

UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY
Course Descriptions
January 2018 (11.28.17)

BIB 261 IG Genesis and Supersessionism – (Jan. 2-6, 2018)

The book of Genesis is a foundational document for both Jews and Christians, and significant aspects of Jewish and Christian identity are anchored in this book as well. This course examines some exegetical roots of a pervasive and particularly problematic aspect of Christian theology, namely, its supersessionistic stance vis-à-vis Judaism; in so doing, students are better prepared to engage in contemporary Jewish/Christian dialogue. *[Prerequisite: The Story of Israel]*

Brooks Schramm – Gettysburg campus

BIB 351 IG Experiencing and Performing the Gospel According to Mark – (Jan. 22-26, 2018)

This class provides a survey and advanced study of the Gospel of Mark. Students will learn and employ a variety of interpretive approaches, especially those that highlight its character as story and narrative engaging the reader. A special focus is on the 'performance' of the gospel in ancient and modern media. *[Prerequisite: The Story of Jesus and the Early Church or by permission of instructor]*

Mark Vitalis Hoffman - Gettysburg campus

HTH 300 IP American Religious History – (Jan. 8-12, 2018)

We will study the history and ecology of religions in the United States. Our primary goal will be to enrich our understanding of the patterns of creed (language and belief), code (morality), cultus (ritual), course (founders and pivotal events), community (ethnicity and institutional structure), and the uncanny (experiences of 'the Sacred') in diverse streams of religious tradition present in contemporary America. A related goal will be to foster sympathetic appreciation of religious diversity, in order to facilitate the practice of ministry in a pluralistic setting, and to avoid perpetuation or dissemination of religious bigotry and violence. *[Fulfills History 3 in former LTSP curriculum]*

Jon Pahl – Philadelphia campus

~~HTH 750 IP Theologies of Religions – (Jan. 2-6, 2018)~~

~~This graduate intensive is an exploration of the place of world's religions in one's theology in the context of religious pluralism in society. After an introduction to contemporary situation of religious pluralism in North America and the importance of interreligious dialogue, the seminar will examine some prominent Christian theological responses to religious plurality. A wide range of theological and pastoral issues in relation to other religious faiths will also receive~~

~~attention. As an intensive course, students are required to fulfill assigned readings prior to the intensive week and must be prepared to introduce portions of the readings for class discussion. Students in first professional degree programs (MDiv, MAML, MA) need permission from the instructor to register.~~

~~Paul Rajashekar — Philadelphia campus~~

PRA 100 IG Worshipping Community – (Jan. 22-26, 2018)

This course aims to equip leaders to prepare worship within and with a community, drawing on the richness of the church's traditions and of the community's giftedness and context. Bringing together fruits of biblical study, church history, ecumenical theological consideration (especially of the sacraments), and pastoral care, it also draws on disciplines ranging from anthropology to neuropsychology. Students will both prepare corporate worship appropriate to their own tradition, and practice leading it.

Mark Oldenburg – Gettysburg campus

PRA 160 IG Music in the Life of the Church – (Jan. 8-12, 2018)

This course is an initial study of Christian ritual music through the ages, with attention to the practice of ritual music today. Students will engage with the theology and practice of music in the church, especially in the life of local Christian assemblies. Training or experience in music is not required. *[Prerequisite: Worshipping Community or Worshipping Community in the African American Tradition]; [Fulfills Music in the Parish in former LTSG curriculum]*

Michael E. Krentz – Gettysburg campus

~~PRA 270 IG Faith, Finances & Proclamation – (Jan. 16-20, 2018)~~

~~In this class, students explore the joy of preaching around the issue of stewardship in a congregational setting. Taking a look at the biblical basis and possible interpretations of faithful giving and how that translates into proclamation is the focus of this course, which is intended to be a practical guide for parish pastors and those intending to enter congregational ministries.~~

~~*[Prerequisites: Preaching the Gospel and Worshipping Community]*~~

~~Angela Zimmann — Gettysburg campus~~

PRA 752 IP STM/DMIN: Many Reformations: A Paradigm Shift Every 400 Years – (Jan. 16-20)

This course will examine the timeline of Christian history with particular emphasis on events and personalities that invoked major changes in the church about every four hundred years. At the end, we will discuss how learnings can be applied to the current-day church, with a particular emphasis on how promoting God's justice and forming Christians for the work of transforming the world.

Students may focus their work on liturgy, scriptural interpretation, constructive theology, polity, ethics, history, or any other field on the theological spectrum. (Liturgy is the instructor's specialty.)

Modules: the Early Church, Constantine, Charlemagne & Alcuin, the Fourth Lateran Council, the Protestant Reformation, the Liturgical Movement (and/or the Ecumenical Movement), and Application Today.

This is a seminar at the advanced-degree level, requiring full and active participation by all. We will collaborate on a final syllabus, and share our work during the intensive and subsequently.
J. Barrie Bates

PRA 757 IP Chaplaincy in Diverse Contexts: From Trinity and Trauma, to Resilience and Resurrection – (Jan. 8-12, 2018)

The role of the chaplain in diverse contexts, with particular emphasis on the forms of traumatic stress that chaplains deal with in each setting. The dimensions of formation as a chaplain in each context will be explored with reference to pastoral identity, responsibility, authority, collegiality, and accountability. A case base approach to pastoral assessment and intervention will be examined, exploring the movement from presence to outcome oriented competencies. Particular focus on trauma in relation to pastoral theology and care will be attended to, with consequent attention to PTSD, moral injury, vicarious traumatization, compassion fatigue, and burnout. Resilience will be examined as it relates to particular chaplaincy contexts.

Students in first professional degree programs (MDiv, MAML, MA) need permission from the instructor to register.

Storm Swain – Philadelphia campus

GSE 150 TS John's Island Service Travel Seminar – (Jan. 22-26)

Leadership. Knowledge. Experience. The John's Island Trip is centered in a student organized work trip to John's Island, South Carolina. In preparation for the trip students taking this course will meet six times during January term to learn the deep history of the Sea Islands, to study the Gullah culture of the region, to investigate the economic and social forces that are reshaping the islands, and to plumb the depths of the religious life of the people of the islands. Learning will continue during the trip itself, in conversation with neighbors on the islands and in presentations by local resources. The deepest learning will occur through working with those served by the trip, by immersion in their culture. Trip will take place during final week in January; students will meet as class at least six times (probably evenings) prior to trip.

Robert Robinson – off campus

Note: STM/DMin students may also register for first-professional degree, non-introductory classes. Faculty will provide an appropriate STM/DMin syllabus for the class upon request.