

UNITED LUTHERAN SEMINARY SPRING 2018

2.8.18

Explanation of Course Numbers

Theological Discipline Prefix:

BIB Biblical Studies HTH Church History and Theology

PRA Praxis DEN Denominational Courses

Course Numbers:

1xx First theological degree course normally designed as introductory course

2xx First theological degree course normally designed as following an introductory course

3xx First theological degree course normally designed as upper-level course

7xx Advanced degree course normally designed for STM and/or DMin

Section:

OL Fully online course; no face-to-face meetings on either campus

R Residential, face-to-face meetings during the semester on Gettysburg campus (**RG**) or on Philadelphia campus (**RP**)

H Hybrid, partially online, partially face-to-face meetings on Gettysburg campus (**HG**) or on Philadelphia campus (**HP**)

SY Synchronous, face-to-face meetings during the semester on both Gettysburg campus and Philadelphia campus; faculty will travel between locations from week to week

I Intensive face-to-face meetings over a limited time on Gettysburg campus (**IG**) or on Philadelphia campus (**IP**)

BIB 101 OL Reading and Telling the Story

This course will provide an overarching survey of the Bible to equip students to understand the critical perspectives for reading the biblical texts. Learning and applying historical critical methods while also studying geographical, historical, and sociological realities of the biblical world, students will see how God's work in creation came to fulfillment in Jesus and informs the lives of Christians today. The course will benefit both readers of the text and visitors to the biblical lands. It will increase understanding both of the biblical world and of the realities in those lands today and prepare leaders faithfully to share the biblical witness in congregations today. *[Prerequisite for MDiv students: The Language of the Early Church and the Church Today] [Fulfills Reading and Telling the Story requirement]*

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

BIB 200 RG & RP Story of Jesus and the Early Church

As the authoritative resource for understanding the story of Jesus and the early church and as basis of the church's faith, confession, and witness, a study of the New Testament is essential. In this course, students will be prepared to listen to God's Word in personal study and in community and apply insights gained as leaders in church and world through worship, education, service, and encouragement. Understanding the New Testament includes engaging in critical reading and reflection on these texts as well as studying their social, literary, cultural, historical, source, theological, and textual dynamics. In this course, students will be introduced to the basic aspects of exegeting texts in their original language as foundational work for preaching, teaching, and integrating the texts for the life of faith and of the church. *[Prerequisite: Reading and Telling the Story] [Fulfills Story of Jesus and the Early Church requirement]*

Jennifer McNeel (Gettysburg)

Allison deForest (Philadelphia)

BIB 201 OL Story of Israel

This course is designed as a critical introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible in general and as a survey of the structure, contents, and major theological themes of the 'Primary History' (the books of Genesis through Kings). The course is 'critical' in the sense that its central intention is to orient students to and engage students in the responsible study of the Old Testament / Hebrew Bible in the contemporary world. *[Prerequisite: Reading and Telling the Story] [Fulfills Story of Israel requirement]*
Robert Robinson

BIB 250 SY Prophets Seminar: Isaiah

This seminar-format course enables students to focus on one of the major prophetic books in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, each of which is offered on a rotating basis. Participation in the seminar enables students to gain understanding of and appreciation for a specific prophetic book and to hone their exegetical skills. *[Prerequisite: The Story of Israel]. [Fulfills OT 2 for former LTSP curriculum; Fulfills Bible at the Crossroads requirement or Bible elective]*

Brooks Schramm

BIB 255 RP "These are Written" – Explorations in the Gospel of John

The Fourth Gospel will be explored in depth using a variety of critical methods such as historical critical, literary, and performance. The course will focus on how the reader encounters Jesus through the Gospel of John and how the Gospel of John draws on the story of the Exodus. The course is designed for students with and without Greek. Students will strengthen their exegetical skills and deepen their understanding of how and why the books of the New Testament may have been written. *[Prerequisite: The Story of Jesus and the Early Church][Fulfills Bible at the Crossroads or Bible elective]*

Allison deForest

BIB 271 OL Epistles & Revelation

This Course surveys the New Testament Epistles and the book of Revelation, examining the historical, theological and cultural context and significance of each book. To this end the course is divided in two sections. First section will engage in exegetical study of significant and key passages by exploring the major issues pertinent to the context of individual books. And the second section will engage in critical discussion of the relevance of specific themes and passages in light of current cultural and ecclesiastical challenges and settings. *[Fulfills Bible at the Crossroads or Bible elective]*

Surekha Nelavala

BIB 352 RG To Speak in Parables: Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

The parables of Jesus are among the best known memories of Jesus. The parables of Jesus are also among the most controversial aspects of our understanding of Jesus' message. This course will provide a survey of the interpretation of parables, but the main focus will be on the study of specific parables of Jesus with attention to how they are preached, taught, or used as the basis for theological reflection. *[Prerequisite: The Story of Jesus and the Early Church][Fulfills Bible at the Crossroads or Bible elective]*

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

HTH 150 HP Nolde Seminar in Human Rights

The course operates as a seminar examining theology and human rights. The seminar includes an extended visit to the United Nations. The seminar is supported by an endowment from the family of Nancy Nolde. *[Prerequisite: Creation, Sin, and New Creation] [Fulfills Public Theology course for MAML, MA, and MAPL students and Seminar in Public Theology for former LTSP curriculum][Free elective]*

John Hoffmeyer

HTH 151 RP African American Church History

A review of the historical development and current state of the African American Church. Through a close reading of texts of the movement and a review of the social context within which it arose, seminar participants will be invited to a full engagement with this ecclesial tradition. It will be our purpose to identify not only the discrete contours of the African American Christian movement but also to identify its place in the larger sweep of Christian history in the United States. *[Fulfills History 2 in former LTSP curriculum] [Fulfills Denomination requirement in place of Lutheran Foundations]*

Charles Howard

HTH 159 OL Globalizing Christianity: Faith & Film

According to some observers, film and media is religion in America; seeing is believing. Many people spend much more time engaged with media than with a local congregation or agency. At the least, films interact with faith traditions to represent, expose, critique, extol, and shape them. In this course, we will study the interactions between movies and television and religions in the United States, from the early twentieth-century to the present, bringing to bear tools from the disciplines of cultural studies, history, and theology, among others, with a focus on engaging media (especially film and television) in congregational ministry and public theology. Viewing of 5-7 films will be accompanied by close readings and discussions of each of them, in conjunction with key secondary sources and reviews. *[Fulfills History 3 in former LTSP curriculum; Fulfills Public Theology course for MAML, MA, and MAPL students and Seminar in Public Theology for former LTSP curriculum] [Fulfills Globalizing Christianity requirement]*

Jon Pahl

HTH 160 SY History of Lutheranism

United Lutheran Seminary is the oldest Lutheran seminary in the Western Hemisphere. It has been a leader in experiencing, benefitting from, and responding to exploration, colonialization, slavery, war, missionary zeal, and missionary regret. Today, after many language transitions and merger processes, Lutherans no longer rely on ethnic ties to gain a greater witness, but through ecumenical relationships, and world partnerships have tried every form of persuasion to adapt to new communities. Sometimes this works, sometimes not. Leaders hope for more inclusion; community memory and tradition become difficult barriers to overcome. But it can be done. This course explores how the many settlers and immigrant communities assimilated into the American scene, and how they time and again sought to broaden their appeal to meet their own vision of becoming a more inclusive church. By examining this history students will learn where the minefields are in scoping out the American landscape and what has been and what is promising about Lutheranism's witness in our time. *[Free elective]*

Maria Erling

HTH 201 SY Globalizing Christianity

Students learn to identify, draw upon, and creatively apply, with integrity, insights coming from the faith of Christian communities all over the world in public ministries in the church and beyond, amidst the political, economic, cultural, and religious contexts today. Participants will gain competence to understand, interrogate, learn from, and apply insights emerging from an understanding of the complex ways in which Christianity, during the modern period, crossed cultural boundaries and spread ‘to the ends of the earth’ and the impact that this has and continues to have on the peoples who inhabit these geographical areas, as well as the fact that because of migration, people from ‘the ends of the earth’ are at home here in North America in communities where we live, study, work, and worship. *[Prerequisite: Dynamic Faith of the Church] [Fulfills Globalizing Christianity requirement]*

Maria Erling

HTH 202 RP The Saints’ Guide to Happiness

No saint ever composed a guide to happiness. In fact many of them warned against the temptation to reduce the gospel to a system of techniques or “easy steps.” Yet this course takes note of the fact that those women and men whom the church has named “saints” were individuals who embodied the deepest wisdom of Christianity. In general they were renowned for their balance and good humor, their compassion and generosity, their humility and gratitude, their spirit of peace and freedom in the face of obstacles, and their ability to find joy in all things. In the end they were not named saints because of the way they died, or because of their visions or miraculous deeds, but because of their extraordinary capacity for love and goodness, which reminded others of the love of God. This course looks to these venerable models of the Christian life, both ancient and modern, to help ministerial candidates develop a morally integrated Christian spirituality and the habit of prayer. *[Fulfills Spiritual Formation requirement]*

John Lergen

HTH 210 IG The Gospel and Freedom: Mission and the Empowerment of the Marginalized

How is mission understood and practiced today? Given the fact that the prevailing paradigm of missio Dei has been interrogated from various angles, how do we recover the multifaceted nature of mission in terms of its potential for transformation and liberation, especially in contexts of pronounced social hierarchies? This course will seek to problematize certain aspects of the mission enterprise and also uplift those dimensions that have led to faithful commitment on the part of marginalized communities who have been empowered and dignified before God and human beings by their acknowledged status as “God’s people.” *[Prerequisites: As this is a signature history/theology course, normally students would take this course after they have successfully passed their other history/theology course requirements; [minimum prerequisites are Dynamic Faith of the Church and Creation, Sin, and New Creation.] [Fulfills Theological Thematics in former LTSG curriculum] [Fulfills The Gospel and Freedom requirement]*

Jayakiran Sebastian

HTH 251 SY Doing Theology in a Religiously and Culturally Diverse World: Christology

The seminar is an exploration of the meaning and significance of Jesus Christ from divergent cultural and contextual perspectives. Beginning with an analysis of how Christ has been understood in American religious history, the course will explore and expose students to appropriations of Christ in diverse cultural, social and inter-religious settings. Some attention will be paid to Biblical and classical Christological formulations and their relevance for today in light of Asian, Black, Feminist, and Latin American theologies. The primary objective is to assist students to articulate a relevant and intelligible Christology in the context of their ministry. *[Prerequisite: Creation, Sin, and New Creation]. [Fulfills Theological Thematics in former LTSG curriculum and Theology 2 in former LTSP curriculum] [Fulfills Doing Theology requirement]*

Paul Rajashekar

HTH 255 RG The Reformation

This course is intended to help students understand the origins of today's divided and global Christian context, and to work toward mutual understanding, cooperation, and unity. While serving as an introduction to the Reformation, the course equips students with a comparative knowledge of the diverse theologies, histories, and practices of the major traditions that emerged in the sixteenth century: Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Anabaptist, and Roman Catholic. Students will encounter and learn to discuss the Reformation era as a moment when, among other things, the meaning of the Christian faith for social life was re-thought. We will investigate, e.g., women's experiences and participation in reform; Christians' changing relationship to and understanding of Jews and Muslims; and varied responses to the ideal of a Christian social order. *[Prerequisite: Dynamic Faith of the Church]. [Fulfills History 2 in former LTSP curriculum] [Free elective]*

Vince Evener

HTH 310 HP The Gospel and Freedom: Baptism and the Unity of the Church

Seeks an integrated understanding of the issues and themes emerging from the study of the sacrament of baptism in relation to the quest for the unity of the church. After examining the New Testament teaching regarding baptism, including the role of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus, the course will look at baptismal practices in the early church and the teachings of selected patristic writers. It will then interrogate the debates and discussions regarding baptism at the time of the Protestant Reformation, including the question of believer's baptism and the reactions to this. We will then look at the contemporary ecumenical issues thrown up by the search for baptismal unity, including an assessment of the Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry (BEM) Document of the World Council of Churches. The course will conclude by looking at various baptismal practices in the churches from which the students come and offer examples from other churches in various parts of the world. *[Prerequisites: As this is a signature history/theology course, normally students would take this course after they have successfully passed their other history/theology course requirements; [minimum prerequisites are Dynamic Faith of the Church and Creation, Sin, and New Creation.] [Fulfills History 2 in former LTSP curriculum] [Fulfills The Gospel and Freedom requirement]*

Jayakiran Sebastian

PRA 101 RP & RG Presence & Community

An introduction to the foundations of pastoral theology, formation, and care, to equip participants to develop relationships of empathy and compassion with those seeking care. Students will explore various models of pastoral theology, and how they inform pastoral and community care. Students will develop a framework for understanding their own personal and pastoral formation, using the tools of family systems, narrative theory, and psychodynamic psychology. Through engagement with dynamic pastoral cases, students will develop the ability to engage in pastoral assessment, analysis, and develop a plan of care. Attention will be given to professional ethics, grief & loss, health & illness, making appropriate referrals, and the spiritual importance of self-care and boundaries. Through in vivo practice, students will continue to develop their pastoral presence, through prayer, empathy, listening, assertion, and problem solving skills, in order to respond in common pastoral, sacramental, and crisis situations. *[Fulfills Presence & Community requirement]*

Storm Swain (Philadelphia)

Shirley Guider (Gettysburg)

PRA 101 OL Presence & Community

An introduction to the foundations of pastoral theology, formation, and care, to equip participants to develop relationships of empathy and compassion with those seeking care. Students will explore various models of pastoral theology, and how they inform pastoral and community care. Students will develop a framework for understanding their own personal and pastoral formation, using the tools of family systems, narrative theory, and psychodynamic psychology. Through engagement with dynamic pastoral cases, students will develop the ability to engage in pastoral assessment, analysis, and develop a plan of care. Attention will be given to professional ethics, grief & loss, health & illness, making appropriate referrals, and the spiritual importance of self-care and boundaries. Through in vivo practice, students will continue to develop their pastoral presence, through prayer, empathy, listening, assertion, and problem solving skills, in order to respond in common pastoral, sacramental, and crisis situations. *[Fulfills Presence & Community requirement]*

Storm Swain

PRA 105 IG Preaching the Gospel

As an introduction to preaching this course provides students with a process for sermon preparation. By applying easy to learn principles participants learn to move from a biblical text to gospel proclamation. This course or an equivalent is a prerequisite for all other preaching electives in the curriculum. *[Fulfills Preaching the Gospel requirement]*

Steve Loy

PRA 120 IP Christian Education for All Ages

This course is geared to pastors and other congregational leaders to promote understanding of the process of learning and teaching in religious contexts and support faith formation for all ages. How can we support faith formation and Christian education so that faith will flourish, especially in a rapidly changing world? The digital age provides new opportunities and new methods to build relationships between people which are important for faith to develop and grow. Improving biblical literacy and helping people use the Bible in daily life is another challenge. New assumptions and new models will be needed so that Christian education can not only inform but also form and transform. This course will cover foundational and developmental theories of Christian education as well as practical ideas and skills needed to provide leadership for a Christian education program and the faith formation process. *[Fulfills Congregational Formation & Education requirement]*

Diane E. Shallue

PRA 121 RP Congregational Formation and Education for a Changing Church

Students will demonstrate basic knowledge of the philosophy and history of Christian education, demonstrate ability to analyze, use and describe educational resources in their perspective ministries, and be able to develop pedagogical skills in teaching children, youth and adults in the Christian faith from their various denominations. Students will acquire a knowledge of their current denominational curriculum surrounding Sunday school, first communion, confirmation, baptism, adult catechumenate, and age-appropriate Bible study. Students will also demonstrate an ability to use media, technology and the arts in the delivery of Christian education. The field education placement will be crucial to achieving these goals. *[Fulfills Congregational Formation & Education requirement]*

Charles Leonard

PRA 150 SY Wealth & Poverty

An examination of the challenge of poverty and the ethical issues related to the distribution of resources, drawing on historic Christian sources, current sociological research and policy analysis. *[Fulfills Church in Society or Stewardship in former LTSG curriculum]*

Katie Day

PRA 151 RP The Church in the City: Many Calls and One Spirit"

This course attends to the place of the church in the city, with particular focus on the obligations, tasks and joys to which students are called as members of both church and polis. We will begin by conceptualizing the city from biblical, theological and sociological perspectives and assessing how these various understandings influence the church's engagement with the city. From this interdisciplinary basis, we will analyze the church's particular role in the city. This analysis will be guided by the following sort of questions. How does the urban context inform the church's witness and identity? How does the church's witness inform its context? When and how does the church join with other institutions, community members and faiths to address systemic social ills? How does the church negotiate the relationship between love and justice, particularly when cities are often sites of rampant economic injustice and racial strife? Students will acquire the theological and practical tools to answer these questions as they consider the church's role in the city. *[Free elective]*

Justin Nickel

PRA 178 SY Environment, Faith & Praxis

Environment and God's outdoor creativity are cradles of faith, thresholds to the gospel of Christ Jesus. Participants in this course develop competencies and plans to lead ecological and outdoor ministries. Students choose projects in areas such as food & faith; energy stewardship; habitat care; outdoor spirituality; or eco-justice advocacy. The course provides connections from environmental history and ecological theology to inform projects developed by participants. *[Fulfills Stewardship in former LTSG curriculum] [Free elective]*

Gilson Waldkoenig

PRA 162 RP 21st Century Preaching in the African American Tradition

This course analyzes the socio-historical foundations, theological formulations, and rhetorical features of African American preaching. The course will encourage students to think about preaching as having certain historical and cultural roots and antecedents. It will also analyze the various types of criticisms for sermon preparation, as well as, sermonic styles. *[Fulfills Preaching the Gospel requirement]*

Wayne Croft

PRA 181 RP Race Gender and Sexuality

A focus on the issues of pastoral leadership and the various ways one's race, gender and sexuality influence individual leadership style and the perception of that leadership style by others. We will explore each participant's personal gifts and makeup in order to discover how different styles of leadership may be beneficial to them in pastoral leadership. *[Fulfills Public Theology course for MAML, MA, and MAPL students and Seminar in Public Theology for former LTSP curriculum] [Free elective]*

Karyn Wiseman

PRA 194 IG Certificate in Congregational Faith Formation

The 16-day course in congregational faith formation includes hands-on education emphasizing small groups, community development and relational ministry as a way to engage congregations in faith formation (also known as Christian Education.) The days of classroom work include Biblical and theological training, cultural analysis, long range planning, family ministry, Christian Education and lots of how-to strategies. This course is scheduled to meet 2 days a month from September – April (Friday-Saturday). The scope of this course is for faith formation for children, youth and young adults, but can be easily used with adults. Registration for the course takes place in the fall semester; a grade will be given at the close of the spring semester. *[Fulfills Congregation Formation and Education requirement and Christian Education for former LTSG curriculum]*

Dates: 1/19,20; 2/23,24; 3/16,17; 4/13,14

Chelle Huth

PRA 250 RP Mental Health and Illness for Ministry

An introduction to psychopathology as it affects parish life and pastoral care. Through film, biography, and novel, students gain an empathic window into what it is like to live with a mental illness. Students become familiar with the major diagnostic categories of psychological disorders, with a view toward making appropriate pastoral interventions, and knowing when and how to refer to community resources. Crisis intervention and the role of psychopathology in parish conflict are also considered.

[Prerequisite: Presence and Community] [Free elective]

Storm Swain

PRA 271 HP Church Year

For thousands of years the people of God have used the cycles of nature to proclaim the mighty acts of God. Still today, the year, week, and day provide powerful ways to recognize and celebrate the effects of the presence of Christ, the central self-revelation of the Triune God. This course will provide an historical, practical, ecumenical, even inter-religious introduction to the sanctification of time. *[Prerequisite: Worshipping Community or Worshipping Community in the African-American Tradition][Free elective]*

Mark Oldenburg

PRA 310 OL Equipping the Saints

The focus of the course is on preparation for the administration of a congregation, particularly the identification of shared leadership with laity for evangelism, stewardship, and program planning, execution and evaluation. Pastoral responsibilities for priority setting, church and personal finances, and identification of skills among the laity are emphasized. *[Fulfills Practices in Ministry-C for former LTSG curriculum and Church Administration for former LTSP curriculum] [Fulfills Equipping the Saints requirement]*

Charles Leonard

PRA 350 RP Life Passages

In this class we will consider liturgies around funerals, weddings, healing services, reconciliation, quincenera, women's blood, adoption of children, etc, dealing with diversity around culture, gender, sex and inter-religious situations. Using theoretical readings, actual situations, examination of liturgies, creation of new liturgies, and preaching, the class will explore how and on what basis these liturgical events can be created, planned, conducted, and preached. Students will be expected to preach/lead a worship experience. *[Prerequisite: Worshipping Community] [Free elective]*

Karyn L. Wiseman

PRA 355 SY Liturgical Preaching

Preaching exists in a context situated within and defined in part by the liturgical year and the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary. We will explore how the year, the texts, the sermon shape, and the contemporary situation inform each other in theory and in practice. Students will be expected to preach. *[Prerequisites: Preaching the Gospel and Worshipping Community] [Free elective]*

Karyn L. Wiseman

DEN 175 RP Presbyterian Polity

This is a course in the theory and practice of government in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Using mini-lectures, research, class discussions, and case studies, we will explore the history, theology, and ecclesiology that shapes and unites our current church order, worship, and discipline. We will examine closely the freedoms, powers, rights, and responsibilities of our congregations, sessions, and presbyteries, so that we can apply the principles of Presbyterian polity to our ministry with confidence, fairness, and pastoral sensitivity. *[Fulfills Denomination requirement]*

Ken Ross

DEN 201 RG & RP Lutheran Foundations

This course explores the Lutheran confessional texts included in the Book of Concord as a witness to the gospel and guidance for faith and life. Through a first-hand reading of the documents, and learning about their history, context, and content, students will gain an appreciation of the historical foundations of Lutheran theology and reflect critically on the relevance of the Confessions for public ministry today. *[Prerequisite: Creation, Sin and New Creation or Dynamic Faith of the Church][Fulfills Lutheran Foundations requirement]*

Vincent Evener (Gettysburg)

Karl Krueger (Philadelphia)

STM/DMIN COURSES

BIB 754 SY DMIN/STM Job and Human Suffering

The relationship between God and human suffering (both personal and corporate) is a fundamental theological problem, that of innocent suffering yet more fundamental. This course intends to bring students into conversation with Israel's unsettling literary masterpiece, a book that interjects questions that are peculiarly relevant for readers living in the wake of the 20th century. Perspectives from the areas of systematic theology, pastoral theology, and genocide studies are regularly incorporated. *[Prerequisite: The Story of Israel] [Fulfills Bible at the Crossroads requirement or Bible elective]*

Brooks Schramm

HTH 780 IG DMIN/STM The Cross and Human Suffering: Luther and the Reformation

~~Martin Luther and other reformers radically rethought the meaning both of Christ's suffering on the cross and of human suffering. This course explores Luther's theology of the cross, and how Luther and the Reformation changed passion piety (i.e. devotion to the suffering Christ); the ministry of consolation; the "art of dying"; and the way individuals and communities understood and responded to poverty and injustice. The goal is to equip students with historical and theological knowledge that can be used to understand, talk about, and respond effectively to all forms of suffering today. MDiv students may enroll but STM and DMin students will have first preference. *[Free elective]*~~

~~Vince Evener~~

PRA 751 IP DMIN/STM Preaching Across the Divide

This course invites students to wrestle with the proclamation of the Gospel in juxtaposition to challenging social divides (political, socioeconomic, etc.) within the current North American context.

An emphasis is placed upon recognizing these divisions through listening to those at different places along the spectrum. Preaching is to grow out of this careful listening, with the sermon serving as a reflection of contextual awareness coupled with theological integrity. The purpose of the sermon is to inspire listeners to hear, believe and live the redemptive message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, as decreed in the Greatest Commandment. Students in first professional degree programs (MDiv, MAML, MA) need permission from the instructor to register. *[Fulfills Public Theology course for MAML, MA, and MAPL students.] [Free elective]*

Angela Zimmann

PRA 760 OL DMIN/STM White Fragility in the Congregation

White Fragility is a major stumbling block for racial reconciliation in ELCA congregations. This course is designed to define the key issues and concepts that create white fragility and work to create and implement solutions for the parish setting. Participants in this DL experience will meet twice during the semester on the Gettysburg Campus for day-long discussion and collaboration. MDiv students may enroll but STM and DMin students will have first preference. The course will be reading and writing intensive. *[Free elective]*

Martin Zimmann

PRA 761 OL Church and Society in the Book of Acts

This online course will examine the various ways in which the Acts of the Apostles portrays Christians in interaction with their social and political environments and consider the relevance of these examples for the church today. The Gospel of Luke as well as other New Testament and early Christian books will be consulted as appropriate. Students will hone their exegetical skills and reflect together on biblically-based preaching and leading on social issues in the church. Though often seen as a document that encourages accommodation to or even collaboration with the Roman Empire, Luke-Acts contains a number of “resources for resistance” that can help today’s church consider their own relationship with the surrounding culture and resist being too easily assimilated to it. As an online course, this class will not follow the traditional model of lectures and classroom discussion. Instead, students will engage together with various readings—some of them classics in the field, some of more recent vintage—as well as with the biblical text in an online environment supervised by the instructor. Learning will be collaborative: students will learn from each other as well as from the readings and the instructor. There will be space for students to pursue their own interests and report back to the group what they are learning. *[Free elective]*

Joshua Yoder

PRA 762 OL Ministry with Older Adults

An exploration of spiritual, sociological, physiological, and psychological dimensions of aging, together with an assessment of the relationship of older persons to the life and mission of the church. Attention is given to both lay and pastoral care givers’ roles in relating to older persons within the congregation and other church-related settings, and to the impact of these roles within the larger community. *[Free elective]*

Dynna E. Castillo Portugal