



MTS (I) MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES - INDIGENOUS

Overview

This graduate theological degree is designed and taught by Indigenous scholars and practitioners. It is the outcome of an innovative, educational partnership between the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies (NAIITS) and Tyndale Seminary. Gain a multidisciplinary understanding of Indigenous theology, history and praxis. Encourage others to fully embrace being an Indigenous follower of Jesus Christ. Assist your community in following God's call. Inspire people to embrace their Indigenous culture. Learn how to fully engage your ministry and its Indigenous context.

Faculty

Indigenous academic leaders have designed and tailored this degree for Indigenous people and those serving in its communities. More than 80% of professors in the program are Native North Americans with doctoral degrees from a wide range of universities and seminaries. Learn from professors who are engaged in their own Indigenous communities and are committed followers of Jesus. This is a faculty who is passionate about providing graduate-level

theological education for Indigenous communities.

Accessibility

Courses are available in flexible, accessible formats. Continue to live in your communities from online-hybrid options. Intensive summer courses provide face-to-face classroom experience. Wrap-around conference courses related to the NAIITS Annual Symposium stimulate learning with Indigenous theological learners. Elective courses allow you to further tailor the program to your own learning and ministry environment.

Mutual Learning Community

Join with colleagues in your program who are working in Indigenous contexts. Grow in your leadership capacity as you build relationships and experience one-to-one and small-group mentorship. Any on-site courses are offered within the intercultural and denominationally diverse Christian community at Tyndale, located in the easily accessible, multiethnic city of Toronto.

COURSE FRAMEWORK - 54 TOTAL CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED

Bible, Theology and History Courses (27)

BIBL IS01 Biblical Interpretation

Examines the methods, principles and practices of interpreting the Biblical texts. In addition to deepening one's understanding and use of standard tools of Biblical research, the course will contrast Indigenous epistemologies used in hermeneutics with those of Western traditions.

NEWT IS03 New Testament Theology and History



Constructed on the Hebraic narrative of the First testament, and focused on the restoration of creation to the plan and intent of our Creator's heart, this course studies the extension of God's work within creation through the person, work, life, teaching, death, and resurrection of Jesus—examining the above through New Testament history and theology.

OLDT IS02 Old Testament Theology and History

A general introduction to the historical, sociological and theological context in which the Hebrew Scriptures came into existence, this course will provide the student with an understanding of the major emphases of the texts. In addition, the student will be introduced to themes in the Hebrew Scriptures that find parallels in what has been coined by some as the “Old Testament of Native North America.”

HIST IS04 History of Christianity: Origins to Us

In various versions of the Christian story, we inevitably read Christianity: A History of our Civilization. Such stories are admittedly very often of a stripe with colonial advance, focusing on gospel transmission and church planting from a strictly Euro-centric view. This course will examine that history asking questions about the socio-spiritual location of Indigenous peoples in the *Missio Dei* which ostensibly drove the enterprise of Church History.

HIST IS05 History of Christianity: Indigenous Church History and Mission

Continuing on from Church History: Origins to Us, this course will examine ways in which the Indigenous church has been planted and has grown within North American and other Indigenous contexts. Special emphasis will be given to its growth and development through the various attempts in its history to contextualize or indigenize Christianity.

THEO IS06 Introduction to Christian Theology

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the tasks and tools of Christian theology, including the development of a common theological vocabulary, so as to understand the nature of Christian faith and acquire the capacity to converse with others in shared terms. An introduction to Indigenous theological terminology will be introduced in the latter part of the course as a bridge to THEO IS07.

THEO IS07 Theology and Ethic of the Land

During this course students will be immersed in the wider creation in a retreat context with reading prior to and following the retreat. The experience of the beauty and hope of God as immanent within creation will be considered through Indigenous understandings of the land, and the relationship between science and faith. Students will engage current issues such as agriculture, conservation, land use and consumption of natural resources, gaining an understanding of the dual expressions of Indigenous and Hebrew constructs of shalom through which God blesses creation.

THEO IS11 Ethics in Intercultural Context

An intercultural, contextual introduction to central issues in Christian ethics, with attention to the way in which moral reflection interacts with philosophy and culture. The course explores biblical-theological foundations for ethics, the role of scripture and Jesus' example in ethical formulation, and deals with major contemporary topics including gender, sexuality, marriage, euthanasia, war, bioethics, wealth and poverty.

THEO IS12 World Religions

Jesus followers must be willing to interact and engage with an inquiring mind, in a knowledgeable way and in a Christ-like manner with peoples of other faiths. This course provides an overview of the major World Religions including the place of Christianity in the religious arena. It offers a foundation for



understanding the classification of religions as well as the chronological development, adaptation, geographical distribution, worldviews and cultural impact of world faiths. A summary of major religious figures, central doctrines/teachings, sacred myths and texts – including potential emerging world religions – will lead into a discussion concerning appropriate Christian responses to the world's religions and their adherents. Indigenous values such as respecting others and story-telling are central to the approach utilized in this course.

Formation Courses (9)

MISS IS08 Culture and Systems Change

No experience of Christianity has been more culturally damaging than that experienced by Indigenous peoples. Through process of decolonization and indigenization this course will examine how Indigenous people live a biblically informed Christian faith in the context of Indigenous cultures. Special attention will be paid to contemporary actions within the concept of re-traditionalization that can be taken as the means of engaging culture as followers of the Jesus Way.

LEAD IS10 Leadership Development

This course will engage the student in a variety of discussions on leadership – in the family, community, Indigenous church, and wider society. Special emphasis will be on exploring the praxis of decolonization and growing edge of re-traditionalization as a means of understanding contemporary Indigenous leadership models used in each of these social contexts.

SPIR IS09 Indigenous Spirituality and Formation

Indigenous understandings of the nature of the spiritual and of spirituality differ in many respects from those commonly held within the Western traditions of Christian faith. This course will seek to encourage spiritual growth and development from within an Indigenous framework of understanding of the nature of the spiritual and of spirituality.

Indigenous Studies Core (12)

INTD IS14 Cultural Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology is ostensibly the study of variety in human culture. This course will travel through historical anthropological theory exploring important helpful and harmful trajectories that the discipline of Anthropology has taken, particularly to Indigenous people globally. The course will balance the many gifts Anthropology has given with helpful critiques, particularly from Indigenous scholars and anthropologists.

CHED IS13 Indigenous Praxis of Andragogy

Whereas pedagogy invites the adult to enter the child's world for the child's learning, andragogy acknowledges that a student gains skill, knowledge, and wisdom in a trajectory that leads them from a less mature to a more mature understanding of a given subject. Andragogy therefore uses different methods and different focuses for learning. This course will introduce the student to andragogical method in theology.

INTD IS15 Indigenous Theology Symposium Seminar

Annually, the NAIITS learning community comes together in its symposium to explore topics of interest to the wider indigenous community. Each student will be expected to participate in at least two (2)



symposiums and undertake collateral reading and assignments as directed by the faculty, in order to integrate the symposium topics into their program of study.

INTD IS16 Integrative Project

Normally, within Indigenous contexts of learning, integration of new experiences takes place more simultaneously. Compartmentalized approaches to knowledge, which require an integrative course, would be less normative here than in Western traditions. However, to provide an opportunity for students to continue the process of integrating what they have learned in the program with what they already understand, a project selected together with the NAIITS faculty will be undertaken to provide that opportunity.

Electives (6 - by consent of Dean and faculty)

THEO IS07 Indigenous Theologies and Methods

Building on THEO I, this course will delve into unique Indigenous theological contributions to the meaning of Christian faith and life. Utilizing a thematic approach, the intersection of one's experience with the Creator, the nature of the spiritual, the Gospel story, redemption and redeemer will be explored in contrasting views with Western theological method.

INDS Indigenous Studies Elective I

This course is a guided study approach to subjects of interest to students that provide an opportunity to deepen their understanding of a particular theme. Topics could provide a basis for thesis research if desired and appropriate, and will be determined by the student in consultation with the NAIITS faculty.

INDS Indigenous Studies Elective II

This course provides a second avenue for student exploration of topics of interest to individual students in a guided study approach. This second topic could provide an additional basis for thesis research if desired and appropriate. The student in consultation with the NAIITS faculty will determine topics.