

### 3. APPLIED THEOLOGY

The department of Applied Theology at BGST focuses on the everyday dimensions of life and learning. It believes that lay theological training needs to integrate biblical scholarship with the texture of everyday living. The sub-disciplines within the department of Applied Theology embrace the inner life of the believer, the work arena, the church context, lifelong learning and being wounded healers. Theories and practices from other disciplines such as philosophy, psychology and sociology are drawn upon and critically interfaced with biblical truths.

Co-ordinator: Dr Ng Peh Cheng

There are five sub-disciplines under the department of Applied Theology:

AT	Pastoral Theology
AT	Speech Communication
MM	Marketplace Ministries
CM	Church Ministries
CO	Counselling

#### 3.1 PASTORAL THEOLOGY

The study of theology lays the necessary foundation for the application of biblical insights to the ministry of the church. The courses in this area are suitable for the training of all who have leadership positions or responsibilities in the church. These courses are also helpful for any who wish to extend spiritual help to others.

##### **AT 102 THE OTHER SIX DAYS: TOWARDS A THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY OF EVERYDAY LIFE**

(3 credits, Prof Paul Stevens)

It is widely recognised that the theological task has yielded to the needs of the professional Christian worker and that spirituality has historically been associated with monastic movements, retreat centres and people not engaged deeply with the normal pressures of life in secular society. This course will address the Biblical emphasis of everyday, vocational holiness, providing both a theological foundation for the ministry of the ordinary Christian and a spiritual motivation. Developing a Christian lifestyle involves much more than being faithful in devotional and church activities. In this course we consider our mentalities, pressures, environments and the Christian patterns of response.

Available for Private Study.

##### **AT 103 MINISTRY AND SPIRITUALITY**

(3 credits, Prof Paul Stevens)

This course addresses the need for integrating personal spirituality, biblical revelation and actual ministry as it is exercised in either workplace in society or church/parachurch. The goal is to develop both understandings and disciplines that will be formational for an authentic Christ-honouring ministry over a lifetime.

Available for Private Study.

- AT 151**            **CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY**  
 (1.5 credits, Dr David Wong)  
 The study of selected key figures in Church history with a view to understanding how they became great spiritual leaders and the conditions in the Church which contributed to their outstanding leadership.
- Available for Private Study.
- AT 152**            **PRAYER: A SURVEY OF ITS TRADITIONS AND PRACTICES**  
 (1.5 credits, Dr David Wong)  
 This course explores prayer as a personal journey as well as a corporate communion of friendship with God. A historical survey will be made of the various traditions of prayer, ranging from the Anglican Prayer Book to extemporaneous prayer. The course aims to give a clearer perspective of prayer and provides an impetus to further growth in prayer.
- Available for Private Study.
- AT 215**            **PREACHING PRACTICUM**  
 (1.5 credits, Rev Edmund Chan)  
 This course is primarily designed to help the students in the practical aspects of sermon delivery. It assumes that the student already has a foundation in Homiletics and is seeking to improve his preaching from a practical point of view. This course is held somewhat like a Preacher's Clinic to help troubleshoot the student's most common problems in his/her preaching.
- AT 224**            **GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC**  
 (1.5 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)  
 This course assists Christians, whether they know music or not, to form a worldview of music. The music examined is not restricted to just Church Music. The emphasis is to show all students that music plays a powerful role in the lives of God's creatures.
- Available for Private Study.
- AT 225**            **CYBERSPACE STRESS, SABBATH AND SERENITY**  
 (1.5 credits, Prof Marva J. Dawn)  
 This course will help students gain a vision for, a biblical foundation under, and practical wisdom about, keeping a weekly Sabbath of ceasing rest, embracing, and feasting. Renewal of Sabbath keeping among Christians will change our lives, renew the Church, and change the world!
- AT 226**            **RETHINKING WORSHIP FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM**  
 (1.5 credits, Prof Marva J. Dawn)  
 This course will discuss the elements of our present postmodern post-Christian culture which made the Church's worship necessary and, at the same time difficult. Students will consider how mistakes, theological fallacies, false gods, and ill-advised directions endanger the worship of the Church and how to avoid them; what it means to be a genuine Christian community to work through issues in the worship wars; what criteria should be used for choosing the best of both new and old elements in worship and how to craft worship which forms God's people for their ministries in the world and which reaches out to neighbours in our culture.

- AT 227**            **A CHRISTIAN VIEW OF THE ART**  
(1.5 credits)  
What is the place of art in the Christian life? We know that poetry and music may be used to praise God. But what about dance, literature, drama, sculpture and the theatre or cinema? Do these have any place in the Christian life? Should not the Christian focus his gaze steadily on "religious things" alone and forget about art and culture? These questions and others are explored in this study.
- AT 252**            **DISCOVERING LEADERSHIP: GIVING YOUR LIFE NEW DIRECTIONS**  
(1.5 credits, Dr David Wong)  
Through the course students will learn from the life histories of ordinary and extraordinary people in Biblical and contemporary history. Students will grasp valuable Biblical principles on developing as a person from a lifetime perspective in which the goal is to be able to say at the end of life, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."  
  
Available for Private Study.
- AT 325/326**        **FIELD EDUCATION**  
(3 credits each, Dr Quek Swee Hwa and Rev Ng Seng Chuan)  
This is a key component in the training of the M Div student taken after completing thirty credits. A student's practical ministry within a church or para-church situation will be carefully monitored over a two-year period. During the second year, reading and writing assignments will be given by the Field Education Director who will work closely with the Pastor or person in charge of the ministry of a student within a particular organization. A portfolio will be kept of the student's involvement to provide useful information later to whomever may be interested in the student's performance and experience. In the case of a full-time student, this will be meaningful to the group which wishes to avail itself of the student's services after graduation.  
  
Required for the M Div.  
These two courses will be marked on a "Pass/Fail" basis with effect from 2004. No grades will be awarded and the GPA will be calculated based on the other 84 credits for the M Div programme.
- AT 361**            **THE CHRISTIAN MIND**  
(3 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa, Dr David Wong & Mr Peter Quek)  
This course recognises the important place of the mind in shaping theological convictions and personal and social values. It seeks to encourage the cultivation of a truly Christian mind – a mind that thinks and does so biblically.  
  
Available for Private Study.
- AT 381**            **APPLIED THEOLOGY SEMINAR** (1.5 credits)  
This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in Applied Theology. The Applied Theology Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar.
- AT 391**            **APPLIED THEOLOGY GUIDED STUDY** (1.5 credits)  
This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Applied Theology. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.

### **3.2 SPEECH COMMUNICATION**

This sub-department recognizes the need for those who are theologically trained to be able to communicate effectively in public speaking, teaching, and in other aspects. Often this is relegated to just one or two courses in a curriculum. The importance we give to this aspect is reflected in the courses in this area.

#### **AT 231 BETTER SPEECH FOR LEADERSHIP AND MINISTRY**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

A person who speaks better or more clearly gets a more favourable reception. This course is designed for anyone who has occasion to speak in public or address a group on a regular basis. The key focus is on phonetics and pronunciation. The course is ideal for worship leaders, Scripture readers, those who lead in prayer or Bible study and those who give announcements or testimonies. Even full-time Christian workers who would like to see improvement in their speech patterns will find the course valuable.

#### **AT 232 COMMUNICATION SKILLS FOR SPEAKERS AND CHURCH LEADERS**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

This is a course designed for those who are called upon often enough to minister the truth or say something helpful. It is not strictly a preaching course, though sermons can be used as speech assignments. The aim is to equip the student with skills for handling a variety of speaking situations often imposed upon the Christian leader. There are two segments: the first consists of lectures on crucial areas of public speaking and the second, the practical application. The focus is very much on the techniques of speech writing, or how to produce speeches that communicate effectively.

#### **AT 233 PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES IN SPEECH AND WORSHIP**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

This course is designed to equip the average worship leader with some understanding of the different components in a traditional service of worship: reading the Scriptures, leading in prayer, choosing hymns, etc. In addition, training will be provided on the various of speech skills, from articulation and phrasing to colour and resonance. Effectively, it aims to prepare the participant to function confidently when called upon in any speaking situation within the context of Christian ministry.

#### **AT 234 SPEECH TECHNIQUES AND SPEECH CLINIC**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

This course is designed with two groups of students in mind: those who want a “crash course” in speech training, and those who are preparing to test their skills by sitting for the London College of Music examinations in speech. There are no obligations to do the external examination, and those who opt to do so will have to discuss with the instructor as to which level to aim for. Each session will be divided into two parts: (a) practice in impromptu speech skills; (b) Speech delivery and evaluation (practice). Participants may bring in their sermons or speeches to be delivered for assessment.

**AT 241**

**MASTERS OF THE PULPIT**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

This course aims to introduce students to the craft of preaching by studying the sermons of some prominent contemporary preachers. The list will include John Stott, William Barclay, E.M. Blaiklock, and Charles Swindoll. It is intended to provide students with models which would appeal to them, and whose work or style they could emulate. This course is based upon the ancient apprenticeship concept, in which a novice is inducted into a particular trade by living with and learning from a master craftsman.

**AT 242**

**THE USE OF PRAYER IN WORSHIP**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

Prayer is a form of speech, and a mode of public speaking: speaking to God on behalf of a group. And it can take two forms as with any oratorical style – extempore and spontaneous, or crafted and scripted. This course is designed to equip those who lead in prayer through studies in spirituality as well as exemplary models of well-crafted prayers. This will include delving into the works of C.S. Lewis, John White, William Barclay, Peter Marshall, and Frank Colquhoun.

**AT 243**

**PREACHING IN THE CHURCH**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

This is a standard course on preaching. The programme will cover the craft of sermon construction, the use of illustrations and other rhetorical devices, and different types of sermons. Special attention will be given to text exposition, or what is commonly termed expository preaching. Assessment will be based on submitted texts of sermons, as well as their actual delivery.

**AT 244**

**APOLOGETIC AND POLEMICAL SPEECHES**

(1.5 credits, Rev Ng Seng Chuan)

Christian public speaking often requires use of the art of persuasion, which is the focus of this course. Potential for the use of this skill ranges from delivering evangelistic messages to giving fund-raising speeches. In addition, the Christian leader is often required to speak up on controversial issues, and the skill lies in being able to deliver those speeches with both conviction and sensitivity. To equip course participants towards the goal of being effective speakers, the principles of general speech training will also be covered.

### **3.3 MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES**

This is an exciting part of our training programme. It is ambitious but we must make a start. We want to equip laity to reflect Christian values in their various God-given professions. We wish to help them work out these values into a meaningful philosophy of ministry. Much work remains to be done in this area in the theological schools and we are happy to be part of that community working out Christian and biblical principles which can be applied to the marketplace.

**MM 101**

**VOCATION, WORK AND MINISTRY**

(3 credits, Prof Paul Stevens)

This course addresses the need for vocational counselling in the broadest biblical sense, including understanding of giftedness and the theology of vocation, work and ministry; receiving help in moving towards a suitable occupational expression; and developing spiritual disciplines appropriate for those wanting to find more satisfying and fruitful service.

Required for the MCS and M Div.  
Available for Private Study.

**MM 251**

**LIBERATING THE LAITY**

(1.5 credits, Prof Paul Stevens)

This course explores the theology and practice of releasing/empowering ordinary Christians for full-time service to God both in societal vocations and in church-based service. Pastors will learn how to lead a church to facilitate every-member ministry. Those intending bi-vocational/tentmaking expressions of Christian service will gain a theology and spirituality needed for living an integrated life to God's glory. Those whose primary expression of Christian service relates to their daily work in the world will gain a theology and practical methodology to serve God fully in the dispersed life of the people of God.

Available for Private Study.

**MM 252**

**DOING GOD'S BUSINESS: TOWARDS A THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

(1.5 credits, Prof Paul Stevens)

Business and professional activity often neglect the soul; this leads to a divided life. Making the Monday connection is especially difficult in an environment of performance and success. This integrative course considers the leader as a whole person and business as a ministry. Issues of executive life and the mission of the Christian professional will be explored in a biblical and practical way. Expected outcomes include: new working priorities, a Christian worldview and integration of mind, heart and action.

**MM 381**

**MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES SEMINAR**

(1.5 credits)

This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in Marketplace Ministries. The Marketplace Ministries Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar.

Prerequisites: MM 101 & 102

**MM 391**

**MARKETPLACE MINISTRIES GUIDED STUDY**

(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Marketplace Ministries. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.

### **3.4 CHURCH MINISTRIES**

It may be asked why laity training would have this sub-department? We are glad at BGST to laity who may eventually choose to work full-time in the church. We also have pastors who come to us for upgrading and these need to have the opportunities to reflect on their pastoral work. In both cases we have the challenge of promoting a laity training which recognizes the importance and value of working with clergy as well as training of clergy who recognize the need to incorporate the laity meaningfully and strategically into the ministry of the church. In this way we are nearer to reaching the understanding that whether clergy or laity, we are together "the whole people of God."

- CM 101            A PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**  
 (3 credits, Dr Quek Swee Hwa)  
 An introduction to the various aspects of the pastoral ministry to encourage the acquisition and development of skills relevant to the pastoral ministry. There will be two groups of students. The first will be those who either intend to enter the professional pastoral ministry or who may be open to a call by God in that direction. The second will be those who do not have a call to the pastoral ministry but who wish to explore the place of lay ministries within the church. The distinctiveness of this course is the way in which both groups are urged to interact with each other in crafting a philosophy of church ministry. Field trips to churches, discussions with pastors and key lay leaders will be an important part of this course.
- Required for the M Div.  
 Available for Private Study.
- CM 102            HOMILETICS**  
 (3 credits, Rev Edmund Chan)  
 One of the profoundest needs in the Church today is the return to biblical preaching. As John Stott aptly puts it: *"Preaching is indispensable to Christianity. Without preaching a necessary part of its authenticity has been lost. For Christianity is, in its very essence, a religion of the Word of God"*. Preaching is an art and a science. Homiletics is the study of preaching as an art and a science. As a science, there are skills and techniques to be mastered. As an art, there is a God-empowered aspect to preaching that is more caught than taught. Because of this duality, this course seeks to be both instructive and inspirational.
- CM 211            CLEARING THE FOG FROM THE PULPIT TO THE PEW: BIBLICAL PREACHING**  
 (1.5 credits, Dr Alvin Low)  
 This course will provide instruction in the principles and practice of expository preaching with emphasis on the certainty and clarity of the purpose, central idea, structure, and proclamation of the sermon for a Christ-transforming response.
- Available for Private Study.
- CM 381            CHURCH MINISTRIES SEMINAR**  
 (1.5 credits)  
 This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in Church Ministries. The Church Ministries Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar.  
 Prerequisite: CM 101.
- CM 391            CHURCH MINISTRIES GUIDED STUDY**  
 (1.5 credits)  
 This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Church Ministries. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.

### **3.5 COUNSELLING**

The desire to help others comes naturally to many who seek training. Our focus on laity training recognizes the need for those who wish to acquire both an understanding of counselling and basic skills needed to be effective in this area.

**CO 101 THE COUNSELLOR AS A PERSON: SELF-AWARENESS AND MATURITY IN CHRIST**

(3 credits, Mr Yam Keng Mun)

This course will explore issues of self identity, feelings, thoughts and behaviour of the counselor, personal growth and maturity in Christ. Practicum is a major portion of this module.

Required for the M Div. This is also an entry-level course.  
Available for Private Study.

**CO 102 CARING THROUGH COUNSELLING**

(3 credits, seminar)

This course is based on thirteen plenary sessions held at the Christian Counselling Conference in Asia (23-26 August 1995). The themes include: the biblical basis of Christian counselling; managing the “crazy” workplace; understanding people; personal growth; finding God; the foundational for Christian wholeness; building self-esteem; coping with stress in marriage; ministering to hurting families; dealing with discouragement; the church and the future; and the church as a healing community.

Available for Private Study.

**CO 103 SKILLS FOR LAY COUNSELLING I**

(3 credits, Dr Tan Siang Yang)

This course will provide an overview of a biblical approach to lay counselling and will cover a model developed by the course instructor for training and using lay Christian counsellors in the church. Other lay training models and programmes in Christian counselling and relevant literature on lay pastoral care in general will be reviewed. Lay Christian counselling for specific problem areas like anxiety, depression, anger, marital and family difficulties and spiritual issues, will also be dealt with.

Required for the M Div.  
Available for Private Study.

**CO 210 COUNSELLOR DEVELOPMENT: PERSONAL FRAMEWORK FOR BIBLICAL COUNSELLING**

(3 credits, Mr Yam Keng Mun)

This course focuses on the relationship between biblical truth and issues common to counselling, such as the nature of our call to counsel one another as Christians, offering counsel to non-believers and presenting the Gospel in the context of a counselling relationship. Students will also explore the process of change, use of Scriptures, the spiritual armour of God and the role of the Holy Spirit in counselling. Also an important aspect of this module is the issue of ethics in counselling which includes confidentiality, dealing with difficult decisions and conflicts in values. Counselling laboratory is a major portion of this module.

- CO 213 COUNSELLOR’S SKILLS: DEVELOPING MICRO-SKILLS IN COUNSELLING**  
(3 credits, Mr Yam Keng Mun & Mr Song Cheng Hock)  
This course emphasises micro skills required during the different aspects of counselling relationships. Skills include using Larry Crabb’s Counselling Model, the 5-stage interview structure and six influencing skills and strategies. Practicum is a major portion of this module.
- CO 221 EFFECTIVE LISTENING SKILLS: ARE YOU LISTENING?**  
(1.5 credits, Mrs Elizabeth Goldsmith)  
Most Christians are expected at some time or another to stand alongside those who are facing problems, feeling bewildered or unable to cope with life. One of the greatest gifts we can give a person in this situation is to listen to them. Linked with this comes the importance of learning to listen to oneself, to all that is going on in one’s own personality. As we understand our own selves better, so we can help others more effectively. At the same time we need to learn to listen to God to know what he wishes to say to us.
- CO 231 COUNSELLING SKILLS: DEALING WITH CRISIS SITUATIONS**  
(1.5 credits, Mr Yam Keng Mun)  
This course is designed to assist students to examine common community emergencies and crises from birth to death. Useful for pastors, ministry workers, lay counselors and those who may be assigned responsibilities in emergencies and crisis situations, students will be familiarized with the common types of crises including health-related, people, life-cycle and spiritual crises. Attention is given to programmatic and therapeutic responses to crisis. Incorporated are also counselling techniques for crisis intervention.
- CO 232 COUNSELLING SKILLS: DEALING WITH STRESS AND FATIGUE**  
(1.5 credits, Mr Song Cheng Hock)  
From a review of basic concepts of stress, students will explore the psychophysiology of stress and its relationship to illness and disease. Some time will also be allotted to helping those serving in the pastorate, other forms of ministries and missions, as well as other work environments, to explore stress that is pertinent to them. As part of counselling skills training, students will practice interviewing techniques towards providing a range of interventions to assist the stressed individual to better cope with stress through counselling laboratories.
- CO 233 COUNSELLING SKILLS: PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING**  
(Mr Song Cheng Hock, 1.5 credits)  
Every wedding starts on a promising note. It begins with a pledge of mutual love, fidelity and trust. The bond seems inseparable, “till death do us part.” Periodically, the marriage is tested through crisis, conflict, disagreement and the daily stresses of living. Lay counsellors and pastors can help equip couples with skills, information and tools to anticipate and overcome difficulties to build strong, committed, fulfilling and lasting relationships through a systematic pre-marital counselling programme. Premarital counselling allows a couple to celebrate their strengths and differences, to learn about their God-assigned roles and responsibilities, to discover their gifts and potential ministry as a partnership, and to gain a godly perspective of their life-long journey.  
The objective of this course is to equip lay counsellors and pastors with the tools and information necessary to provide couples anticipating marriage with appropriate and adequate premarital preparation.

- CO 234**            **COUNSELLING SKILLS: DEALING WITH EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS**  
 (Mr Yam Keng Mun, 1.5credits)  
 Many feel controlled by their emotions. Others feel helpless in the face of mood changes. Emotions may turn problematic when we ignore them, or do not recognize their contribution to the richness in our lives. In addition to appreciating the role of emotions in our lives, and the relationship between emotional and spiritual problems, students are equipped with skills to help others deal with some common emotional problems such as anxiety, depression, anger and fear from a biblical perspective.
- ECF 515/  
CO 235**            **COUNSELLING SKILLS: WORKING WITH CHILDREN**  
 (Mr Yam Keng Mun, 1.5 credits)  
 The hands-on module provides students specific skills for helping children with everyday stress and to deal better with academic, interpersonal, and physical demands in the classroom and at home. Students will explore biblical perspectives about discipline and training children in spiritual matters. Recognition of common childhood disorders and child interviewing strategies will be provided as part of the module's counselling laboratory.
- ECF 516/  
CO 236**            **COUNSELLING SKILLS: WORKING WITH ADOLESCENTS**  
 (1.5 credits, Mrs Katherine Yip)  
 The skills and understanding required in the counselling of adolescents are different from those for children and adults. This course will be useful to parents, youth-workers and those who have an interest in counselling or working with adolescents. A hands-on approach will be adopted in this course. The in-class learning exercises will form an integral component of this module which seeks to investigate the current profile of youth in Singapore, their needs, and the specific skills required for working with youth. A panel of Christian professionals will be addressing pertinent issues raised in this course in the final session.
- CO 251**            **SKILLS FOR LAY COUNSELLING II**  
 (3 credits, Dr Tan Siang Yang)  
 The topics covered in this Part II of the course on lay counselling are based on Gary Collins' textbook, *Christian Counselling* (Word, 1988) and include the following: Singleness, choosing a marriage partner, premarital counselling, marital problems, pregnancy issues, family problems, divorce and remarriage, child-rearing and parental guidance, adolescence, young adulthood, middle age and later years.
- Available for Private Study.
- CO 253**            **SKILLS FOR LAY COUNSELLING III**  
 (3 credits, Dr Tan Siang Yang)  
 This third module of Skills in Lay Counselling focuses on sex and interpersonal issues. Other issues include areas like dependency counselling and counselling the counsellor.
- Available for Private Study.
- CO 354**            **TRAINING LAY COUNSELLORS**  
 (1.5 credits, Dr Tan Siang Yang)  
 The course is designed for training and using lay Christian counsellors in the church. There will be a review of other lay training models and programmes in Christian counselling and relevant literature on lay pastoral care. Topics covered

include selection, training, supervision and evaluation of lay counsellors; and legal and ethical issues in lay counselling.

Available for Private Study.

**CO 381 COUNSELLING SEMINAR (1.5 credits)**

This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in Counselling. The Counselling Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar.

**CO 391 COUNSELLING GUIDED STUDY (1.5 credits)**

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Counselling. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.