

## United Lutheran Seminary

### January Term 2019 - Course Descriptions (12.11.18)

#### **BIB 380 TS Israel/Palestine/Jordan Travel Seminar**

There are few experiences more enriching to an understanding of the Bible and more formative for spiritual insight than visiting the lands where so much of biblical history occurred. The Bible speaks of the extent of the land from Dan to Beer-sheba. We will be visiting these sites and others connected with Abraham and Sarah, David and Solomon, prophets and priests, Jesus and the disciples, and forward through the Byzantine and Islamic periods to the present. While focusing on biblical highlights of the land, the trip also engages with the cultural and religious aspects of the complicated modern situation today. Students may choose to take the trip for credit which will include preparatory readings and an on-site presentation. *The trip / course satisfies the Bible at the Crossroads required elective. Fulfills MDiv Bible at the Crossroads requirement, or Bible or free elective*

January 7-22, 2019

(Vitalis Hoffman)

#### **BIB 401 IG Hebrew**

Hebrew is the original language of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, and its recovery was a central and indispensable building block of the Protestant Reformation. Students learn the basics of biblical Hebrew vocabulary and grammar and begin to sharpen their perspective on the exquisite art of translation. The course is enhanced by an orientation to Bible software tools as an aid to ongoing study of the language. *Bible or free elective*

3 weeks: January 2-17

(Schramm)

#### **BIB 472 IP Neglected Apostles: Peter and James**

Though Paul referred to them as “pillars” (Gal 2:9), Peter and James the Just have taken second place to the apostle to the gentiles, at least as far as the letters attributed to them are concerned. Martin Luther famously questioned the status of the Epistle of James alongside the Gospels and the letters of Paul. In this course students will ask what can be known about the historical Peter and James, explore what has been said of them by church tradition, and carefully examine the canonical writings bearing their names. Topics for study and discussion will include historicity and canonicity, faith and works, apocalypticism, and the relationship between Jewish and Gentile Christianity in the first and second centuries AD.

*[Pre-requisite: BIB 210 Story of Jesus and the Early Church]*

January 22-26. *Bible or free elective*

(Yoder)

#### **BIB 478 IG Queer Hermeneutics**

From Supreme Court rulings on wedding cake to the systemic discrimination of trans communities in bathrooms and courtrooms across this country, the bible is regularly wielded as a weapon to justify violence against LGBTQIA+ communities. This course seeks to go beyond simply rehearsing what the bible has to say about sexuality to engaging how queer biblical interpretations can give voice to counter messages that challenge homophobic violence and support LGBTQIA+ communities. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the course will critically examine how queer interpretations, especially trans interpretations, open up new perspectives on biblical texts as well as the theologies and sociopolitical ideologies connected to them. Emphasis will be placed on the practical applications of existing queer

interpretations for preaching, worship, education, advocacy, and justice work as well as the creation of new queer biblical interpretations.

*[Pre-requisite: BIB 210 Story of Jesus and the Early Church OR BIB 220 Story of Israel]*

*Fulfills MDiv Bible at Crossroads of Church and Culture requirement, or Bible or free elective*

January 22-26

(Whipple)

### **DMIN 700 IG DMIN Collegial Seminar**

A seminar for DMin students that provides for collegial conversations around problems and issues in ministry based upon case studies, including the role of public theology and ministry. *Open to DMIN students only.*

(M. Zimmann)

### **GSE 150 TS**

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. *Free elective*

January 21-25

(Robinson)

### **HTH 307 IP Religions, Violence, and Peacebuilding**

This course provides students with tools to understand, prevent, and mitigate the ways religions produce or reinforce patterns of systemic violence, and will offer students resources to strengthen practices that promote peacebuilding in congregations, agencies, and communities. The primary approach in the course will be historical, but practical discussions with religious leaders and visits to agencies committed to religious peacebuilding will be components of the course as well.

*Fulfills MDiv Gospel and Freedom requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or free elective [Pre-requisites: HTH 100 and HTH 101]*

January 2-10, 2019

(Pahl)

### **HTH 481 TS Travel Seminar to Myanmar, Thailand and Laos**

The travel seminar is organized in conjunction with the 10th Asian Lutheran International Conference (ALIC) in Udon Thani, Thailand on the theme of "Migration and Mission" (Jan 23-30). The conference will address issues of migration, immigration, refugees and dislocated people around the world and Christian witness in their midst. Prior to the conference, participants will visit Yangon, Myanmar (focus on Burmese Christianity and interaction with students and faculty at Myanmar Institute of Theology and Burmese International Buddhist University) and Bangkok (interaction with Thai Christians at Church of Christ in Thailand and exposure to Theravada Buddhism). During the ALIC Conference, we will cross the

border for a day to visit with Lao Christians, a persecuted minority in a Socialist State. The seminar is open to ULS students, faculty and staff (and spouses). Those taking it for course credit are required to submit a reflection paper on the theme "Migration." Approximate cost: \$2600-2800 (inclusive of air travel, registration cost of the conference, most meals and accommodations but excludes visa fees for Myanmar and Laos and other incidentals). For more information and brochure of the ALIC Conference, contact, Prof. Paul Rajashekar: rajashekar@uls.edu.

Free elective

January 14-30, 2019

(Rajashekar)

### **HTH 720 IP Islam: Beliefs, Culture, and Contacts**

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]*

January 7-11

(Allen/Hepler)

### **PRAX 100 IG 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 MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

January 22-26

(J. Barrington Bates)

### **PRAX 130 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 MDiv Preaching the Gospel requirement, or MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

January 14-19.

(Reese)

### **PRAX 431 IP God and Guns**

Despite a decline in crime overall, gun ownership is increasing, as is gun violence—and churches are not immune. In this intensive, we will look at the realities of guns in our society and the challenges presented for the church—theologically, pastorally, politically, and practically. How do we as public theologians and citizens respond faithfully and effectively to this critical public issue? *MA/MAPL Public Theology option, or MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

January 14-19

(Day)

**PRAX 451 IP Preaching John**

The Gospel of John presents a very different portrait of Jesus when compared to its counterparts. As a result, its role in the imagination of the church's preaching has been supplementary to the three-year lectionary preaching cycle that favors the Synoptic Gospels. This course focuses on the narrative integrity of the Fourth Gospel, its specific theological claims, and the particular ways in which it interprets the meaning of the Word made flesh so that its unique voice might be taught and preached with integrity and faithfulness in the life of the church. *MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective [Prerequisite: PRAX 130s course]*

January 14-19

(Lewis-St. John's Prof)