

United Lutheran Seminary

Course Descriptions – Fall 2018 (8.31.18)

Key to Course Numbering

BIB 100s	Language of the Early Church
BIB 200s	1 st - and 2 nd -year courses fulfilling Biblical requirements
BIB 300s	Courses fulfilling Bible at the Crossroads requirements (normally for seniors)
BIB 400s	Bible or free electives (some courses have pre-requisites)
CXT xxx	Contextual Education requirements (mostly noncredit)
DEN xxx	Courses fulfilling denominational history/polity courses for particular students
GSE xxx	General Studies courses, usually free electives
HTH 100	Systematic Theology 1: Creation, Sin, and New Creation
HTH 101	Church History 1: Dynamic Faith of the Church
HTH 20x	Courses fulfilling History 2: Globalizing Christianity requirement
HTH 21x	Courses fulfilling Theology 2: Doing Theology in a Diverse World requirement
HTH 300s	Courses fulfilling Gospel and Freedom requirement (normally for seniors)
HTH 400s	History/Theology free electives
PRAX 10x	Courses fulfilling Worship requirement
PRAX 11x	Courses fulfilling Pastoral Theology (formerly Presence in Community) requirement
PRAX 12x	Courses fulfilling Church in Society requirement
PRAX 13x	Courses fulfilling Preaching the Gospel requirement
PRAX 14x	Courses fulfilling Congregational Formation and Education requirement
PRAX 30x	Courses fulfilling Equipping the Saints/Church Administration requirement (normally for seniors)
PRAX 400x	Praxis free electives
SPFM xxx	Free elective courses that also fulfill the noncredit Spiritual Formation requirement
Xxx 700s	STM/DMin courses. May be taken by advanced first-degree students with instructor permission.

Key to Course Locations and Format:

HG	Hybrid, Gettysburg campus—a mix of face-to-face meetings and online participation, per the course syllabus; at least 50% of the course must be on campus
HP	Hybrid, Philadelphia campus— a mix of face-to-face meetings and online participation, per the course syllabus; at least 50% of the course must be on campus
IG	Intensive, Gettysburg campus—face-to-face meetings over a limited time (normally 1 to 3 weeks)
IP	Intensive, Philadelphia campus—face-to-face meetings over a limited time (normally 1 to 3 weeks)
OL	Online—no face-to-face meetings on either campus
RG	Residential, Gettysburg campus—face-to-face meetings throughout the semester
RP	Residential, Philadelphia campus—face-to-face meetings throughout the semester
SY	Synchronous—simultaneous face-to-face meetings on both campuses using video technology; faculty presence alternates between campuses
TS	Travel seminar; see course description or consult instructor for dates

BIB 100 OL Language of the Early Church

The New Testament was written in Koine Greek. As the language in which God's Living Word is communicated to us, it is imperative that we can read and understand that word as clearly as possible. The variety of English translations of the New Testament demonstrates that every translation is also an interpretation. For leaders in the Church, this course will provide the knowledge, skills, and training in software resources to work with the original language texts; awareness of the interpretive issues involved in translation; and practice in effectively communicating the Word for the church today. [No prerequisites] *Fulfills M.Div Language of the Early Church requirement*

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

BIB 100 RP Language of the Early Church

(see course description above) *Fulfills M.Div Language of the Early Church requirement*
Crystal Hall

BIB 201 SY 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. *Fulfills Reading & Telling the Story requirement [Pre-requisite for MDiv students: BIB 100 Language of Early Church][May take simultaneously with Story of Israel]*
Mark Vitalis Hoffman

BIB 210 OL 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.
Fulfills MDiv/MAML Story of Jesus & the Early Church requirement, or free elective [Pre-requisite: BIB 201 Reading and Telling the Story]
Crystal Hall

BIB 220 SY 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.
Fulfills MDiv/MAML Story of Israel requirement, or free elective [May take simultaneously with Reading and Telling the Story]
Brooks Schramm

BIB 301 SY Prophets Seminar: Jeremiah

A study of selected texts from Jeremiah, with special attention to exegetical method. Rigorous seminar format.
Fulfills MDiv Bible at Crossroads of Church and Culture requirement, or Bible or free elective [Pre-requisite: BIB 220 Story of Israel][STM/DMin students: see BIB 701]
Brooks Schramm

BIB 357 RG Paul, Women and the Authority of Scripture

The Pauline Epistles give us some of the best evidence we have of women's active participation in the ministry of the early church. They also contain some of the most restrictive statements in the Bible about women's speech and leadership. This course will explore this tension and the relevance of these passages for the historical study of women in the early church and for Christian life and ministry today. Discussion of the Pauline Epistles will also serve as an avenue into exploring what we mean when we say the Bible has authority. How do

we as 21st century Christians faithfully and responsibly interpret these ancient documents as Scripture? This course satisfies the "Bible at the Crossroads" elective requirement, and it is also offered for STM/DMin credit. *Fulfills MDiv Bible at Crossroads of Church and Culture requirement, or Bible or free elective. [Pre-requisites: BIB 100, BIB 201, and BIB 210; BIB 271, or equivalent] [STM/DMin students: see BIB 757]*
McNeel

BIB 404 RP Hevrutah

A beloved method of traditional Jewish learning, hevrutah is a relationship built around text study. Hevrutah partners work out loud, sharing the Biblical text with one another, engaging over its interpretations and implications. Encountering the religious "other," particularly as a living dialogue partner and peer, is a significant component of developing a personal theology. The course offers the opportunity to discover insight and beauty within another's faith tradition, and to clarify and strengthen one's own beliefs through understanding them contextually. Offered jointly with Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, consisting of six joint sessions. These sessions would explore Jewish traditions of biblical interpretation, the history of common Jewish-Christian Bible study (from Jerome forward), and traces of anti-semitism in Christian interpretation.; enrollment limited to approximately 6-8 students, depending upon enrollment by RRC students, with whom ULS students will be matched. All students registering will be wait-listed, pending final registration lists for both schools. *Bible or free elective [Pre-requisite: Hebrew]*
(Robinson/Rabbi Melissa Heller, RRC)

BIB 461 OL Romans

In this course we will walk through this, Paul's most systematic letter, in detail discussing Paul's context, rhetorical strategies, his Old Testament exegesis and how these help us and his first readers understand the good news "power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Roman 1:16)." We will take this opportunity to examine this essential epistle through a variety of 21st Century lenses to see clearer its meaning and purpose for us today. Assignments will include weekly online discussion of the text, an exegetical paper on a passage of the student's choice and a project for use in a ministry setting. *[Pre-requisites: BIB 201, and BIB 210]*
Bible or free elective [STM/DMin students: see BIB 760]
(deForest)

BIB 350 RP African Presence in Scripture

A study of African and Hamitic people in the development of the Old and New Testament religion and people, as demonstrated in the Bible. *Fulfills MDiv Bible at Crossroads of Church and Culture requirement, or Bible or free elective*
(Pollard)

DEN 201 OL 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. *Fulfills denominational history/polity requirement for Lutheran students [Pre-requisite: HTH 100 or HTH 101]*
(Evener)

GSE 351 01 Inter-Seminary Seminar

Selected topics for students in the final year are pursued along with students from other area seminaries. *Free elective; for seniors by invitation only*
(Robinson)

HTH 100 SY Creation/Sin/New Creation

This course introduces students to constructive and liberative theological thinking that emphasizes (1) the inherent relationality of God, creation and humanity, and (2) the meanings of salvation. Mindful of the world of which we are a part, in all its weakness, incompleteness, and sinfulness, we do theology by attempting our best thinking and praxis through the sources and tools that are available to us. A guiding question for the course is how theology informs public ministry.

Fulfills Theology 1: Creation/Sin/New Creation requirement
(Hoffmeyer)

HTH 101 RG/RP/OL Dynamic Faith of the Church

Participants learn to identify, draw upon, and creatively apply, with integrity, for leadership in parish ministry and other public roles, the faith of Christian women and men from the origins of Christianity in Judaism and the Roman Empire to 1500. Participants demonstrate abilities to articulate and employ key discourses, including doctrines of God, Trinity, Christology, the Church, Sin, and Scripture; and demonstrate and employ awareness of key practices, including Baptism and Eucharist. *Fulfills History 1: Dynamic Faith of the Church requirement for MDiv, MA, and MAPL students; MAML free elective*

(Pahl – online)
(Evener – Gettysburg campus)
(Krey – Philadelphia campus)

HTH 212 IP Christian Encounters with Other Faiths

The seminar attempts to examine the nature and scope of Church's engagement with religious pluralism in light of biblical, historical and theological perspectives. It is not a course on world religions. We will examine Christian attitudes and approaches to other living faiths and how it shapes Christian self-understanding in contemporary society. We will also explore the nature and function of interreligious dialogue in Western societies and its implications for pastoral ministry. *Fulfills MDiv Theology 2: Doing Theology in a Diverse World requirement, or free elective [Pre-requisite: HTH 100]*

(Rajashekar)

HTH 303 RP The Lord's Supper & the Communion of the Church

The objective of this course is to facilitate and promote reflection on the communion meal, also known as the Eucharist and the Lord's Supper, within the wider context of the Biblical understanding of the church as communion, with a view to developing an informed and integrated understanding of eucharistic issues and themes which emerge from the worldwide church and from the practical life-realities of the churches in our own contexts today. The course will examine the biblical foundations, practices in the early church, the variety of understandings during the reformation, the quest for unity and fellowship brought about through the ecumenical movement, and the challenges for the understanding of the church as communion today.

Fulfills MDiv Gospel and Freedom requirement, or free elective [Pre-requisites: HTH 100 and HTH 101]
(Sebastian)

HTH 306 TS Paths of Conscience travel seminar Pilgrimage beginning in Philadelphia and ending in Gettysburg. This course will be an immersive experience into the history of the resistance to slavery on the part of churches and believers. It will also explore the theological and moral resources needed for initiatives still needed to address the effects of slavery on our moral sensibility today. We will travel together from Philadelphia to the Eastern Shore to Washington DC to Harpers Ferry to Gettysburg visiting sites in the struggle.

Limited to 11 students. [travel seminar during Fall intensive week] *Fulfills MDiv Gospel & Freedom requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or free elective [Pre-requisites: HTH 100 and HTH 101] Limited to 11 students.*

(Erling)

HTH 316 RP Modern Anglican Theology

This course offers an introduction to a selection of significant Anglican writers from the eighteenth century to the present. Although most of the writers are from the Church of England, Anglicans from elsewhere in the Communion are also included. A range of types of writing and of theological traditions will be included, illustrating the diversity of Anglicanism. Some weeks will focus on one particular writer, while others will focus on a topic, with reference to more than one writer. The course should be of particular value to Episcopal and other Anglican students, enabling them to understand the range of traditions within their tradition, and the arguments and tensions that have characterized it. Special attention will be given to the task of teaching Anglican theology and forming Anglican identity in the contemporary parish. Readings will include, but not be limited to, works by Michael Ramsey, C.S. Lewis, John Milbank, Kathryn Tanner, Kate Sonderegger, and Sarah Coakley.

Fulfills MDiv Gospel and Freedom requirement, or free elective; required for Anglican Studies students [Pre-requisites: HTH 100 and HTH 101]

(Slade)

PRAX 100 RG & RP Worshipping Community

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. *Fulfills MDiv Worshipping Community requirement, or Praxis option, or free elective*

(Scott Ickert - Gettysburg)

(J. Barrington Bates - Philadelphia)

PRAX 104 RP Worshipping in the African American Tradition

This course explores the historical, theological and Biblical basis of worship in the African American tradition, from slave narratives to contemporary experiences. It further analyzes the development of worship styles from various church traditions with deep history, exploring the various forms of worship, and the planning for worship services to address the needs of an un-churched society will be a part of this course. Various liturgies of worship and special worship services (funerals, weddings, baptism, and communion) common in the life of the African American church will be examined, discussed and experienced. *Fulfills MDiv Worshipping Community requirement, or Praxis option, or free elective*

(Croft)

PRAX 120 RP Church in Society

The complex relationship between religion and society has re-emerged as a critical, sometimes volatile, social dynamic globally as well as in the North American context. This course will lay the foundations for a critical understanding of this relationship from the perspective of the Christian faith. Drawing on theological, sociological and historical sources, students will become familiar with different approaches of looking at the engagement of church and society. The complex relationships between the church and cultural contexts, government and politics will be explored as the basis for doing public theology at local, national and global levels. *Fulfills MDiv Church & Society requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or Praxis option, or free elective*

(Day)

PRAX 123 RG Rural and Small Church Ministry

Seventy-one per cent (71%) of all congregations in the United States have fewer than 100 people in average weekly attendance (63% in ELCA). Forty-four per cent (44%) of all congregations are in rural or small town

settings (47% in ELCA). Explore your reaction to social change, conflict, community patterns, and mission in rural places and small churches, including Appalachia and other regions. While readings, presentations and discussions frame the course, there are options for ethnographic field research in a setting you choose. *Fulfills MDiv Church in Society requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or Praxis option, or free elective*
(Waldkoenig)

PRAX 130 SY Preaching the Gospel

Preaching in the 21st Century is an introduction to the theology, methods, and practice of the oral communication of the gospel. This course provides a general introduction to the task of preaching. Students will distinguish and analyze: 1) the place of preaching in the context of the worshipping assembly; 2) the theological work of preaching as part of the practice of Christian ministry; and 3) the techniques and methodologies that various preachers use in the preparation and delivery of sermons. *Fulfills MDiv Preaching the Gospel requirement, or Praxis option, or free elective*
(Wiseman)

PRAX 140 SY 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 MDiv Congregational Formation and Education requirement, or Praxis option, or free elective*
(Leonard)

PRAX 144 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 MDiv Congregation Formation and Education requirement, or Praxis option, or free elective* (1.5 cr. Fall/1.5 cr. Spring; students must register and complete both semesters) (Dates: Sept. 21-22; Oct. 12-13; Nov. 9-10; Dec. 7-8; Jan 11-12; Feb. 8-9; Mar. 8-9; Apr. 12-13)
(Huth)

PRAX 310 SY 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 MDiv Equipping the Saints requirement, or Praxis option, or free elective
(Leonard)

PRAX 410 RG Missional Evangelism: Creativity in Context

This course explores a variety of current practical approaches to engage in mission and evangelism. Specific focus will go to interaction of church communities with people not currently participating in a faith community. Classes will be interactive, inviting creativity and adaption of techniques for use in diverse contexts. (Elective.) (The Rev. Jennifer Hope-Tringali, Pastor Developer of Communities of Hope and Director for Evangelical Mission in Lower Susquehanna Synod; with Gil Waldkoenig, Professor of Church in Society.)

PRAX 420 RP Critical Reflection

This course is an intensive case-based peer-group action reflection course for students who have a weekly ministry setting, with onsite supervision. The course will foster participants' understanding of pastoral ministry as they intentionally integrate their praxes of ministry, systematic theology, and the formation of their personal and ministerial identity, responsibility, authority, collegiality, and accountability. Students will write weekly pastoral assessments and make regular case presentations on praxes of ministry. *(This course is a partial completion of the degree requirement for the Critical Reflection on Praxes of Ministry. The other parts of the requirement include ministry placement, and individual supervision, which needs to be overseen by the Director of Contextual Education. Please note ELCA, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, and some other denominations require a Clinical Pastoral Education unit. This course does not fill that requirement.)* [Pre-requisite: PRAX 110 Pastoral Theology].

This course has a cap of 12 students.

(Swain)

~~PRAX 460 RP Relationships, Marriage, Family and Congregation~~

~~Pastoral care of persons and congregations in the context of intimate relationships, marriage, and family. Practical skills will include pastoral and congregational assessment, premarital preparation, relationship counsel, and crisis intervention with couples and families. Through up-to-date research, case studies, video clips, and personal reflection, students will gain an understanding of the developmental challenges, family systems, and group dynamics as they impact individuals, couples, families, congregations, and the community. Participants will explore how religious and spiritual beliefs, values, and practices, impact pastoral care and the role of public theology in a community in crisis. MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective [Pre-requisite: PRAX 110 Pastoral Theology]~~

~~(Swain)~~

PRAX 467 RP Preaching Popular Media

A look at the use of popular media (movies, TV shows, popular/secular music, news and current events, and other media sources) to augment the preaching moment. The course will also look at the task of preaching and the news (from traumatic events to political discourse). Addressing the benefits, possibilities, difficulties, and cautions of using popular media in the pulpit will occur. Attention will be given to the use of digital media in proclaiming the Word. Creation of digital media projects, sermon outlines with media usage, sermon PowerPoints, and other types of media projects will be required. Students will be required to preach.

Elective MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective [Pre-requisite: PRAX 130s course]

(Wiseman)

SPFM 112 RG 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. *Free elective; also fulfills noncredit Spiritual Formation requirement*
(J. Largen)

STM/DMIN courses:

BIB 701 SY Prophets Seminar: Jeremiah [*First theological students should take BIB 301*]

A study of selected texts from Jeremiah, with special attention to exegetical method. Rigorous seminar format.
(Schramm)

BIB 757 RG Paul, Women, and the Authority of Scripture [*First theological students should take BIB 357*]

The Pauline Epistles give us some of the best evidence we have of women's active participation in the ministry of the early church. They also contain some of the most restrictive statements in the Bible about women's speech and leadership. This course will explore this tension and the relevance of these passages for the historical study of women in the early church and for Christian life and ministry today. Discussion of the Pauline Epistles will also serve as an avenue into exploring what we mean when we say the Bible has authority. How do we as 21st century Christians faithfully and responsibly interpret these ancient documents as Scripture?
(McNeel)

~~**HTH 720 IP Islam: Beliefs, Culture, and Contacts**~~—Moved to January Term

~~This course will equip individuals with competencies for interfaith engagement with Islamic faith and culture. Students will be provided skills and knowledge that will increase understanding and improve dialogue with the Islamic community. Topics will include: the origins and beliefs of Islam; the Qur'an; Islam in history, particularly its encounters with Christianity; and Islam today. Students will be encouraged to embrace the diversity of religious traditions and contribute towards comfortable engagement while acknowledging and appreciating the distinctiveness of the other religious tradition. This course will be offered as a Philadelphia Intensive with pre-readings and online engagement and with follow up assignments. [*Open to senior first-degree students by permission; free elective*]~~
(Allen/Hepler)

PRAX 715 IP Military Culture and Pastoral Care for Active Duty, Veterans, and Family Members

Military service is by its very nature inherently stressful. During periods of active conflict, as during the recent wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, many Armed Service members and their families were exposed to significant trauma along with multiple deployments. These military experiences and their associated physical, psychological, social, and spiritual consequences often follow military members and their families into their post-service life. The personal and family challenges associated with reintegration into civilian life are important risk factors for mental health problems and may lead to stressful personal and family relationships. Moreover, for the military members, the Veteran, and for their family members, the stigma and shame often associated with mental health issues, especially in the military, may lead to profound suffering, sometimes persisting for a lifetime and frequently transmitted across generations. Clergy are on the frontlines of this problem as they administer to their congregants. Service members and Veterans frequently use chaplains in the armed services for their counseling needs. Thus in the civilian world pastors become the first responders to Veterans in crisis. This course will focus on the unique cultural factors associated with military service. The course will provide an introduction to military culture and the impact of military life on the family. Topics including stressors

specifically related to military duties and service life, reintegration, grief and bereavement, suicide prevention, moral injury, military sexual trauma, post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain injury, and intergenerational trauma will be examined through the lens of the impact of military culture and experiences and pastoral care. Course content will include multimedia material – videos, podcasts, news articles and research articles.

Course instructors are: Nancy Isserman, PhD, MSW, Director Operation Home and Healing: Services for Veterans and Families, Council for Relationships; Will Barnes, D.Min., MFT, Clinical Fellow and approved AAMFT supervisor, CH, COL, Ret. and guest speakers. [Open to first-degree students by permission; free elective]

PRAX 760 IG 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.

[Open to senior first-degree students by permission; free elective]

(M. Zimmann)

BIB 761 OL Romans *[First theological students should take BIB 461]*

In this course we will walk through this, Paul's most systematic letter, in detail discussing Paul's context, rhetorical strategies, his Old Testament exegesis and how these help us and his first readers understand the good news "power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Roman 1:16)." We will take this opportunity to examine this essential epistle through a variety of 21st Century lenses to see clearer its meaning and purpose for us today. Assignments will include weekly online discussion of the text, an exegetical paper on a passage of the student's choice and a project for use in a ministry setting.

(deForest)

PRAX 778 OL Environmental History of Christianity

Global and local environmental troubles prompt critical reconsideration of habits and traditions, and in recent decades, scholarly "environmental history" and "ecological hermeneutics" emerged. Inspired by those methods, this course re-reads history of Christianity in eco-theological perspective, seeking precedents and critical insight for the church's contemporary response to environmental crisis. The course is online and organized in weekly units featuring a-synchronous activities (presentations, media and discussion boards). A required research project happens with a choice of synchronous or a-synchronous options. *[Open to senior first-degree students by permission; free elective]*

(Waldkoenig)