

# HISPANIC CHRISTIAN ACADEMY (HCA)

## THREE-YEAR COURSE CURRICULUM

### YEAR ONE

Course	Course Description
<b>101</b> <b>Strategies of Bible Reading</b>	<p>The Bible is a complex book that contains a variety of types of literature or genres. The reading strategy should correspond to the type of text: for example, poetry, prose, parable or apocalyptic. This course introduces the student to some techniques of Bible reading that pay attention to the diversity of genres and to the nature of the Bible as an historical, literary and theological document. It combines an emphasis on the process of reading the text with a consideration of theoretical elements that affect the interpretation and application of the text.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify and apply the appropriate reading strategy for the type of Biblical text.</li><li>2. Demonstrate a consideration of historical, literary and theological factors in the interpretation and application of the text.</li><li>3. Apply the meaning of the text to the present.</li></ol>
<b>102</b> <b>Introduction to Christian Theology</b>	<p>This course considers the role and responsibility of the lay minister as a guide to theological reflection in the community. The course assists in the development of the student's own growing sense of theological identity by introducing basic terms, tasks and methods of Christian theology, and by defining and illustrating the major theological themes.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Describe the historical context in which Wesleyan theology developed.</li><li>2. Demonstrate an understanding of major theological themes of Wesleyan theology.</li><li>3. Define basic terms and describe the basic tasks and methods of Wesleyan theology.</li><li>4. Express one's theological self-understanding with relation to the main themes of Wesleyan theology.</li></ol>
<b>103</b> <b>Church Life: Basic Principles</b>	<p>This course is an overview of the basic roles, skills and practices needed by a lay minister that collaborates in a pastoral team. Students will learn to form and direct small groups, design and lead worship, and manage conflicts towards a resolution. They will also cultivate a consciousness of the boundaries between family space and ministry space, as well as between genders and cultures.</p>

	<p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Design a plan to form small groups in the student's context.</li> <li>2. Evaluate small group dynamics and apply principles of small group leadership.</li> <li>3. Design and lead a worship service.</li> <li>4. Apply basic strategies for intervening in conflicts.</li> <li>5. Define some basic boundaries between family space and ministry space, as well as between genders and cultures.</li> </ol>
<p><b>104 Leadership &amp; Administration</b></p>	<p>This course focuses on the formation and competency of the lay minister in the fulfillment of the function of administrator in the context of a pastoral team. It cultivates the skills of forming and directing a ministerial team within the context of the United Methodist Church. Special attention will be paid to the connectional structure of the United Methodist Church, with special emphasis on the relationship of the local church to the district. The course will include the financial administration of the church.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply leadership principles to leading ministry teams in a way that is coherent with the denominational context.</li> <li>2. Describe the church structure from the district to the ministerial team.</li> <li>3. Describe the financial system of the local church, including the responsible persons and their respective responsibilities.</li> <li>4. Identify and describe the attributes of good leaders in the church context.</li> </ol>

## YEAR TWO

<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Description</b>
<p><b>201 Old Testament</b></p>	<p>This course introduces the student to the basic history (chronology, events and main characters, central theological themes) of the Old Testament (OT) and gives attention to how this history shaped the Hebrew thinking and provided the theological, literary, historical and prophetic background for the New Testament. The course also provides an opportunity for a reflection about the use of the OT for Christians.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Outline the life and faith of ancient Israel centered around major critical events.</li> <li>2. Interpret selected passages that illustrate crucial turning points in the history of Israel.</li> <li>3. Explain the meaning and importance of the message of the OT for faith and the mission of the church in its contemporary context.</li> </ol>

<p><b>202</b> <b>Early &amp; Medieval Church</b></p>	<p>This course reflects critically on significant individuals, decisive events, and fundamental tenets of the Christian faith as found in the early church and in medieval Christianity. Utilizing the categories of <i>grace</i> and <i>faith</i> as focusing lenses, the student appropriates the Christian heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting, articulating, and enacting the gospel for contemporary life.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Show how Christian orthodoxy emerged from a debate with Gnosticism, Montanism, Marcionism, and Greek philosophy.</li> <li>2. Identify the basic positions of major theologians and church leaders whose writings focus on key doctrinal issues (for example, Origen, Tertullian, Irenaeus, Augustine, Aquinas, Pseudo-Dionysius).</li> <li>3. Describe the pivotal theological concerns in their historical context.</li> <li>4. Articulate the distinctive aspects of Eastern Orthodox theologies compared with Roman Catholicism.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate an appreciation for and appropriation of the relevance of historical theology for pastoral ministry.</li> </ol>
<p><b>203</b> <b>Congregational Discipleship</b></p>	<p>This course examines the ministry of the church as a means of nurturing faith, Christian values, and ways of life among members of the congregation and community. Skills for evaluating, planning, and designing educational experiences are stressed, as well as the lay minister's role as mentor and servant.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the lay minister's role as servant and mentor in the disciple-making process.</li> <li>2. Evaluate major methodologies for educating Christians, with special emphasis on developing small group ministries.</li> <li>3. Design a discipleship program for the local church in collaboration with the pastoral team.</li> <li>4. Critically assess curricular materials for theological content and appropriateness for discipleship in the ministry setting.</li> </ol>
<p><b>204</b> <b>Preaching &amp; Teaching</b></p>	<p>This course focuses on preaching the gospel. Central concerns are the utilization of biblical interpretation, sermon preparation and delivery, and evaluation of the lay minister's preaching.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apply effective biblical interpretation to preaching.</li> <li>2. Interpret the context of the addressees of the sermon (the congregation and community) and adjust the sermon to that context.</li> <li>3. Evaluate the sermons of others for biblical integrity, theological soundness, internal logic, appropriateness for the audience and delivery.</li> <li>4. Prepare and preach sermons.</li> </ol>

**COURSE CURRICULUM  
YEAR THREE**

<b>Course</b>	<b>Course Description</b>
<p><b>301 New Testament</b></p>	<p>This course presents a panoramic view of the content, main characteristics, and message of the books of the New Testament in light of their historical, political, socioeconomic, cultural, and religious environment, as well as their importance as literary expressions of the faith and history of the early church. The practice of interpretation is again emphasized.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe the literary, historical and theological nature of the New Testament, and explain how these three aspects relate to the interpretation of the text.</li> <li>2. Summarize the history of the origin and formation of the New Testament canon.</li> <li>3. Develop and practice a methodology to interpret the text that is appropriate for the ministry.</li> <li>4. Explain the meaning and significance of the message of the New Testament for the faith and mission of the church in its contemporary context.</li> </ol>
<p><b>302 From The Reformation to the Contemporary Church</b></p>	<p>This course is a critical reflection upon the individuals, decisive events, and theological developments during the period of the Protestant Reformation. Utilizing the categories of <i>grace</i> and <i>faith</i> as focusing lenses, the student appropriates the Reformation heritage and enters into the church's ongoing task of interpreting and enacting the gospel for contemporary life.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examine various movements and events in the period prior to the beginning of the Protestant Reformation (for example, mysticism, nominalism, the Renaissance, the Papal Schism, the martyrdom of Huss and Savonarola).</li> <li>2. Identify the major events of the Reformation on the European continent.</li> <li>3. Identify the major theological positions of Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and the Anabaptists.</li> <li>4. Analyze pivotal theological concerns in their historical context, including the relationship of faith and reason, justification by grace through faith, sacramental theology, ecclesiology, and Christology.</li> <li>5. Identify issues of the Catholic Reformation as reflected in the Council of Trent and such figures as Ignatius Loyola, Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, and Blaise Pascal.</li> <li>6. Identify issues of the English Reformation of the 16th century and the rise of Puritanism in the 17th century.</li> </ol>

	<p>7. Demonstrate an appreciation for and appropriation of the relevance of historical theology for pastoral ministry.</p>
<p><b>303</b> <b>Mission:</b> <b>Evangelism,</b> <b>Outreach &amp;</b> <b>Transformation</b></p>	<p>This course analyzes the theology of evangelism and our faithfulness to God's call. It also examines various strategies for and approaches to the church's evangelistic task, specifically in the heritage of United Methodism, stressing the proclamation and the enactment of the gospel.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate knowledge of the biblical-theological roots of evangelism, mission and social action.</li> <li>2. Identify the Wesleyan heritage of evangelism, mission and social action, and point out its relevance for the church today.</li> <li>3. Evaluate strategies and models for evangelism and present a plan for how they may be applied in your local church.</li> <li>4. Analyze different methodologies that are used for church growth and identify the one most appropriate for your context.</li> <li>5. Identify tools that help one be an agent of transformation and to begin missionary programs, especially in small churches.</li> <li>6. Demonstrate a critical analysis of the technologic media as instruments of evangelism and mission.</li> </ol>
<p><b>304</b> <b>Pastoral Care</b></p>	<p>This course introduces students to basic practices of pastoral care and the lay minister's responsibility in caregiving. Emphasis is placed on common congregational needs as well as the organization of caring ministries. Skills presented include effective listening and response, appropriation of boundaries, dealing with basic life crises, timely intervention and appropriate referral. Students will be encouraged to reflect on their personal strengths, need for growth in developing relational skills, self-care, and the development of personal spiritual practices.</p> <p>OBJECTIVES:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Demonstrate effective listening and communication skills, emphasizing skills of sensitive caregiving.</li> <li>2. Analyze case studies to determine an appropriate course of action, including when and how to refer to other sources of assistance.</li> <li>3. Examine basic methods for dealing with developmental issues and life crises.</li> <li>4. Explore ethical issues including confidentiality, personal and professional boundaries, and legal responsibilities.</li> <li>5. Demonstrate basic ability to provide wise pastoral care in life situations.</li> <li>6. Implement and oversee appropriate types of care in varieties of settings, including prisons, hospitals, nursing facilities and homes.</li> <li>7. Organize caring ministries within the congregation.</li> </ol>