



Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

MTS881 — Comprehensive Theological Integration
Spring, 2012

Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

Instructor Information

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Office Hours: By appointment

Catalog Description

This final evaluation of the MA(TS) General Academic Track provides students with an opportunity to demonstrate ability to *integrate* the knowledge gained from study in the various theological disciplines in critical reflection on significant issues arising in human society, thought, and culture. The course culminates with a major integrative essay.

Course Narrative & Rationale

The purposes of the MA(TS) General Academic Track comprehensive examination are to assess the student's comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships, and to assess the student's ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as an informed, critically thinking, Christian person. To these ends, a reflective review of NTS coursework and a major synthesizing/integrative essay constitute the coursework for MTS881.

Degree Objectives

This course addresses MA(TS) Degree Program Objectives for the General Academic Track:

- Students will develop a comprehensive knowledge of the major theological disciplines and their interrelationships
- Students will demonstrate the ability to use the theological disciplines to reflect on and engage the world as informed, thinking, Christian persons

Course Outcomes

Through completion of this course, the student will:

1. Demonstrate that s/he is conversant with biblical studies, with the history of the Christian church, and with the reflections of systematic theology on the Christian faith, including demonstration of an understanding of the moral and ethical implications of the Christian faith and awareness of points at which the interests of philosophy and Christian faith intersect
(Accomplished by assignments 1, 2, 3, and 4)
2. Demonstrate the ability to relate knowledge of the Christian faith, as informed by theological studies, to major dimensions of individual and corporate human experience, e. g., to political, economic, scientific, aesthetic, and related realms
(Accomplished by assignments 3 and 4)
3. Demonstrate the ability to *integrate* the knowledge gained from study in the various theological disciplines in critical reflection upon significant issues arising in human society, thought, and culture.
(Accomplished by assignments 3 and 4))

Required Texts & Course Materials

No new texts are required for this course. The student should have access to texts from previous courses.

Course Outline

Week of:

- Feb 6 – Review courses taken at NTS; group courses into disciplinary domains; analyze the courses in each domain, individually and/or collectively, for major themes and issues arising from them; begin to draft potential questions for integrative essay
- Feb 13 – Continue to draft potential questions for integrative essay
- Feb 20 – Put three, four, or five questions into preferred form for submission
- February 23** – Submit three, four, or five questions to this week's assignment in Moodle
- Feb 27 – Continue to review courses taken at NTS
- Mar 5 – Continue to review courses taken at NTS
- March 8** – Director returns one or two selected question(s) to students
- Mar 12 – Begin preparing/writing comprehensive essay

Mar 19 – R & R Week; continue preparing/writing comprehensive essay

Mar 26 – Finish writing comprehensive essay

March 29 – Submit comprehensive essay to this week’s assignment in Moodle

Apr 2 – No expectations upon students; faculty read essays

Apr 9 – No expectations upon students; faculty read essays

April 12 – Faculty decisions on essays rendered; students notified

Apr 16 – Work on rewriting essay, if necessary

Apr 23 – Work on rewriting essay, if necessary

April 26 – Rewritten essays submitted, if necessary

No further expectations upon students

N.B.: Potential essay questions submitted later than **February 23** cannot be considered for this semester’s comprehensive essay.

Comprehensive essays submitted later than **March 29** will not be forwarded to MA(TS) faculty readers for evaluation.

A grade of Unsatisfactory on the comprehensive essay will necessitate retaking MTS811 in a subsequent semester.

Course Assignments

1. Review all courses taken at NTS for MA(TS) degree.

(Course outcome: Number 1)

2. Group courses taken at NTS into their respective disciplinary domains.

(Course outcome: Number 1)

3. Craft and submit 3-5 potential questions for comprehensive essay exam.

Questions are due in the designated assignment in Moodle no later than **February 23**.

(Course outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, and 3)

4. Write a comprehensive integrative theological essay, 5,000-7000 words in length.

Essay is due in the designated assignment in Moodle no later than **March 29**.

(Course outcomes: Numbers 1, 2, and 3)

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Hours
Reading	30
Writing	40
Total	70

Method for Submitting Assignments

The comprehensive essay will be submitted in the MTS881 Moodle course.

Form and Style Expectations

The Seminary has adopted Turabian's Manual of Style as the standard reference for written work. The comprehensive essay should conform to Turabian in all particulars.

Inclusive Language

Nazarene Theological Seminary is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people too often have used language to imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in writing. All written work of a quality to meet requirements of this course will use gender-inclusive language.

Policy Regarding Late Work

As this course is a capstone for the MA(TS) degree in the General Academic Track, no provision can be made for submitting the comprehensive essay later than the due date, **March 29**.

Additional Costs

No additional costs are anticipated for this course, beyond the one-hour tuition fee.

Course Grading

This course is graded on a scale of Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, upon action of the MA(TS)PhD Committee of the NTS faculty. Ample allowance for a one-time rewriting of an essay deemed Unsatisfactory is built into the course schedule.

Reasonable Modifications

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first week of the course, to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have benefited the student in the past.

Class Attendance

The nature of this course obviates the need for keeping records of attendance.

Course Calendar

Date	Week	Assignment
Feb 6-11	1	Review courses taken at NTS; Group courses into disciplinary domains; Analyze the courses in each domain, individually and/or collectively, for major themes and issues arising from them; Begin to draft potential questions for your integrative essay
Feb 13-18	2	Continue to draft potential questions for your integrative essay
Feb 20-25	3	Put three, four, or five questions into preferred form for submission; February 23 – submit your three, four, or five questions to this week’s assignment in our Moodle course
Feb 27- Mar 3	4	Continue to review courses taken at NTS
Mar 5-10	5	Continue to review courses taken at NTS; March 8 – Director returns one or two selected question(s) to students
Mar 12-17	6	Begin preparing/writing comprehensive essay
Mar 19-24	7	R & R Week; Continue preparing/writing comprehensive essay
Mar 26-31	8	Finish writing comprehensive essay; March 29 – Submit comprehensive essay to this week’s assignment in Moodle
Apr 2-7	9	No expectations upon students
Apr 9-14	10	No expectations upon students April 12 – Faculty decisions on essays rendered; students notified
Apr 16-21	11	Work on rewriting essay, if necessary
Apr 23-28	12	Work on rewriting essay, if necessary; April 26 – Rewritten essays submitted, if necessary
Apr 30- May 5	13	Course Evaluations due (approximate release time by the Dean’s Office)
May 7-12	14	No expectations upon students