

{ Theology }

» EXPLORE THE MYSTERIES AND CERTAINTIES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Bridge the divide between the sacred and the secular and help fulfill Christ's mission in our world. Wipe the dust off ancient texts and discover their relevance today. Studying original biblical languages, Scripture, and Christian theology at Concordia provides you with the academic foundation for seminary, professional church work, non-profit organizations, and graduate studies theology and the humanities. Our practical approach to service learning helps you put your values in action, making a real difference through avenues such as campus ministry, foreign missions, government service, and mentoring relationships.

Course Spotlight – Faith for Life

Concordia University's approach to Christian, liberal arts education culminates in Faith for Life. This course combines the study of doctrine, service in an area of social concern, and personal reflection on how to live a meaningful life. You will understand how major doctrines of Christianity are relevant today. Faith for Life confronts the big existential issues and provides opportunities to learn how faith and service can transform lives and society.

Faculty Profile – Herb Hoefler

PROFESSOR OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS CHAIR

Herb Hoefler, M.Div., Ed.D. is Concordia University's expert in world missions. He regularly travels to south Asia where he interacts with Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus as the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod mission area director in India and Sri Lanka. Professor Hoefler has written or edited seven books and many articles, primarily on faith and cultural issues in India. He brings this global world view to Concordia classrooms where he expands students' perspectives with his understanding of how people are different and similar the world over. Professor Hoefler encourages students to relate meaningfully with people who look or believe differently, "People are people, whether living on the street or in a nursing home or in a flavella. We are all happy to receive what is given from the heart."

Reverend Hoefler appreciates how college students share his passion for ministry, "One of the characteristics of this generation is the desire to do something, not just talk about it. In university life, we inevitably do a lot of talking, whether about world issues or social service or spiritual commitment. For this generation, such talk is not enough. They expect involvement, both by themselves and by their teachers."



Additional Faculty

PROFESSOR PHILLIP L. BRANDT, M.DIV. is the son of a Lutheran pastor and served fourteen years in parish ministry before joining the Concordia University faculty in 2005. His academic interests lay in the study of biblical and historical theology, especially the Patristic, Medieval, and Reformation periods.

PROFESSOR NORMAN METZLER, TH.D. CHAIR OF THE DIVISION OF THEOLOGY, has been an ordained pastor since 1971. From his special area of systematic theology, Prof. Metzler views theology as a discipline which embraces and informs all of the academic disciplines. He seeks to be inclusive in his approach to religion and respectful of all Christian traditions.

Why a Concordia University Theology Degree?

1. Concordia has the experience of 100 plus years in Lutheran theological education, and the program which encourages you to wrestle with the deepest questions of faith and life
2. Our faculty is very mission-oriented, having all lived and served in some sort of mission setting, with a heart for the real lives of real people
3. You will culminate your studies in a senior thesis, which is your personal exploration of a serious theological topic of your choice, under the guidance of a seasoned theologian
4. Faith is an active practice at Concordia with numerous opportunities to serve in campus, community, national, and international ministries

Sample Curriculum

The following is a sampling of the many classes that have recently been offered in our curriculum –

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT WRITINGS

In depth study of selected portions of the Bible, such as the Psalms, the Prophets, the Gospels, and the Letters of Paul. Topics vary each semester.

RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

Explore the major themes and issues of the Renaissance and Reformation from 1350-1550.

RELIGION IN AMERICAN LIFE

Survey the history and character of the principal religious traditions of the United States.

OUTREACH, ASSIMILATION, VISITATION

Identify how Christians can reach the unchurched and those seeking Christ.

RELIGION AND LITERATURE

Study tragic and biblical texts focusing on the perennial question, "What does it mean to be human?" Other topics explore fantasy and comedy in literature and their implications for religion.

EARLY CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Delve into the writings of the Early Christian Fathers, to glean their insights into such issues as the Trinity, Christology, Christian worship, and ethics.

FIELD EXPERIENCE IN MISSION OUTREACH

Study abroad in the culture of another major world religion in order to better understand and appreciate mission outreach in a foreign setting.

CHRISTIAN ENCOUNTERS WITH OTHER RELIGIONS

Engage in dialogue between the truth claims of Christianity and the other major world religions.

Certificate Programs

LEADERSHIP ADVANCEMENT PROCESS

LAP is an educational program to empower lay persons to be more effective in their ministries. Registration and additional information is available at the Northwest District website www.nowlcms.org.

SEMINARY PREPARATION CERTIFICATE

This course of study prepares students who already possess a bachelor's degree to take the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seminary entrance exam.

Next Step

The Division of Theology informs, shapes, and enriches future leaders in the Lutheran Christian tradition of the continuing mission of the Church and the transformation of society. If you would like to join us, contact the Concordia University Office of Admission at –

800-321-9371 503-280-8501 admissions@cu-portland.edu



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