

DBI Course Descriptions

Level 1 – Introductory Level 2 – Beginning Level 3 – Intermediate Level 4 – Advanced

Level 1- This level is designed for the student to whom the topic is new. The class examines the major themes of the topic, gives introductory vocabulary, and is meant to be highly accessible. These classes create a foundation for later, more specific courses.

Level 2 – These courses are designed for the student that has only a basic understanding of the topic. These courses often deal with more specific issues than introductory classes. For instance, rather than dealing with Christian Philosophy, it deals with the concept of Assurance of Salvation. Other courses of this level might focus in on a specific group of people as an audience whereas introductory courses tend not to.

Level 3 – This level supposes that you have an understanding of the terminology and major concepts of the subject matter. Lower level students will find these challenging but would be capable of handling the course if they keep careful notes and re-listened to some sections. Speak with an advisor if you have any concerns about taking this level.

Level 4 – These courses are meant for the student who has a solid grasp of the topic and wants to be challenged by looking at a specific aspect of the topic. Lower level students should ask an advisor what courses would best build them up to this level of class.

*Advisory courses are courses DBI suggests taking before attempting a specific course rated a 3-4. These are not prerequisites but students will find them helpful in fully appreciating and understanding the course.

Art of Mentoring (Level 1)

This course talks about the basic elements of mentoring, its importance, and how to develop a mentoring relationship. The course addresses itself to both the mentor and mentored establishing reasonable expectations, ideas for setting up a mentoring relationship, and what advantages there are to a mentoring relationship. This course examines both small group and individual mentoring types and lays a systematic groundwork for how these can best be pursued. The purpose of this course is to encourage all members of the church to be involved in mentoring by seeing both its importance and personal value to all involved. By the end of the course, the student will know not only how to set up a mentoring relationship, but also with whom they should establish that relationship.

History of Biblical Counseling (Level 1)

This class focuses on two main topics: what is it about God that makes Him the great counselor and what does it mean to counsel others Biblically? This is done by looking at the great biblical counselors in history with a particular focus on the puritans. This is not a history class but rather a class that shows how we counsel both the Christian and non-Christian. The historical elements of this class simply refer back to great historical examples of counseling to demonstrate its focus. While this class is essential for anyone going into Christian counseling, it is equally useful to those wishing to know God better and promote peace with His people. If you deal with the public, have a family, have contact with people struggling in their life, or are a new Christian this class is for you.

The Book of Revelation (Level 1)

This is a chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse analysis of the book of Revelation. In this course, students are taught the importance of reading and understanding this book. The information is presented in a straight-forward manner and examines multiple forms of analysis of visionary writing rather than opting to look at only one. Students will learn potential ways to interpret prophetic writing, the historical significance of the book, and gain a deeper understand of Christ's relationship with the church. This is a keystone course for any student wanting to know more about prophetic or visionary writing in the Bible. If you want to know more about eschatology and Christ's promises to His people this is an important course for you to take.

Theology of Christian Education (Level 1)

In this course, students are taught that it is the duty of all Christians to witness (educate) and make disciples of all nations. The course further establishes through biblical precedent that the leaders are to teach the church, then the people one-another, and finally the parents to their children. Education is a pervasive theme that runs through the Bible. Students will learn that education proves to be one of the fundamental principles that the Christian faith is built on. Students taking this course will be better equipped to not only carry out the great commission, but also to raise up a generation that will not fall into sin as we have seen so often in the Bible. This course is applicable to all students but is essential for anyone going into a leadership of teaching position.

The Epistle of Paul to the Romans (Level 1)

Dr. Hunter, President of Trinity College and Seminary, gives a survey through this preeminent epistle. This course provides an expositional teaching through the entire epistle with a focus on five major doctrines of the Christian faith. The student should come out of this course with a better understanding of the conceptual sections of the Epistle to the Romans, an ability to list and describe the five major doctrines and a greater awe of God and our salvation in Him. Knowledge of this cornerstone work will help the student professionally and personally regardless if their ministry is being a parent, a pastor, or a missionary.

Depression and Anxiety (Level 1) *New*

This course looks at the common problem, in today's society, of depression and anxiety. Over the duration of the course, it looks at these debilitating problems through medical, counseling, and biblical perspectives. It then talks about, to what degree, how each of these fits into the Christian worldview. The student will learn how to identify issues in depression and anxiety from a secular counseling approach. This analysis can then be weighed against what the Bible says about depression and anxiety to see if the secular approaches are both true and valid. In later lectures, students will learn how to discern the difference between those issues that are strictly medical versus those that are psychological and/or spiritual. At the conclusion of this course students will have a basic understanding of the various causes of depression and anxiety and what the best course of action is based on the truth of the Bible. This should be considered a main course for anyone going into counseling, pastoral work, or child care.

Conflict Management (Level 2) *New*

This course shares a variety of ways avoid and (if necessary) to deal with conflict with others. The major focus of this class is dealing with conflict within the church. It offers direction to pastors, ministers, and group leaders on how to be intentional about defusing conflict before it starts. This class also has clear applications for those who work in settings or jobs where conflict can arise. The class also offers tools and a clear system for dealing with conflict once it has already begun giving reasonable options and advice to all who might be involved. If you work in an environment that can be stressful or that is trying to meet the needs of many people, consider this course.

Comparative Psychology (Level 2)

Dr. Brownback examines the place, if any, that modern psychology plays in Biblical counseling. He examines major names in psychology such as Freud, Skinner, and Rodgers as well as a variety of techniques used by these men and others. One major objective of the class is to differentiate between non-scientific psychotherapy and clinical psychology. Brownback warns of the dangers of Christians embracing psychotherapy and warns that many have mistaken worldly ideals as scriptural. This course exposes Christian counselors to the terms and the applications of psychology in counseling. Students of this class will be able to make an informed choice about the value of using psychology in counseling others and will be familiar for the various terms and types of psychology.

Philosophy of Religion (Level 2)

This class examines the major questions regarding religion such as the existence of God, the examination of religious experience, and the relationship of religion and science. The philosophy of religion differs from religious philosophy in that it seeks to discuss questions regarding the nature of religion as a whole, rather than examining the problems brought forth by a particular belief system. This particular course address the question of God: Does He exist and if so in what form? It also asks if we can prove God's existence or understand his nature through experience, reason, language, miracles, or prophecy. This class lays the groundwork for all other philosophy courses offered. The purpose of this course is less about offering a basis for evangelism and more about thinking about how we perceive God and giving us tools to hone our method of understanding Him. This class, while technical in nature, ultimately will give the student a logical basis for their beliefs and their apologetic arguments with others.

Christianity and Competing Worldviews (Level 2) *New*

This course looks at the basic elements of Christianity as a belief system. It also establishes specific criteria for evaluation of a faith system (such as coherence, simplicity, and livability) to determine which belief system is correct or more likely correct than some other worldview. Finally, students will learn about other worldviews evaluating them based on the criteria established in the class. Students will be able not only to validate their own belief system but they will also be able to evaluate other systems. This class will prove a valuable tool to both evangelists and apologists for it will give them a logical foundation for their beliefs. This will allow them to share the truth of God based in logic rather than purely emotion or unfounded opinion.

Developing Effective Teaching Strategies (Level 2) *New*

This straightforward course walks teachers through the basic approaches of Christian education and needs of the students. While the professor approaches this topic from a primarily collegiate and secondary perspective, the concepts are universal applying to elementary, pre-school, and especially home-schooled students. The course looks at teaching any given group through a variety of philosophical and practical lenses. At the conclusion of this course, teachers will be able to identify the complex elements in individual students to better address their needs. They will become aware of the psychological and emotional features that affect behavior helping the teacher to relate to a student (or group of students). In a related manner, teachers will be able in address issues of culture to improved both student understanding and classroom management. Finally, teachers will understand the importance of the theological aspect of Christian education. They will see that Christian education isn't about just telling stories and singing songs, but developing a way to think for the student and as a foundation for classroom development for the teacher. This class is ranked a "2" for the untrained or initiate educator due to its steady use of terminology and pedagogical concepts. To a teacher with formal training, this should be considered a "1" level course. The fundamentals offered in this course are essential for any level of educator to know.

Women's Issues in Counseling (Level 3)

This course, taught by Dr. Pamela Peterson, begins with an overview of psychology and Freudian psychoanalysis. The class explores the many dueling positions within the secular scope of psychology and their influence in the practice of Christian counseling. Furthermore, this course explores the many issues the feminist movement has caused in our culture and the church in regard to the woman of the 21st century. As the course progresses, Dr. Peterson describes some of the issues unique to women, including biology and cognitive processing as well as issues that are equally important to men and women such as sin, repentance and submission to Christ. This course also features specific case studies thus providing insight to the student of how to counsel women in a way that holds God and His word as the ultimate guide and authority. *Advisory Course: Comparative Psychology*

Doctrine of God (Level 4)

This is a philosophical course on the nature and being of God as examined through the lens of theological philosophy. Students are introduced to a great number of philosophical ideas and terminology that will prove useful in both exploring who God is and carrying on apologetic conversations with people of other faiths. Students are exposed to a great number of theological thinkers and will see how these thinkers' ideas work together or contrast each other. Students of this course will be able to analyze doctrine on a deep scholastic and intellectual level. *Advisory Course: Philosophy of Religion*