

Shiloh Graduate School of Theology - MA in Theology program:

Program Description: This program will be conducted in Hawassa, Ethiopia at the SBCE Campus. As of the 2012/2013 Academic Year this program is not yet accredited.

The MA in Theology program consists of approximately 1 year of course work (8 courses) and 1 year of research and writing.

General Program Objectives: The objectives of the MA in Theology program are:

1. To understand Christian theology and theological reflection from: 1) a biblical perspective; 2) a historical perspective giving primary focus to theological reflection in the African context; and 3) within the Ethiopian context.
2. To do practical theology in the Ethiopian context giving proper weight to biblical, cultural, and theological considerations. Thus the student must himself/herself wrestle with theological issues and learn to do so in a sound and effective manner. In so doing graduates will be prepared to lead their denominations and churches in the area of writing and teaching theology.
3. To prepare students for graduate level research writing through the experience of developing a research program (proposal) and following through the research process to the completion of a significant thesis project written in conformity to international academic standards.

Knowing: The graduates of this program

1. will have a wider and in-depth knowledge of both the historical development and present state of Christian biblical doctrine especially as relevant to the African context.
2. know and understand in-depth selected New Testament and Old Testament books and how to properly exegete biblical texts
3. know research methods and their application to theological questions
4. understand the concept and principle of leadership and administration that help them to function both in the church and outside the church
5. recognize Christian responsibility, stewardship and mission
6. will have knowledge of methods of Christian teaching and preaching

Being: the graduates of this program will be

1. established in their Christian faith
2. broad-minded and people who promote unity, reception of one another, respecting one another in the body of Christ
3. examples and models to the community of faith in their personal life and ministry

4. active believers in the word of God, the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit
5. teachers, preachers and leaders at different capacity and level in their own local church setting
6. confident in their calling and in the message they present

Doing: The graduates of this program will be able to

1. teach at the degree level
2. function in various leadership positions in their local church or denominational setting
3. contribute articles on different topics to further understanding and contextualization of the gospel in the Ethiopian setting
4. communicate well within and without the church
5. reflect on present issues and find solutions based on Biblical texts, stories and models
6. be prepared to contribute strong Christian leadership in their church or denomination.

Core Values to be taught throughout the program and included in some way in every course

1. Christian character: holiness, humility, stewardship, honesty, keeping commitment, faithfulness, and obedience to the word of God as described in the fruit of the Spirit.
2. The example of Jesus as an ultimate model for all Christian life, ministry and leadership
3. Faith in the word of God and the power and the gifts of the Spirit
4. The authority of the Scripture as the final say for life and ministry
5. Unity, respecting and learning from one another
6. Worship vocally and practically
7. Sacrificial life for the cause of Christ
8. Relevance of each course to today's issues the church facing within and outside.
9. The relevance of the course to the mission of the college
10. Affirming and developing students calling and ministry
11. Developing the students' skills for communicating and presenting the message of the Gospel with clarity.
12. Sound exegetical and interpretation of Scripture

1st year of MA program

Courses are 3 or 4 unit modular courses meeting 48 hours over a 6-day period with pre and post reading assignments. Average reading will be 850 pages per course.

Assignments: **Reading guide assignments** – total of 30-40 pages of typewritten Responses.

Written assignments: requiring some research on the part of the students and focusing on application of the course materials to the students' cultural and theological context. An average of 15 pages for course level research assignments is expected.

Group Work: Each course will have a minimum of 2 group assignments requiring students to work together to do problem solving work in which course materials is applied in a practical way to their vocational work. Group work will be reported to the class by each group using a variety of presentation methods encouraging the development of skills in the use of technology and visual aids.

Application: Every course must connect learning to practical application within the Ethiopian context in some definite way through group work, assignments, research, class discussion and problem solving or other similar educational methodology.

8 courses are required for 1 year of study for a total of 384 clock hours of instruction annually. Learning activities outside of class will require an average of 4 hours of outside work for each one hour in the classroom. Thus learning activities per course and their related time commitments are as follows:

Classroom hours per course:	44 hours
Required Reading (avg. 600 pages per course):	48 hours
Additional Course Reading (250 pages/course):	20 hours
Reading guide (Avg. 35 pages typed) :	70 hours
Research and writing:	80 hours
Total Learning Activities per course:	262 hours

1 year of 8 courses = an average of 2096 learning hours for the 1st year of study.

The 8 courses will include 4 required courses and 4 electives: (See Course Descriptions Below) Course names and subjects may be changed at the college discretion based upon the availability of materials and qualified instructors.

4 required courses include:

1. Research Methods and Academic Writing
2. Historical Review of Theology and Theologians in Africa
3. Theology in Africa: culture, theology and reflection
4. Pauline Theology

2 electives will be offered examples are:

1. History of Christianity in Ethiopia
2. Christian Leadership and Organization
3. New Testament Background: Culture, History and Literature of the New Testament Period

4. Exegesis of Ephesians or another NT Epistle
5. Hermeneutical Issues and Trends
6. Christian Counseling Principles and Methods
7. Old Testament Theology
8. Muslim Outreach and Church Planting
9. Reaching the Unreached in the Ethiopian Context

2nd Year of MA Program

1 year of research and writing producing a thesis of the length of approximately 100 pages. This year of work is divided into 3 modules.

Module 1: Research Proposal Development (approx. 3 months or 500 Learning Hours)

Module 2: Research and outline production (approx. 3 months or 500 Learning Hours)

Module 3: Thesis writing and finalization of research project (approx. 6 months or 900 Learning hours)

Entrance Requirements:

- 1) 1st degree in Theology, Biblical Studies or a related field (min. Grade point-3.0) from a recognized college, university or seminary or a Non-Theology Bachelor Degree from an accredited institution and a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- 2) Christian of more than 2 years with a minimum of 2 years experience in ministry supported by a letter from church or denomination
- 3) 3 Recommendations on SGST Form: Church or denomination; academic; and personal.

Fees

1st year: 330 EB per Credit Hour for the 1st year courses + annual registration fee of 100 EB. Total cost for 1st year of study = 8020 EB.

2nd year: SGST (currently non accredited) 7500 EB and the student will have up to 2 years to complete their thesis without additional tuition or the student may Transfer to South Africa Theological Seminary for an accredited MA at a tuition of \$600 USD for the second year and \$400 USD for subsequent years if needed. (It is recommended that the student complete all thesis work for the SATS program in 1 year to minimize costs). The SATS program is accredited and according to our agreement with SATS our students once accepted into the SATS program will receive credit for their 1st year of study as a transfer credit and then have only a 1 year masters thesis project to complete their MA.

Sample Course Descriptions

- 1. Research Methods and Academic Writing:** This course will provide students with the necessary skills and techniques to carry out a research project. Library based research will be both taught and practiced focusing on a variety of resource materials available from library and online sources including books,

journals, magazines, news sources, websites and online materials. These skills will provide the background needed to do a literature review and to ascertain the current status of research on a topic. Field research will be introduced with a focus upon qualitative methodologies. Each student will carry out a short research project during this course. The Academic Writing portion of this course will provide the nuts and bolts information and practice students need to write an academic thesis. Writing skills, planning and thesis organization including necessary sections or topics will be discussed and practiced. The use of style manuals for the production of bibliographies, footnotes as well as other stylistic features of thesis writing will be covered. By the end of this course the student will have all the practical information needed to produce a quality academic thesis as well as experience in using the necessary tools of this discipline.

2. **Historical Review of Theology and Theologians in Africa:** This course will examine the development of theology in Africa by examining a range of Anglophone theologians from Africa giving emphasis to the post-colonial period. Major theologians such as Bediako and Mbiti will be studied at length along with significant portions of their writings. A range of other theologians from a variety of theological positions and perspectives will be examined and discussed. African theology will be put into global context. Emphasis will be given to both the methods and approaches of the theologians studied but also understanding the unique contributions of African theologians.
3. **Doing Theology in Africa: culture, theology and reflection:** This is a methodological and theoretical course intended to give students opportunity to reflect upon the interaction of theology and culture in the African context. Students will be required to choose a topic of theological significance for their own theological reflection and write a significant paper developing a culturally appropriate response to that theological issue. The interplay between culture, theology and scripture will be the focus of this course.
4. **Pauline Theology:** This course will examine the major themes of Pauline theology using the undisputed letters as the primary basis for study. Methods of study such as outlining and paraphrasing will be taught and practiced by students in this course. Paul's use of scripture and possible connection between his own theological reflection and his Jewish background as well as the Greek cultural context of his ministry will be explored.
5. **History of Christianity in Ethiopia:** This course will examine the history of Christianity in Ethiopia starting from its inception and the development of Orthodox Christianity and continuing through the introduction of Roman Catholic and finally emphasizing Evangelical Christianity during the last century. Materials from several evangelical denominations will be studied and a comprehensive understanding of the current state of Christianity in Ethiopia based upon a strong historical perspective is the goal of this course. Present day developments and issues will be examined and a trajectory plotted by students as a part of their course work.
6. **Christian Leadership and Organization:** Organizational and leadership topics will be examined in this course as related to the Christian context in Ethiopia. Understanding of various organizational metaphors will be considered as to how they reveal or hide important information necessary to good leadership and decision-making. The relationship among organizational structure, mission, methodologies, and assessment strategies will be examined in detail. Special

emphasis will be placed upon assessment strategies and methods and the role of assessment in effective organizations.

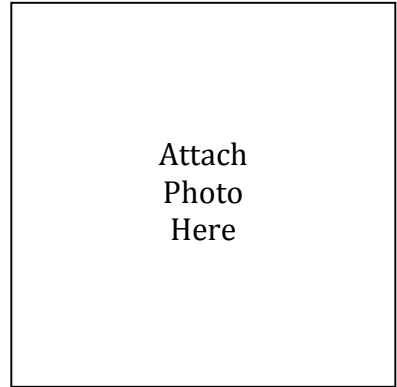
- 7. New Testament Background:** Culture, History and Literature of the New Testament Period: This course will study Greek, Roman and Jewish culture, history and literature of the period from 200 BCE to 100 CE. Apocryphal and pseudoepigraphical writings will be introduced. Students will examine significant aspects of Roman, Greek, and Jewish societies of the period of study as they bear upon the development of the scriptural witness and Christian theology.
- 8. Exegesis of Ephesians or another NT Epistle:** This course is an exegetical course on one New Testament Epistle such as Ephesians or another appropriate book. This course will discuss various methods of exegetical study, study resources and materials, language and textual issues, and the use and evaluation of commentaries, journals and other academic writings in reaching an exegetical judgment. This course will require the writing of a formal exegetical paper.
- 9. Hermeneutical Issues and Trends:** This course assumes the student has already completed an undergraduate course in hermeneutics. The student will examine various issues related to hermeneutics such as author based, text based or reader based approaches; the relationship of narrative structure to hermeneutics; and the affect of culture on the hermeneutical process both in the production of scripture and the interpretive moment. These issues will be examined in the process of performing interpretive tasks as well as making application to the Ethiopian context. This course will require the writing of a significant paper interpreting an approved passage or examining a significant hermeneutical issue.
- 10. Old Testament Theology:** This course will examine Old Testament theological themes and sources. A variety of approaches to Old Testament studies will be surveyed. Specific theological issues will be utilized to exemplify the use of the Old Testament in developing theology for the church the present day Ethiopian context.
- 11. Muslim Outreach and Church Planting:** This course is in the area of missions and evangelism. Students will examine issues and approaches to Muslim outreach as practiced in Ethiopia today. Issues of contextualization will carefully examined and discussed. Guest speakers working presently in this area will contribute to the course depth and practicality. Islamic doctrine and teaching will be surveyed especially in relationship to issues relating to evangelism and church planting.
- 12. Reaching the Unreached in the Ethiopian Context:** This is a missiology course focused upon unreached ethnic groups of Ethiopia. Methods for reaching oral societies and nomadic people groups will be examined. Storying methods of bible teaching will be examined. The history of evangelism and church planting among these groups in Ethiopia will be considered as to successes and failures. The student will visit an unreached ethnic group in Ethiopia and develop a 5 year ministry plan to reach this group with the gospel.

Shiloh Graduate School of Theology: MA - Theology

Student Application Form

Application Checklist:

- Application Form
- Church/Ministry recommendation
- Academic Recommendation
- Personal Recommendation
- Transcripts: undergraduate (all attended)
- Personal statement
- Photograph



1. Name: _____ Date: _____

2. Contact information:

Mobile phone: _____ Other phone: _____

Address: _____

Undergraduate Degree: _____

Undergraduate Institution: _____

Contact name and phone number: _____

Post Graduate Courses or Programs: _____

Post Graduate Level Awards: _____

Marital Status _____

Local Church: _____ Pastor: _____

Phone: _____

Ministry or position in Christian Service: _____

State in 100 words why you want to Attend SGST and the MA-Theology Program:

Names of References: Give name and phone

Church/Ministry Recommendation: _____

Academic Recommendation: _____

Personal Recommendation: _____

(Personal Recommendation must not be a family member)

Student Signature

Date: _____

For Office Use Only: We have in our file

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Action Taken: _____

Shiloh Graduate School of Theology: MA - Theology

Recommendation Form

Student Name: _____ **Date:** _____

How long have you known this applicant? _____

In what way have you known him/her? _____

Please comment on the Applicant's character and explain:

Please comment on the applicant's academic ability if you can:

Do you recommend this applicant: ___ without reservation; ___ with some reservation;
___ I do not recommend this applicant.

Give comment or explanation here: _____

Other comments or information you feel may be helpful to our decision of admission:

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

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