



Newman Theological College

15611 MARK MESSIER TRAIL NW, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, CANADA T6V 1H3
PHONE: (780) 447-2993 • FAX: (780) 447-2685 • TOLL FREE: (800) 386-7231
www.newman.edu

Updated August 6, 2008

July 28, 2008

Students in the BTh and DipTS programs:

As you are by now aware, the college has decided to phase out the Bachelor of Theology and the Diploma in Theological Studies programs. I can now share with you what this phase out will look like.

The phase out will take place over the next three years. During Year 1 and Year 2, courses will be available both at the college and on the Internet. Even students studying full time at the college will be required to take up to two courses per semester via the Internet. In Year 3, courses will only be available via the Internet. After this time, courses in these programs will only be available as reading courses. Newman Theological College can continue to grant the degrees of BTh and DipTS as part of its charter. The phase out of these programs does not prevent the college from awarding these degrees when students have met the requirements for those degrees.

During the phase out, there will be further changes to program requirements. First, the college is committed to offering only the core courses in these programs during the phase out. Second, the interpretation of elective will be expanded. We will accept undergraduate courses from recognized colleges and universities to meet the elective component of your degree. This is in keeping with former practice at the college and conforms to the **Transfer Credit** regulation on p. 17 of the 2008-09 Catalogue. We would like these to be in the areas of religious studies, theology or scripture, but we will consider courses in English, sociology, psychology etc. The Registrar is your contact for what is acceptable. At this time we will also suspend the 6 credit (2 course) requirement in philosophy. Again, philosophy courses will be accepted as electives, but are no longer required. For example, Athabasca University offers philosophy courses by distance education that you can take for these degrees. Students on campus may be able to take elective courses in scripture or theology at the college. Hopefully, you will be able to find elective courses in your area at local colleges and/or universities. Students will have seven years to complete all the requirements for their degree, but **must be finished** by the Summer of 2015.

The following chart shows when courses will be offered and whether that course is on campus or by distance education. All core courses will be offered by distance education.



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Courses displayed by Semester/Year (all courses end in 2010-11)

Course/Year	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
SCR 155	Fall Internet		
SYT 110	Fall Internet		
SYT 108	Fall On-campus		
SYT 188	Fall On-campus		
FND 201**	Winter Internet		
MPS 130	Winter Internet		
SYT 185	Winter On-campus		
SCR 255	Winter On-campus		
SYT 214**	Intersession 2009 Internet		
MPS 120		Fall Internet	
MPS 222**		Fall Internet	
SCR 153		Fall On-campus	
SYT 184		Fall On-campus	
FND 100		Winter Internet	
MPS 170**		Winter Internet	
SYT 187		Winter On-campus	
SYT 214		Winter On-campus	
SYT 108* (8)		Intersession 2010 Internet	
SYT 184* (3)			Fall Internet or reading course
SYT 187* (4)			Fall Internet or reading course
SCR 153* (7)			Winter Internet or reading course
SYT 188* (5)			Winter Internet or reading course
SCR 150			Will be offered if needed

Notes

- ** These courses are core for the BTh but not the DipTS. However, these core BTh courses could be taken by a DipTS student as electives.
- SYT 185 offered in Intersession 2008 Internet. Will not be scheduled. Possible reading course.
- SCR 255 will not be scheduled. Only 2 distance students need this reading course.
- SCR 150 last offered Fall 2006. This course may be required for a few distance students, and we will arrange reading courses.
- *Brackets () indicate the number of distance students requiring that course.



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This schedule is set for the 2008-09 school year, but it might be modified for 2009-10. You will be kept informed of the changes. There may also be cases where a student requires only one course to graduate, and special arrangements for this type of situation can be made with the Registrar.

I realize that this schedule will cause concern for two reasons. First, it could be too much for a student to complete each year with your commitments to family and work. This schedule is a balance between the decision to end the program now and what is a reasonable phase out period. Rest assured that what courses still remain for your program after this phase out period will be offered as reading courses up until the summer of 2015. I need to mention as well that courses that are intended to be Internet courses will become reading courses if numbers are not sufficient for a course.

Second, the cost of courses in one year might be prohibitive. The college is open to a repayment plan for a third, fourth or fifth course taken in one school year (Sept – Aug). In other words, you'll be asked to pay for the first two courses that you take in a year, and you can arrange a repayment plan for courses in excess of two. **Again the seven year timeline applies. Courses must be paid for by the end of the summer of 2015.** During this time, bursaries for undergraduate studies will remain in place.

This is a lot of information to digest. One possibility that you might like to consider is taking the Diploma in Theological Studies rather than the Bachelor of Theology. The BTh is required if you plan further studies in theology, but if you are taking this program for your own personal formation in the faith, then the DipTS may suit your needs quite well. In any case, I'm available to answer your questions. I realize that this is not how you saw yourself completing these programs, but I want to assure you that within these guidelines, the college is committed to seeing you through your program.

Yours truly,

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