of the role of the worship leader in traditional, contemporary, and “emerging” worship services.

ART 630 Advanced Theology and the Arts

This course examines advanced trends in theology and the arts studies with relevance for the contemporary church. *(Course may be repeated with content changes.)*



MASTER OF THEOLOGY

THM 501 Research Methods Colloquy

The art and process of conducting research for a post-graduate degree is an important aspect of the degree

program. The course covers the following issues: how to construct a viable thesis statement; how to construct a research program around the thesis; the importance of chapter outlines and general structuring of the paragraph, to the section, to the chapter and to the paper itself; and how to use databases in research. *Non-credit. Meets for one 3-hour session. Cross-listed as CSC 501.*

THM 530 Readings for Advanced Studies

THM 530 is a core course for the Master of Theology degree. The course reads and discusses one pivotal book in theology, history, or philosophy each week of the term for a total of eight books. The readings give the student a basic platform from which to conduct postgraduate thesis studies. *Offered biennially.*

THM 631 Thesis

The final accomplishment of a Master of Theology student is the writing of a thesis, as the outcome of his or her research program. The thesis will answer a primary research question, and is to be no less than 50,000 words, and no more than 75,000 words. *Enroll for a minimum of 2 terms and a maximum of 4 terms.*



CAPSTONE COURSES

CSC 501 Research Methods Colloquy

The art and process of conducting research is an important aspect of a master’s degree program. The course covers the following issues: how to construct a viable thesis statement; how to construct a research program around the thesis; the importance of chapter outlines and general structuring of the paragraph, to the section, to the chapter and to the paper itself; and how to use databases in research. *Non-credit. Meets for one 3-hour session. Cross-listed as THM 501.*

CSC 530 Capstone Seminar

CSC 530 is a capstone course for Master of Divinity students. The course revisits the key elements of the Master of Divinity program in order to enable the student to synthesize his or her education in service of the church. The course ends with capstone paper and faculty interview. *Offered biennially.*



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS



CSC 631 Mentored Ministry Project

Students with concentrations in Adventure Ministry, Christian Ministries, and Peace and Justice Ministries must complete a series of term-long ministry mentorships, each focusing on the growth of the student, as well as a specific ministry area. Students in Biblical Studies, Christian Studies, Christian Theology, Entrepreneurial Leadership, Spirituality, and Theology and the Arts may also complete a Ministry Project in lieu of a thesis. For each mentorship, the student will have an on-site ministry mentor with whom she/he will meet each week for accountability and reflection. In addition, the student will have weekly communication with the his or her faculty mentor in order to stay on task toward meeting the targeted goals. By design, no student who earns the MA degree in Adventure Ministry, Christian Ministries, Entrepreneurial Leadership, or Peace and Justice ministries, or who earns the MDiv degree, will be without significant mentored ministry experience. At the end of each project, the student will write a 10-page project report culminating in a 30-page summation where the student

reaches a final conclusion by synthesizing and analyzing the projects into a whole, and determining how these projects work together in ministry. *MA students enroll in CSC 631 for one term; MDiv students enroll in CSC 631 for three terms.*

CSC 632 Thesis

Rather than choosing a mentored ministry project, the student who desires to pursue graduate studies at the doctoral level may write a research thesis. The thesis will answer a primary research question, and is to be no less than 15,000 words, and no more than 20,000 words. The student will propose a supervisor the term before the thesis commences. *The student will enroll in CSC 632 for a minimum of two consecutive terms, and may enroll for up to four terms.*



ADMISSIONS & FINANCES

Admissions



PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY & REQUIREMENTS

Apply online for all YTI programs at yellowstonetheology.org/apply

Master's Programs:

- › Minimum 3.0 GPA
- › Bachelor's degree from accredited U.S. institution or foreign university
- › Proficiency in English
- › Two references

- › Official transcripts from all previous graduate or undergraduate institutions
- › ThM Only – Writing sample: a previously-completed research paper of approximately 20 pages

Diploma Programs/Equip:

- › High school diploma or equivalent
- › Proficiency in English
- › One reference



Finances



TUITION AND FEES

Tuition

- > **MA/MDiv** (per credit hour) \$250
- > **ThM** (per credit hour) \$500
- > **Diploma** (per course) \$250

Application/Program Fees

- > **Program Application** (one-time) \$50
- > **Registration Fee** (per term) \$20
- > **Annual Fees** (MDiv only) \$1,500 (*full-time students*) or \$500 (*part-time students*)
Fees include: Adventure activities, arts activities, library access, parking, Bible software, and administration

Audit/Community Classes

- > **Audit** (MA/Diploma courses – per course) \$100

Equip (Local Church Theological Training Initiative)

The Equip program is taught only through participating local churches. Tuition is paid by partner churches for complete student cohorts, regardless of number of students (minimum 5). Students interested in the Equip program should contact a participating church or the YTI office for details.

- > **Tuition** (per course) \$250
- > **Church Cohort Expense** (per course) \$500-\$2500
Depending on travel requirements and housing availability
- > **Student Expense** (per course) \$0-\$250
Depending on church contribution



MA SUBSCRIPTION PLAN

Master of Arts students may pay tuition on a subscription plan, which offers significant savings over traditional M.A. tuition. *This plan is for MA degree students only.*

MA Subscription Plan

- > **\$200/month over 3 years = \$7,200**
- > **\$6.60/day (over 3 years)**
- > Students may take as many courses as they like each term, provided coursework is completed successfully.
- > \$200 deposit due prior to the start of first enrolled term.
- > All following payments due by noon on the last day of the month. YTI accepts auto-pay via debit or credit.
- > Other fees (library, activity, parking, etc.) are separate.

Compared With:

Traditional MA Billing

- > **\$250/credit x 45 hours = \$11,250**
- > **\$10.27/day (over 3 years)**
- > 1–2 courses per term, maximum.
- > Tuition due upon registration (\$750/course)
- > Other fees (library, activity, parking, etc.) are separate.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Our Master of Arts, Master of Divinity, and Master of Theology programs are automatically eligible for one of YTI's three levels of scholarships. Funding is awarded based on academic achievements and financial needs.

- > **Founder's Scholarship** 100% Tuition
- > **President's Scholarship** 50% Tuition
- > **Honors Scholarship** 12% Tuition

YTI Faculty

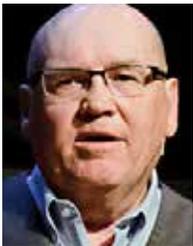


Dr. Jay T. Smith

PRESIDENT, BRIDGER PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY & ETHICS

Ph.D., Trinity College, University of Bristol
D.Min., Carey Theological College
Th.M., Regent College
M.Div., Truett Seminary, Baylor University
B.A., Howard Payne University
B.Mus. Ed. Studies, Sam Houston State University

Jay Smith is an Oklahoma native, married to Melissa, and father of two adult girls. He is an accomplished musician, pastor and theologian, co-author of two books with Stanley Grenz, and the author of several articles in collections and refereed journals. He enjoys writing music, reading, hiking, and the occasional college football game.



Dr. Derry Long

PROFESSOR OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Ph.D., University of Birmingham
Th.B., Wesley Bible College
Mass Communication Studies, Bemidji State College
Bible and Theology Studies, Bethel Theological Seminary

Derry Long is a native of North Dakota and is married with three children. He is a student of what empowers others and the methodology of John Wesley. He has taught from India to England, pastored, planted churches, and consulted for organizations. He likes reading, antiquarian books, camping, and travel.



Rev. Jim Keena

PROFESSOR OF PASTORAL THEOLOGY

D.Min. in process, Western Seminary
M.Div. studies, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
M.A. in Ministry, Moody Graduate School
M.Div. studies, Covenant Seminary
B.A., Arizona College of the Bible

Jim Keena is a Missourian by birth and a Montanan by choice. He is married to Kim and they have been blessed with seven children, four sons-in-law, and nine grandchildren. He has served in pastoral ministry for nearly thirty years. He enjoys traveling, hiking, photography, and cheering for the Montana State Bobcats and the St. Louis Cardinals.



Dr. Bill Fowler

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

Ph.D., M.Div., Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary
B.A., Howard Payne College

Bill Fowler is a Texas native with extensive pastoral experience in Canada, California, and Texas. Married to Dianne, he is the father of three and “PaPa” to five grandsons. His special interest is the Gospel of John and the influence of Ezekiel in the Fourth Gospel. He loves the outdoors – hiking, hunting, fishing – and is an avid San Antonio Spurs fan.



Rev. Brett Desper

LECTURER IN DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUALITY

D.Min. in process, Portland Seminary, George Fox University
M.Div., Regent College
Pastor, Vineyard Community Church (Bozeman, MT)

Brett Desper was born in southern Illinois (not Chicago) and has lived in seven states so far. He is married to Kris, and they have lots of adopted family from all over the world. He has been involved in various ministries since he was a junior in high school. He is an avid fan of the MSU Bobcats, Green Bay Packers, and Chicago Cubs, and enjoys reading, grilling, technology of all kinds, and movies.



Dr. Susan Rose

SEASONAL LECTURER IN CHRISTIAN VOCATION

D.Min., Portland Seminary,
George Fox University
M.Div., Memphis Theological Seminary
B.A., University of Florida

Susan Rose lives in Florida, has been married to Dave for 26 years, and is the proud mother of two young adult children. She specializes in adaptive leadership, developing people, and systems for ministry in the 21st century. In her free time, she enjoys reading, hiking, cycling, and following her beloved Florida Gators.



Rev. Tracie Jernigan

SEASONAL LECTURER IN WORSHIP STUDIES

M.Div./M.M., Baylor University
B.M., Baylor University
Associate Pastor of Worship Arts,
The Summit Church (Sylva, NC)

Tracie Jernigan resides in Cullowhee, North Carolina, with her husband and two young sons. She serves in ministry at The Summit Church, Sylva, leading and equipping a vibrant worship arts ministry with deep connections to the community. A native Texan, Tracie plays the piano, organ, sings in worship, and is exploring Appalachian-inspired instruments such as the banjo and the mandolin.



Dr. Russell Almon

VISITING LECTURER IN THEOLOGY

Ph.D., University of Edinburgh



Dr. Nathan Chambers

VISITING LECTURER IN OLD TESTAMENT

Ph.D., University of Durham



Kathryn Green

TUTOR IN DIPLOMA STUDIES

M.A., Phoenix Seminary
M.A., Wheaton College
B.A., Montana State University

Kathryn Green brings a wealth of intercultural experience to YTI, including ministry and teaching in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Her responsibilities at YTI include assisting students throughout the enrollment process and managing social media. Kathryn enjoys the same activities as her husband, Matt, minus the guitar.



Matthew Green

TUTOR IN DIPLOMA STUDIES

M.A., Phoenix Seminary
M.A., Talbot School of Theology
B.A., Moody Bible Institute

Matt Green worked with daily newspapers in Montana for fifteen years before serving as music director and part of the teaching team at a church in Arizona from 2016 to 2021. He enjoys strumming his guitar, reading history, and exploring Southwest Montana's mountains with his wife, Kathryn, and their two dogs.

At Yellowstone Theological Institute, we are educating men and women in our academic degree programs and raising a new generation of church leaders who share the truth and love of God with our world.

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