NEW YORK SCHOOL OF MINISTRY
20 HOUR COURSE OFFERINGS

NYSOM’s required courses are offered on a three-year rotation schedule. This ensures that participants can meet the core requirements for the Christian Leadership Program in three years. The courses will be rearranged if faculty availability requires it.

YEAR ONE:
FALL

**New Testament I** - This introductory Bible course focuses on the Gospels and Acts. Participants engage in the critical study of the text and are taught exegetical method.

**Foundations and Practice of Pastoral Counseling** - This course addresses the basics of counseling in a variety of situations where there is a pastoral element in the professional relationship, encouraging participants to develop a clearly articulated picture of the strengths and limitations of one’s pastoral and professional role, skills, and setting.

SPRING

**New Testament II** - This introductory course focuses on the epistolary material of the New Testament and the book of Revelation. Participants engage in the critical study of the text and are taught exegetical method.

**Ethics** – This course focuses on the Christian tradition of reflecting upon moral behavior.

YEAR TWO:
FALL

**Old Testament I** - This introductory Bible course focuses on Genesis through Esther. Participants engage in the critical study of the text and are taught exegetical method.

**From Resurrection to Reformation: the History of the Christian Church (1-1650)** - This course offers a broad overview of church history through the Reformation with an emphasis on ideas and events that have continuing influence on Christian practice and belief.

SPRING

**Old Testament II** - This introductory Bible course focuses on Job through Malachi. Participants engage in the critical study of the text and are taught exegetical method.

**Advanced Topics in Pastoral Care and Counseling** - This course offers an integrated pastoral and behavioral sciences approach to some of the more challenging situations faced by helping professionals.
**YEAR THREE**

**FALL**

**Introduction to Christian Theology** - This course introduces participants to the primary themes of Christian Theology. Participants write papers or sermons that address the topics of Christology, the Doctrine of the Trinity, and the Purpose of the Church.

**Liturgy & Worship** - This course surveys the history of Christian liturgy, examines the theology of worship and the sacraments, and offers practical instruction to enable participants to make informed choices when planning liturgies. One third of the course is devoted to preaching.

**Congregational Life** - This course explores the various dynamics at work in the life of a local church, toward the end of gaining insight into how to nurture a healthy and productive faith community.

**SPRING**

**American Church History (1600-2020)** - This course offers an overview of the development of Christian churches in the United States with an emphasis on ideas and events that have shaped the denominations of the participants.

**UCC (Post 1957) History and Polity** - This course surveys the historical and current documents that illuminate the breadth of theology that informs the United Church of Christ. It provides an overview of the history of the UCC since 1957 and examines the covenantal structure of the church, the responsibilities and accountability of authorized ministers, worship, and vocation in the UCC. American Church History is a pre-requisite for this course.

**ELECTIVES**

**Family Systems Theory and Pastoral Leadership** - This course focuses on how Family Systems Theory helps pastors be as healthy as they can be in ministry and how they can use their personal process of “differentiation” to maximize their leadership capacities in congregations.

**Preaching** - This course focuses on the practice of preaching, from Biblical exegesis through delivery.

We also, periodically, offer short courses on topics that have ranged, in the past few years, from Leadership, to End of Life Issues, to Pastoral Care in a Time of Pandemic.