



Fall Semester 2019 Course Descriptions 5/13/19

Key to Course Numbering

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| BIB 100s | Greek: 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 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 11x | Courses fulfilling Church History I |
| HTH 20x | Courses fulfilling Church History 2: Globalizing Christianity requirement |
| HTH 21x | Courses fulfilling Systematic 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 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 40x | Praxis free electives (some courses have pre-requisites) |
| 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:

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| 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 |
| DL | Distributed Learning option; combination of zooming and online |

BIB 100 OL Greek: Language of the Early Church and the Church Today

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. *Fulfills MDiv Greek: Language of the Early Church requirement [No pre-requisites]*

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

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 and interpreting the biblical texts. Students will learn and apply historical critical methods while studying geographical, historical, and sociological realities of the biblical world. By examining a variety of hermeneutical approaches, students will clarify their own hermeneutical perspectives and 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 of the biblical world and of the current realities in those lands and prepare leaders faithfully to share the biblical witness in congregations today. *Fulfills Reading & Telling the Story requirement [Prerequisite: (for MDiv students and strongly recommended for MA students pursuing Word and Service ministry) BIB 100 Greek prior to or concurrent with class; May take simultaneously with Story of Israel]*

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 am; B204/V314

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]*

Old Testament Professor

Fridays, 8:30-11:30 am; B204/V314

BIB 321 OL Reading Revelation Ecologically

BIB 721 OL (STM/DMin) Reading Revelation Ecologically

Ecology is a defining issue of our time. Revelation has some of the most popularized and diverse histories of reception of any book in the Bible. The Bible in general, and Revelation in particular, have and continue to be used both to justify ecological devastation, and as a resource in struggles for environmental justice. This course seeks to deepen understanding of the myriad ways in which Revelation is preached and taught in popular culture, especially in terms of their implications for ecology. This course will build exegetical skills for analyzing, preaching and teaching Revelation in light of critical methods, reception history, and the current ecological crisis. It seeks to cultivate biblical and theological resources for environmental advocacy and organizing within the contexts of the church and the broader world. *Fulfills MDiv Bible at Crossroads of Church and Culture requirement, or free elective. [Pre-requisites: BIB 100, BIB 201, and BIB 210] [STM/DMin students: see BIB 721]*

Crystal Hall

Online

BIB 423 SY Paul and Justification**BIB 723 SY (STM/DMIN) Paul and Justification**

Justification is the call to justice and right relationship, both with God and one's neighbors. Paul and his articulation of justification by faith are central to the Lutheran tradition, as well as other faith traditions. This course will explore articulations of justification in the Pauline corpus through close readings of key passages in Galatians, Romans and Ephesians, as well as examine how their histories of interpretation developed over time. It will build exegetical skills to interpret these texts in their literary, canonical and historical contexts, and develop theological resources for preaching and teaching justification in ministerial contexts. *Free elective [Pre-requisite: BIB 100, BIB 201][STM/DMin students: see BIB 723]*

Crystal Hall

Wednesdays, 7-10pm; B204/V314

BIB 426 RG Bible Elective**BIB 726 RG (STM/DMIN) Bible Elective**

Free elective [Pre-requisites: BIB 100, BIB 201, and BIB 210] [STM/DMin students: see BIB 726]

Old Testament Professor

Wednesdays, 2-5 pm

BIB 428 IP Science and Scripture**BIB 728 IP (STM/DMIN) Science and Scripture**

The goal of this course is to help students discover and refine their ideas about the relationship between science and the biblical narrative and develop and practice strategies for conversations on this subject with those they serve. This will be accomplished through discussing the possible relationships between science and faith, practicing reading methods using important passages in Scripture, and dialoging with other students about such conversations in their various contexts.

Free elective [Pre-requisite: BIB 220 Story of Israel][STM/DMin students: see BIB 728]

Allison deForest

Philadelphia campus, Oct. 7-12

BIB 450 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. *Free elective, Applies toward the Black Church Concentration [Pre-requisite BIB 201]*

James Pollard

Mondays, 7-10 pm; B209

BIB 472 IG Neglected Apostles

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. *Free elective [Pre-requisites: BIB 210]*

Joshua Yoder

Gettysburg campus, Oct. 7-12

CXT MF Ministerial Field Work

MDiv and MAML students are to spend at least two consecutive semesters with an assigned congregation or other appropriate ministry site to engage in ministry practices and develop skills and vision related to ministerial leadership. Students should work with the Contextual Formation Office to find a suitable site, following guidelines found at <http://my.uls.edu/contextual-formation/>. Students should register separately with both the Contextual Formation Office and the Registrar's Office.

Charles Leonard

Per contract

CXT MI Ministerial Immersion

MDiv students who will not do regular ELCA work should work with the Director of Contextual Formation to establish an appropriate setting for an immersion experience, with the student initiating the contacts with both the prospective supervisor and with the Director. Normally an MDiv internship cannot be completed in less than eight months of significant site-based work; however, the duration of the experience is dependent upon the student's ability to fully demonstrate the competencies to the supervisor, lay committee, and oneself. Guidelines may be found at <http://my.uls.edu/contextual-formation/>. Students should register separately with both the Contextual Formation Office and the Registrar's Office. [Note that ELCA students who do regular internships will normally be registered by the Registrar from information provided by the Contextual Formation Office.]

Charles Leonard

Per contract

DEN 150 RP African Methodist Episcopal Polity

A survey of the history and polity of the African Methodist Episcopal church.

Fulfills denomination history/polity requirement for AME students, or free elective

Jane Sturdivant

Mondays, 7-10 pm; B204

DEN 201 RG 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. From their contents, especially the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Catechisms, the course will define and describe the main themes of Lutheran theology and spirituality. First-hand reading of the documents and learning about their history, context, and content will give students an appreciation of the historical foundations of Lutheran theology as well as perspectives for critical reflection on the role of the Confessions in today's ecumenical context. *Fulfills denominational history/polity requirement for Lutheran students [Pre-requisite: HTH 100 or HTH 101/11x]*

Maria Erling/Vincent Evener

Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 am

GSE 100 DL Introduction to Public Theology

An introduction to the emerging practice of public theology, which incorporates elements across theological disciplines to address issues of concern to the common good. This course will engage scholarly and popular examples (including student productions) in readings, films, music, and other media, on topics such as climate change, mass incarceration, violence against sexual minorities, and peace-building, among others. It will also include introductory attention to the professional responsibilities of a seminarian and church or social ministry leader, such as research methods, copyright and plagiarism law and ethics, asset mapping/management, community organizing, grant-writing, and social enterprise. A combination of face to face sessions and online. *Free elective*

Jon Pahl

Online and face-to face sessions, dates:
Sunday, October 13, 4-9PM; Monday October 14, 5-10PM (Gettysburg)
Sunday, December 8, 4-9PM; Monday December 9, 5-10PM (Philadelphia)

GSE 351 HP 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

Robert B. Robinson

Fridays, dates TBA

HTH 100 RG & RP 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 Systematic Theology 1: Creation/Sin/New Creation requirement*

John Hoffmeyer – Philadelphia campus; Wednesdays, 7-10 pm

Kirstin Johnston Largen – Gettysburg campus; Wednesdays, 8:30-11:30 am

HTH 110 OL Church History 1: 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 Church History 1 requirement for MDiv, MA, and MAPL students; MAML free elective*

Adjunct instructor

online

HTH 111 IP Church History I: Creeds and the Christian Tradition

This course explores the development of Christian doctrine and practice in ancient and medieval contexts, with particular attention to the underlying theological vision of the ecumenical creeds and to how that vision was shaped by conflicts and practices within the church. We will also explore how the early Christian spirituality of opposition to the world (martyrdom, asceticism) was transformed and relocated in the medieval period, before turning to how new contexts and spiritual aspirations (devotion to Christ's suffering humanity, the quest for an Apostolic life, scholastic seeking for unity of truth) challenged and transformed inherited traditions after 1000. Later sessions will address Anselmian atonement theory, women's vernacular mysticism, and late-medieval humanism. *Fulfills Church History 1 requirement for MDiv, MA, and MAPL students; MAML free elective*

Vincent Evener

Philadelphia campus – Oct. 7-12

HTH 211 RP/GZ (Gburg Zoom option) Scriptures of the World

(Zoom option for Gettysburg students; does not count toward residency requirement)

This course attempts to explore the meaning and authority of scriptures in selected religious traditions. In most major religious traditions, claims for truth are often based on an appeal to authoritative writings, sacred texts or scriptures of the past. These “texts” serve to provide the necessary framework for the community’s self-understanding and its vision of reality in the present. The continued validity and applicability of such “texts” are affirmed by religious traditions by varying methods of interpretations, exegesis, and hermeneutics. The authority of “texts” too is understood in divergent ways in different religions. The course will examine the phenomenology of scriptures with a view to understand how scriptures or sacred texts function in the life of an interpretative community. It is hoped that the student will be exposed to selected scriptures of major religious traditions that may provide a comparative perspective for understanding Christian scriptures. The course will also explore pertinent theological issues related to cross-cultural hermeneutics and questions of scriptural authority in a multi-scriptural society. *Fulfills MDiv Systematic Theology 2: Doing Theology in a Diverse World requirement, or free elective [Pre-requisite: HTH 100]*

J. Paul Rajashekar

Tuesdays, 2-5 pm

HTH 217 IP Religious Plurality & Christian Identity

This intensive 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 identity and 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 Systematic Theology 2: Doing Theology in a Diverse World requirement, or free elective [Pre-requisite: HTH 100]*

J. Paul Rajashekar

Philadelphia campus, Oct. 7-12

HTH 306 TS Paths of Conscience travel seminar [travel seminar during Fall intensive week]

The Gospel and Freedom intensive travel seminar is a summative experience in the History and Theology sequence, an opportunity for integrating theological and historical study with contemporary efforts to reckon with issues of moral and social urgency. This travel seminar will focus on the human sin of racism and investigate how theology and history have been affected by it, through following the underground railroad routes near us, and learning of the actions and interpretations of the abolitionist movement in the United States in the 19th century. As a pilgrimage, students will visit places and encounter stories in proximity to the two campuses of United Lutheran Seminary. The opportunity to explore and react to the actions of free and enslaved African Americans, as well as white allies and opponents during the struggle to end slavery provides a way for students to in turn critique modern uses of memory and history to better inform the churches today. Lodging, meals, and museum fees will cost about \$200.

Fulfills MDiv Gospel & Freedom requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or free elective [Pre-requisites: HTH 100 and HTH 101/110x] Limited enrollment

Maria Erling

Travel Seminar, Oct. 7-12

HTH 309 RP Baptism & Unity of the Church

The course will seek to develop an integrated understanding of the issues and themes that emerge from a 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 move on to examine baptismal practices in the early church, and look at the teachings of selected early teachers of faith. It will then interrogate the debates and discussions regarding baptism at the time of the Protestant Reformation, including the question regarding 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. *Fulfills MDiv Gospel and Freedom requirement, or free elective [Pre-requisites: HTH 100 and HTH 101/110x]*

J. Jayakiran Sebastian

Thursdays, 7-10 pm

PRAX 100 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 Worship requirement, or MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

TBD

Tuesday, 7-10 pm

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 Worship requirement, or MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

(TBD)

Tuesdays, 7-10 pm

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 in Society requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or Praxis option, or free elective

Charles (Chaz) Howard and Lisa Howard

Thursdays, 7-10 pm

PRAX 123 RG Rural and Small Church Ministry

PRAX 723 RG (STM/DMIN) 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 opportunities for 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 and development of mission plans in a setting you choose. *Fulfills MDiv Church in Society requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or Praxis option, or free elective [STM/DMIN students see PRAX 723 RG]*

Gilson A. C. Waldkoenig

Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 am

PRAX 123 DL Rural and Small Church Ministry

PRAX 723 DL 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 opportunities for 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 and development of mission plans in a setting you choose. Meets by Zoom at an assigned time weekly (Wednesday 3:00 PM in Fall 2019) and online. Students may participate from any location. *Fulfills MDiv Church in Society requirement, or MA/MAML/MAPL Public Theology option, or Praxis option, or free elective [STM/DMIN students see PRAX 723 DL]*

Gilson A. C. Waldkoenig

Wednesdays, 3-5 pm via Zoom plus online

PRAX 130 RP Preaching the Gospel

PRAX 130 RG 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 MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

Karyn L. Wiseman – Philadelphia campus (Limited to 15 students) – Thursdays, 1:45-5 pm

C. David Reese – Gettysburg campus (Limited to 15 students) – Thursdays, 8:30-11:30 am

PRAX 140 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 MDiv Congregational Formation and Education requirement, or MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

Charles Leonard
Tuesdays, 2-5 pm

PRAX 144 HG 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 MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective* (1.5 cr. Fall/1.5 cr. Spring; students must register and complete both semesters)

Chelle Huth

Year-long; Fall course dates: 9/20-21, 10/18-19, 11/22-23, 12/13-14

PRAX 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 MDiv Equipping the Saints requirement, or MA/MAPL Praxis option, or free elective*

Charles Leonard

Online

PRAX 410 IG 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. *Free elective*

Jennifer Hope-Tringali

Gettysburg campus, Oct. 7-12

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.

Storm Swain

Tuesdays, 7–10 pm

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]*

Storm Swain

Tuesdays, 8:30-11:30 am

SPFM 110 RG Experiential Introduction to Spirituality

The 20th century spiritual teacher Henri Nouwen, writing about the lives of public ministers, said that one's own intimacy with God in a prayerful life is the very beginning, source, and core of her or his ministry in the world (The Living Reminder). This course will be a didactic and experiential introduction to contemplative Christian spirituality with the aim of facilitating both our individual growth in intimacy with God and the development of a resilient life of prayer. By becoming familiar with Christianity's rich spiritual tradition, and by personally "experimenting" with a variety of classical prayer-forms and disciplines, we each can begin to appropriate the church's ancient wisdom for our lives today. *Free elective; also fulfills noncredit Spiritual Formation requirement*

John Largen

Thursdays, 2-5 pm

STM/DMIN Fall 2019 courses:

BIB 721 OL Reading Revelation Ecologically

Ecology is a defining issue of our time. Revelation has some of the most popularized and diverse histories of reception of any book in the Bible. The Bible in general, and Revelation in particular, have and continue to be used both to justify ecological devastation, and as a resource in struggles for environmental justice. This course seeks to deepen understanding of the myriad ways in which Revelation is preached and taught in popular culture, especially in terms of their implications for ecology. This course will build exegetical skills for analyzing, preaching and teaching Revelation in light critical methods, reception history, and the current ecological crisis. It seeks to cultivate biblical and theological resources for environmental advocacy and organizing within the contexts of the church and the broader world. *[First Theological students should register for BIB 321 OL]*

Crystal Hall

Online

BIB 723 SY Paul & Justification

Justification is the a to justice and right relationship, both with God and one's neighbors. Paul and his articulation of justification by faith are central to the Lutheran tradition, as well as other faith traditions. This course will explore articulations of justification in the Pauline corpus through close readings of key passages in Galatians, Romans and Ephesians, as well as examine how their histories of interpretation developed over time. It will build exegetical skills to interpret these texts in their literary, canonical and historical contexts, and develop theological resources for preaching and teaching justification in ministerial contexts.

[First Theological students should register for BIB 423 SY]

Crystal Hall

Wednesdays, 7-10pm; B204/V314

BIB 726 RG Bible Elective [*First Theological students should register for BIB 326 RG*]

Old Testament Professor

Wednesdays, 2-5 pm

BIB 728 IP Science and Scripture

The goal of this course is to help students discover and refine their ideas about the relationship between science and the biblical narrative and develop and practice strategies for conversations on this subject with those they serve. This will be accomplished through discussing the possible relationships between science and faith, practicing reading methods using important passages in Scripture, and dialoging with other students about such conversations in their various contexts.

[*First Theological students should register for BIB 428 IP*]

Allison deForest

Philadelphia campus – Oct. 7-12

PRAX 705 IP The History of African American Preaching

This course analyzes the general history of African American Christian preaching (1750-present). African American theological and rhetorical characteristics will be identified through study of African American preachers and their sermons. Students will be exposed to a wide range of preachers who have made a significant contribution to preaching as well as their homiletical methodology. Presentations will include biographical material, homiletical setting, theology and motifs, and both written and visual sermon presentations. Discussions will center on African American preachers and the changing landscape of African American preaching.

[*Open to STM/DMIN only*]

Wayne Croft

Philadelphia campus- Oct. 7-11

PRAX 763 IG Faith & Fundraising: Stewardship for the 21st C.

This course offers a fresh perspective on Christian fundraising, while incorporating tried-and-true practices of faithful stewardship. While the emphasis is congregational, the principles are broadly applicable across the non-profit spectrum. [*Open to senior first-degree students by permission; free elective*]

Angela Zimmann

Gettysburg campus – Oct. 7-12

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). [*Open to first-degree students by permission of instructor; free elective*]

Gilson A. C. Waldkoenig

Online