

Silliman University
Divinity School

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

Major in Mission Studies (2016)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Doctor of Theology program is already an existing program being offered by the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology (SEAGST), which is a consortium of various graduate level seminaries all over South East Asia. Qualified faculty members of the Divinity School are co-opted as accredited faculty of the School teaching in their respective areas of specialization. A good number of the Divinity School faculty members who are holders of the Doctor of Theology degree are actually graduates of the SEAGST. Two of our faculty members are presently under the doctoral program of the SEAGST in the areas of Christian Education and Systematic Theology.

II. PROGRAM RATIONALE

1. The Divinity School has received a number of inquiries from abroad, mostly from church partners, on the possibility of offering its own Doctor of Theology program. There were applicants actually who have sought to enroll in a Silliman Doctor of Theology program. They were disappointed however upon learning that the Divinity School do not actually have its own doctoral level program apart from the SEAGST program. They expressed a strong preference for a Doctor of Theology diploma from Silliman University, which is recognized by their respective governments like in Indonesia and Korea rather than a SEAGST diploma. A number of potential applicants have given notice that they have decided to enroll in Hong Kong's Lutheran Theological Seminary because it has its ongoing Doctoral program in various disciplines.

2. Silliman University Divinity School has been losing out in the potential market for doctoral students who were being sent and supported by their respective church bodies and church related institutions. These are church bodies and organizations like the United Evangelical Mission with whom the Divinity School had established partnership relations already and who would have preferred sending and sponsoring graduate theological students to our school if only we have been offering the doctoral program.

3. The Divinity School is very much in a position to offer the Doctor of Theology program in at least four of the major areas being covered in the SEAGST doctoral program, Biblical Studies and Interpretation, Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics and Pastoral Ministry. It has the faculty members who are qualified and highly competent to teach in such areas. It has the library resources, which are also now in the process of being upgraded, that can support the academic requirements of such a program. Thus, it can also help in the faculty development program of various seminaries in Asia and even beyond.

4. More so, the Divinity school has established the International Mission Studies Center in Asia to support short term training, certificate programs and researches of mission experts, scholars and practitioners from Asian, as well as African seminaries and Churches. Since the program is only in the Master of Theology (major in Mission studies) level, the challenge is for the Divinity School to put up its own Doctor of Theology program.

II. DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY PROGRAM MAJOR IN MISSION STUDIES.

a. Program Objective: To train and equip both clergy and lay people of the church from Asia and other parts of the world with the necessary expertise needed in academic leadership in various theological and ecclesiastical issues obtaining in their respective institutional and social contexts.

b. Main target clientele: The program is designed primarily for partner institutions, seminaries and church bodies in Asia and other regions. However, individuals who wish to earn a doctoral degree from the Silliman University Divinity School may come with ready scholarships to support their studies.

c. Requirements:

c.1. Transcript of Records. An applicant is required to submit an official transcript of his or her previous academic records since high school. An applicant for the doctoral program must be a holder of Master of Theology (M. Theol. or M. Th.) degree from a theological seminary of recognized standing.

c.2. Language Requirement: A working knowledge of Hebrew and Greek sufficient for translation and exegesis. Students must pass the two-hour language examination in Hebrew and Greek (for those specializing in biblical studies) and Aramaic (for those specializing in Old Testament) at the beginning of the first semester. This examination will focus on translation. For those specializing in the other three areas, a basic knowledge of both biblical languages is required as well as any other language that may be necessary within the specific area of concentration chosen by the candidate. When necessary, they may be asked to take a validating examination in Hebrew and Greek.

English Language Requirement: Applicants from countries that are not English speaking may be required to pass or present a TOEFL certification of at least a score of 550. In case the student could not meet the TOEFL requirement, the applicant may be accepted under probation and enroll in Academic English for Graduate Studies (AEGS) at the university before they start the doctoral program. The student will be allowed to continue upon receiving a satisfactory AEGS evaluation.

c.3. Letters of Recommendation. These letters of recommendations should say something about the applicant's past academic performance and potential for the future of theological education or of the church's ministry.

c.4. A Sample Scholarly paper. An applicant is required to submit a sample of his or her work in the form of a scholarly paper of at least 20-25 pages on the chosen field/area of study. This will be submitted to the Office of the Dean together with other documents required for admission.

c.5. Non-refundable application fee.

For applicants from the Philippines -USD 50.00 or its equivalent in local currency
 For foreign students -USD 100.00 or its equivalent in local currency

d. Total Units required to earn the degree: 60 units

<i>Academic course requirement</i> (48 units)	
Foundation Courses on the SEAGST areas	12 units
Required Major Courses	12 units
Major Electives 12 units	12 units
Free Electives (may be taken from the university)	<u>12 units</u>
	48 units
<i>Residency and Dissertation</i>	<u>12 units</u>
 TOTAL	 <u>60 units</u>

IV. COURSE OFFERING:

Codes of Course:

- BS – Biblical Studies (courses common to OT and NT)
- OT – Old Testament
- NT – New Testament
- ST – Systematic Theology
- CE – Christian Ethics
- SGT – Studies in Gender and Theology
- RS – Religious Studies
- MIS- Mission Studies
- DP – Dissertation Project

Number Code:

500 - 600 = indicate that the courses with this code is offered on the doctoral level; courses given the number codes of 600 are the foundational and to be taken during the first year of the doctoral studies; the ones with 700 are to be taken on the second year of the doctoral studies.

A. Pre-requisite: Language Examinations

Students will be asked to register in Language Examinations equivalent to one (1) unit, non-credit. The examinations will be scheduled twice during each semester – June and September; in the second semester, November and February. Students who fail to get a passing rate may take the exam in the next scheduled date. Students in biblical studies will take the two-hour translation examination. Those who are in other fields will be asked to take a validating exams in Hebrew and Greek.

- BS 500 – Language examination in Biblical Hebrew
- BS 500A - Language examination in Aramaic
- BS 500B - Language examination in Greek (Koine)

B. The foundational Courses (12 units based on SEAGST program)

The foundational courses interdisciplinary in character and are focused on methodologies.

Code	Title	Units	Passing Grade
BS 501	Seminar on Methodologies in Biblical Interpretation	3	3.0
ST 501	Methodologies in Doing Systematic Theology	3	3.0
SGT 501	Gender, Feminist Theory and Methodology	3	3.0
RS 501	Methodology of the Study of Religion	3	3.0
	Total	12	

C. Required Major Courses (12 units)

The required major courses are focused on the area of specialization that students must take.

C.1. Proposed Required Major Courses in Mission Studies (new offering)

Code	Title	Units	Passing
MIS 511	Seminar on the History of Christian Mission	3	3
MIS 512	History of Missiology	3	3
MIS 513	Advance Seminar on Theologies of Mission	3	3
MIS 514	Seminar on Development and Holistic Mission	3	3
	Total	12	

D. Major Electives

Students are required to take 12 units from a list of courses within the student's field of specialization.

D.1. Major Electives in Mission Studies - 12 units

Code	Title	Units	Passing Grade
MIS 515	Contemporary Missiology (new)	3	3.0
MIS 516	Seminar on Mission in Cross-cultural perspective (new)	3	3.0
MIS 517	Survey of Asian Theologies (same as ST 511)	3	3.0
MIS 518	Seminar in Christologies (same as ST 512)	3	3.0
MIS 519	Ecotheology, Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities (same as ST 513)	3	3.0
MIS 520	Fundamentalism & New Religious Movements (same as ST 616)	3	3.0
MIS 521	Christianity, Justice, and Culture (same as CE 513)	3	3.0
MIS 522	The Impact of Postmodern and Postcolonial Theories on Contemporary Theologies (same as ST 610)	3	3.0

MIS 523	Seminar on Mission, Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue (same as ST 613)	3	3.0
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E. Interdisciplinary Electives (12 units)

Students may take courses that other departments of the Divinity School offer, or courses that are offered by other units in the university or cross-enroll in other Universities (local or foreign). A completion of 12 units in a specific area of interest other than one’s area of specialization may allow the student to earn a certificate of advance studies in such area. E.g. A student who specializes in systematic theology may earn a certificate in biblical studies by taking 12 units in the field of bible, or, a certificate in ecology and development by taking 12 units in the field of ecological studies, etc.

F. Residency and Dissertation

Code	Course Description	Units	Passing Grade
DP 600	Comprehensive Exams (matriculated)	-	Satisfactory
DP 601	Dissertation Proposal Defense (matriculated)	-	Satisfactory
DP 602	Dissertation Writing	12	3.0
		12	

V. LIST OF COURSES and COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Code	
FOUNDATIONAL COURSES	
BS 501	<p>Seminar on Methodologies in Biblical Interpretation 3 units This course will involve a basic review, summary and exposure to the different approaches and methodologies in Biblical interpretation, both ancient and modern in an attempt to equip the student with the foundation by which he/she can be able to construct or develop the methodology that will be most suited for the context of the student.</p>
ST 501	<p>Methodologies in Doing Systematic Theology 3 units This is an interdisciplinary course that allows the student to explore various methods of theological analysis and construction. This course is designed to be both experiential and theoretical. It explores how systematic theology is done as a communal, ecclesial enterprise, in conversation with Christian tradition and the church’s teaching office. It then investigates the various sources of positive theology, surveys the methods of speculative theological reflection, and examines various theological texts (e.g., of patristic, scholastic, neo-orthodox, or liberation theology) in terms of the methods employed.</p>

SGT 501	<p>Gender, Feminist Theory and Methodology 3 units</p> <p>How does gender shape the feminist thought and methodology? In this course, students will examine the development and major themes of feminist theory, theo-praxis and responses to the catalytic writings of feminist theorist. Films, literature, songs and other forms of materials produced by feminist women will be explored. Students will engage with and respond to the feminist theologians and women’s works critically, paying attention to the methodologies employed.</p>
RS 501	<p>Methodology of the Study of Religion 3 units</p> <p>This course will explore and assess the different approaches to the study of religion, particularly the analytical-empirical-positivist (scientific, objective) approach and the relativistic-synthetic paradigms (holistic-- to understand how human beings come to believe as they do and why they act as they do). Students will also be challenged to assess the possibility of the complementarities of the two approaches in the face of the complexity of religious phenomenon.</p>
<p>MISSION STUDIES</p>	
MIS 511	<p>Seminar on the history of Christian Mission – This course will cover the chronology and historiography of Christian mission, as well as introduce students to methods and primary sources for historical research.</p>
MIS 512	<p>History of Missiology -This course surveys the history of the Protestant mission thought from the Reformation through the mid-twentieth century.</p>
MIS 513	<p>Advance Seminar on Theologies of Mission- This course proceeds systematically through theological perspectives on mission studies.</p>
MIS 514	<p>Seminar on Development and Holistic Mission – This course will discuss issues of justice, development and poverty alleviation for the purposes of equipping the Church to respond for the holistic needs of the people around the world</p>
<p>MAJOR ELECTIVES</p>	
MIS 515	<p>Seminar on Contemporary Missiology- Seminar presentations surveying major themes and issues in Christian mission from theological, historical and global perspectives, with special attention given to the leaders, Church and mission conferences (including some writings and documents) that have shaped the concept and directed the task of mission.</p>

MIS 516	<p>Seminar on Mission in Cross-cultural perspective</p> <p>This course provides a contemporary analysis of Christian mission across cultures. Attention is given to cross-cultural communication and understanding, developing a theology of contextualization, and outlining approach to address the perennial challenge of how to relate the Gospel with cultures.</p>
MIS 517	<p>Survey of Asian Theologies 3 units</p> <p>This course is a survey of theologies that emerged in Asia. It will focus on the themes and distinct features these emerging theologies. Students need to be attentive to the theological methodologies of Asian Christian thinkers and be sensitive to Asian realities, especially the multiplicity of cultures, and the Third World context of some Asian regions.. (same as ST 511)</p>
MIS 518	<p>Seminar in Christologies (same as ST 512)</p> <p>Students will explore contemporary christological paradigms in the 20th and 21st centuries in light of the contemporary national and international issues in churches and societies. How do people make sense of the word “Savior” in our contemporary times? What is the meaning of Jesus for those who claim to be Christians? A good background on the historical development of the christology in the New Testament and in the conciliar formulations is important.</p>
MIS 519	<p>Ecotheology, Ecofeminism and Earth Spiritualities 3 units</p> <p>This course is designed to help students examine the origins, development, content, and critique of prevailing theologies of creation from the critical perspectives of Ecotheology, ecofeminisms and earth spiritualities around the world. Engagement with significant oral, written, and visual texts is an important aspect of the course. The class will give particular attention to Asian and Filipino indigenous earth spiritualities. (Same as ST 513)</p>
MIS 520	<p>Fundamentalism & New Religious Movements (same as ST 616)</p> <p>This course prods students to explore the origins and basic tenets of fundamentalist and new religious movements emerging in the Philippines and throughout the world. In this course, the class will a) probe into the economic, political and cultural developments that give rise to religious fundamentalism and new religious movements, and b) analyze their basic theological and ethical position in the face of</p>
MIS 521	<p>Christianity, Justice, and Culture (same as CE 513)</p> <p>This course addresses matters of religious commitment, pluralism, and cultural identity in recent debates about social justice and public philosophy. We will first examine these issues in light of cosmopolitanism, communitarian and liberal theories of justice. It will also examine feminist and multicultural contributions to recent debates about social justice and the place of religion in public life and discourse, and the challenge of identity politics, extremism, and pluralism.</p>

<p>MIS 522</p>	<p>The Impact of Postmodern and Postcolonial Theories on Contemporary Theologies (same as ST 610) This course will examine the postmodern and postcolonial critical theories and explore their impact contemporary theologies. Students will also examine the possibilities and relevance of appropriating cultural studies and critical social theory in developing a theological discourse in resistance to Western hegemony.</p>
<p>MIS 523</p>	<p>Mission, Ecumenism and Inter-Faith Dialogue (same as ST 613) This course will help students explore the deeper meaning of ecumenism, and move towards the importance of interfaith dialogue in addressing the issues that affect the daily life of the peoples of Asia. A good background in Asian Religion.</p>
<p>Free Interdisciplinary Electives from the University or cross-enroll in other Universities (local and foreign) – 12 units</p>	