

SUMMER 2023

THE BIBLICAL RABBIT HOLE: CONSPIRACY THEORIES AND THE BIBLE (BS-2312) BST Eric Sias (06/07/2023-07/12/2023)

Course Memo:

Conspiracy theories commonly use the Bible and biblical themes to formulate interpretations that demonize what they perceive as the other. This course will contribute to the conversation of biblical exegesis within our current political climate, as well as expose the inconsistent, libelous, and violent foundations of biblically-based conspiracy theories as a form of deconstruction. Though it does not require it as a prerequisite, this course is a loose continuation of *White Supremacy & the Bible*. This course has three parts: 1) survey the origins of Satan; 2) survey of the conspiracy theory phenomenon in the United States; and 3) application of contemporary church context. Students will be graded on the following: one 1-page book review and one 10-page paper on a topic relevant to the course (all topics must be approved by the professor). All students of every program are encouraged to attend, especially those seeking ordination. Course will meet 6 times, Wednesday evenings (6/7/23–7/12/23) at 5:00–7:10 pm. This course will be a hybrid format for anyone who is interested in attending in person. Auditors welcome. [Hebrew Bible and New Testament Survey courses] CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN ACTION (CSTA) (CERS-4712) Leocadi Lushombo.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN ACTION (CSTA): OPTION FOR THE POOR AND FOR THE EARTH - JST Leocadi Lushombo (06/12/2023-06/29/2023)

Course Memo:

This interactive seminar, led by an instructor who has worked with marginalized persons in more than ten countries, and is composed of in-person and online participants, provides an opportunity to explore how best to put into action, more than a hundred years of Catholic Social Teaching. Often described as “the best kept secret”, this radical social gospel, which provides salt, leaven, and light for a world very much in search of values, responds concretely to challenges around poverty, immigration, health care access, homelessness, racism, gender inequality, and climate crisis. At its core, this body of teachings rooted in scripture, tradition, magisterium, and human

experience, embraces such values as human dignity, solidarity, especially with persons on the margins, the option for the poor, unified struggle and committed participation towards the common good, and care for our common home, mother earth. The seminar uses a pedagogy which is interactive, one grounded in human experience and ecclesial belonging, hence opportunities to not only see Catholic Social Teaching in Action, but also to drink of its wider Christian and spiritual wells. Learning activities, rooted in community learning, assume that the students will come to the first session already having done some preparatory work connected with relevant readings, for example, a site-visit to a Catholic Worker house, Black Alliance for Just Immigration, soup kitchens, peace rallies, other forms of advocacy, etc., a movie review, online posting, class presentations, case studies, and a final project which entails designing a ministerial plan for a concrete setting. In the spirit of Catholic Social Teaching's working towards the common good and inter-faith collaboration, the seminar welcomes persons of diverse faiths. Its methodology emphasizes intersectionality, for example, how women are doubly poor, how gender interacts with power, class, race, sex, and other cultural forms of marginalization. Course meets weekdays, 6/12/23-6/29/23, from 9am-12:30pm at JST 216.

LEADING ADAPTIVE ACTION
(DM-6023)SFTS, SFTS Faculty
(06/20/2023-06/24/2023)

Course Memo:

What does adaptive action look like in communities of faith? Identifying the differences between technical and adaptive challenges only goes so far. This course will support the framing of effective community adaptive action, nourish students' personal resources for navigating systemic change, and draw on the deep theological resources of specific congregations. Students will work with case studies, explore various "art of hosting" techniques for open source change, and engage in a variety of contemplative practices to sustain their faith in the midst of dynamic change. Authors engaged will include Robert Kegan, Glenda Eoyang, Royce Holladay, Scott Cormode, and authors from within the theological traditions the students bring to the class..Must be an SFTS DMin student. Course meets daily, 6/20/23-6/24/23, from 9am-5pm at SFTS.

BIBLICAL IMAGES REIMAGINE CHURCH
(DM-6162) SFTS Jon Berquist
(06/13/2023-06/17/2023)

Course Memo:

Biblical history provides multiple examples of how the faith communities of ancient Israel and early Christianity (the temple, the synagogue, the church, and more) organized themselves for mission in their particular historical and social context. In each case, a careful reading of Biblical texts can teach us the benefits and challenges of different forms of organization. With this understanding, we can see how faith leadership responds effectively to new and changing social situations. Must be an SFTS DMin student. Course meets daily, 6/13/23-6/17/23, from 9am-5pm at SFTS.

RELIGION, SURVEILLANCE, AND RACIALIZED BODIES
(HR-8490) GTU Paula Thompson
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

In this course students will be introduced to the interconnection between religion and race and the particular ways in which they intersect to racialize a religion's followers in some cases rendering them targets of state violence subject to covert surveillance, discipline, forced displacement, excluded from religious protections, and/or subjects of warfare. Attention will be given to surveillance broadly defined, as the course examines religion and racialized/terrorized bodies at both the center and peripheries historically and in the present globalized security order. An interdisciplinary approach will be taken in order to critically engage and interrogate concepts such as militarism and imperialism, governance, securitization, Islamophobia, racism, policing, COINTELPRO, CVE/surveillance programs, We will analyze and decolonize the normative, prescriptive, and "universal" Western epistemologies, discourses, and frames through which religion and racialized bodies are represented in history, academia, media, law, and foreign/domestic policy. Regular meeting times to be determined during first course meeting, 9/5/23, from 6:10-9pm. This course is taught by PhD student Paula Thompson with a Newhall Award, under the supervision of Munir Jiwa. [Auditors with Faculty Permission]

FALL 2023

HINDU THEOLOGY FOUNDATIONS: THEMES, TEXTS, TRADITIONS
(CEHR-4300) GTU Rita Sherma
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This seminar explores foundational ideas, themes, directions, and frameworks in Hindu theology. Arguably, the Hindu tradition offers a highly diverse and open theological palette—with monotheism, monism, dualism, panpsychism, and panentheism all coexisting comfortably—due to agreement on categories of theology that cut across all boundaries including certain canonical texts and principal doctrines. Theology is variously expressed in the Hindu ethos—in ways that are systematic, philosophical, poetic, narrative, mystical, textual, visual, material, and embodied. Theology, in the Hindu world, is experienced & enacted through art, architecture, ritual, meditation, dance, drama, and pilgrimage. At the same time, every theological denomination has its own sacred texts, themes, and structures. Students will explore major theologies as well as the diverse conduits through which theology is understood, and transmitted. Particular attention is paid to constructive theological resources for justice, the moral life, and possibilities for theo-ethics and social theory. Students will have an opportunity to present a particular theme or overview of a theological school that is important for their academic project, or of particular research interest to them. PhD and ThD students are welcome, and the course is suitable for advanced MA, MDiv, and MTS students with an interest in theology in diverse religions. Seminar/Lecture format; assessment includes critical reflections, one interview, and research papers. [Auditors with Faculty Permission]

POSTCOLONIALISM, DECOLONIALITY, & DIALOGUE - RECOVERING SUBMERGED
KNOWLEDGE (CERS-4820) GTU Rita Sherma
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course is appropriate for MA and PhD students (additional research) interested in understanding the critically important methodologies of Postcolonialism and Decoloniality Studies and will introduce students to questions, ideas, and debates taking place within these fields in their relationship to Africa, Asia, and North & South America. This regular course, taught remotely and synchronously, will examine current

scholarship at the intersection of colonialism/neocolonialism and the Study of Religion. The course focuses on the contemporary efforts to rediscover the internal lens for the study of religious cultures, indigenous knowledge, and thought systems that arose in the global South. The main focus will be on the hermeneutics of Decoloniality Studies with a critical evaluation of Postcolonialism. From Decoloniality's critique of modernity emerges (i) an analysis of political, economic, social and cultural thought constructions influenced by problematic epistemic criteria; (ii) a critique of Postcolonialism itself for its lack of self-reflection; and (iii) a call for the construction of a new epistemology of/by the global regions impacted and their diasporic traditions. The course will require critical reflections and research papers.

HINDU RITUAL STUDIES: CONTEMPLATION & COMMUNION
(HARRA-8470) GTU Pravina Rodrigues
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

The course is appropriate for MA/MDiv, and PhD and other doctoral students (with higher level of research) who have *previous background in Hindu Studies, Buddhist Studies, or Yoga Philosophy Studies.* The course will provide students with interdisciplinary approaches to the fine and performative arts as they apply to Ritual, Liturgical, and Contemplative Studies in the Hindu & Yogic traditions. This course will focus on the application of Contemplative Arts & Aesthetics of Yoga. We will learn about Rasa Theory, the psychology of emotions used across Hindu theologies of bhakti and tantra yoga. Of particular importance is the *role of women in these contemplative arts*. The course will examine the integration of the ecosystems of the more-than-human world in yogic methods such as contemplative praxis among forests & groves, riverine meditation, the complex semiotics of flowers & foliage in worship (puujaa), and via the arts of pilgrimage (yaatraa), sacramental fine arts that use organic materials (e.g. rangoli, yantra, and mandala). These performative meditations offer embodied hermeneutics for diverse spiritual paths. The research for this course will draw inspiration from the meaning inherent in diverse Yogic Arts including the systematic contemplative praxes of sacred dance, dramaturgy, hymnal devotions, melodic recitation, recounting of sacred narratives (katha), and liturgical call-and-response chants (kirtana). The course will examine the ongoing development of a yogic ecopsychology that is intrinsic to the yogic tradition from the earliest texts of the Vedas, and investigate how these modalities of yoga are currently used—both for hermeneutics and healing. We will study scholarship and current research on the physical, psychological, and emotional impact of Contemplative Arts of Yoga that

immerse the practitioner in the elemental natural world. Foundationally, the course offers a robust inclusion of sacred sound, sacramental music, and fine arts as ancient "meditational" facets of a yogic Ecospirituality & Ecopsychology. Critical reflections papers, class presentations, and a final paper will be required. Please note that the class will be offered as a regular course in a synchronous remote format. [Prior background in Hindu Studies, Yoga Philosophy, or Buddhist Studies; Auditors with Faculty Permission.

CHRIST & BEING HUMAN
(PHRS-4400) GTU Deidre Green
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course will explore what it would mean to imagine the life of Jesus as offering a model for the good life and human flourishing. Engaging sources as diverse as the writings of Søren Kierkegaard, Amy Hollywood, Howard Thurman, and Judith Butler, the course will analyze the life of Jesus in light of themes such as joy, love, trauma, justice, forgiveness, and vulnerability. It will specifically assess the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke as a model of properly relating to and caring for the vulnerability of oneself and others. The course will be offered in a seminar format and evaluation will be based on weekly participation, presentations, and final papers. [Auditors With Faculty Permission]

ENGAGING THE ARTS IN RELIGION/THEOLOGY DISSERTATIONS
(RA-8570) GTU Kathryn Barush
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course is aimed at PhD students who wish to engage the arts and material culture in their dissertations as part of an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion/theology. We will focus on various theoretical and methodological approaches to material sources (such as, but not limited to, iconography and iconology, aesthetics, material culture studies, and ethnography) and consider the benefits and issues of working with art and objects. Students will gain familiarity with museum archives and digital image databases as well as with the ins-and-outs of responsibly using images, including seeking publication rights and permissions. It would also benefit Art & Religion PhD students who wish to strengthen their knowledge of theory and methods in the history of art.

MEDIEVAL ENGLISH MYSTICS
(SPHS-8449) GTU Arthur Holder
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This seminar-style course will study the writings and historical contexts of five 14th-century English mystics: Richard Rolle, the author of the *Cloud of Unknowing*, Walter Hilton, Julian of Norwich, and Margery Kempe. Themes to be explored include the nature of mystical experience, action/contemplation, emotions and embodiment, images of God, gendered roles both human and divine, theologies of suffering, and models of holiness. We will also consider the gifts and challenges these writers offer to us today. Requirements: short reflection papers, class presentations, term paper. PhD, STL, STD, and advanced MA and MDiv students welcome.

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: THEOLOGY, HISTORY, ETHICS
(HRRS-8101) CIS Mahjabeen Dhala
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course will introduce participants to the foundational texts and central beliefs and practices in Islam and important theories and methods in the academic study of Islam as a religion. We will focus on various aspects of Islamic tradition and history including the development of religious law, theology, philosophy, mysticism, art, and culture. We will explore the diverse ways in which Muslims practice and interpret their faith, with a focus on the role of women in the establishment of Islamic thought and institutions. This course will also introduce participants to key themes and issues in the study of contemporary Islam, offer resources to counter Islamophobia, and an opportunity to engage with some Muslim organizations and communities in the Bay area. Participants will be expected to begin formulating various nuanced, internally consistent, and suitable conceptual categories for talking about Islam in its various manifestations. This is a seminar course offered remotely on Zoom and is open to MA, MDiv, MTS, as well as PhD students (with added research). Assessments include class discussions, oral presentations, and a final project.

BIBLE & PUBLIC POLICY
(BSRS-2800) BST LeAnn Flesher
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course is co-taught by LeAnn Flesher and Robert Wilkins. This exciting new course will: explore biblical and theological foundations for establishing a moral basis for public policy; facilitate skill development for evaluating effects of public policy upon those least able to protect and defend their interests; introduce the student to social advocacy groups and Watch Dog Agencies for collaboration in influencing public policy; and assist the student in creating a sustainable plan for keeping abreast of ever changing social policies that threaten to undo justice-oriented public policy. Possible Field trips to Sacramento and Washington DC.

XTIAN ETHICS >< SOCIAL ETHICS
(CE-2040) BST James Grandson
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course examines Christian Ethics from antiquity to the modern era and the emergence of social ethics in the 19th century through the present day. Consideration of The Good and doing good, justice and social justice are central themes in the Christian Church and contemporary world. We will focus on these topics as we consider religious beliefs, tradition, values, virtue, individual freedom and responsibility. We will ask and explore how faith is informed and expressed by these themes in our contemporary world.

HOLY INNOVATION
(FTRS-2700) BST Samuel Kim
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course is an introduction to a theological understanding and practice of innovation in the context of ministry either inside or outside of the local church. We will engage with the frameworks of human centered design, entrepreneurship and agile management as a way to guide us into our Creator's call to be creative, innovative and redemptive in our vocation. We want to encourage our faith communities to respond

meaningfully to an ever-changing world – whether it be through creating something new, renewing something old, transforming something broken or all of the above!

RESISTANCE RHETRIC & PBLC SQR
(HM-2600) BST Joseph Evans
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

We will define rhetoric and how the art form informs homiletics and strategies in sacred, secular, and public square settings. For this course, we will limit our focus to sermons delivered by Gardner C. Taylor in various settings. We will read and view some of his sermons, respond, and react to his pulpit work and consider the rhetorical context(s). Group discussion will enhance our understanding of topic and written papers will be utilized to evaluate our academic proficiency. Class will be hybrid, Monday nights from 5:10 to 8:00 pm. Auditors welcome. [Faculty Consent required]

WOMANIST THEOETHICAL THOUGHT & PRAXIS: WEAVING LITERARY,
ARTS, AND RELIGION (RSCE-3402) Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo: Womanist thought and praxis informs theological and ethical intersections of identity and lived experiences for practical application to ministry and self-care. What are religious and societal responses to a justice lens centering a survival ethic of resiliency and anti-oppression? Use of interactive dialogue, readings, and audio-visual materials help students to analyze the messaging and methodological approaches in multiple genres including literary, arts, religion, and popular culture. Moodle/ Voice Thread used to create interactive presentations with classmates and faculty. Course meets Tuesdays 6:30-9:30pm for in-person class (hybrid option w/ professor permission. Masters and Doctoral students welcome.

NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES (PART 1)
(IDS-8101) BST Valerie Miles-Tribble
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Creative Church & Community, Spirituality & Resilience, Justice & Reconciliation, Border-Crossing. These are all topics that will be addressed through the lenses of Bible, Theology, Ethics, History, and Praxis as a means of introducing and preparing the

online student to /for the work of theological study and reflection. In part 1 of this two-part, year-long, MTS core online introduction the student will engage key terms, concepts, and methodologies; in part 2 (spring semester) the student will make application of all of the above to a topic of their own choosing. [This is the only core course for the BST MTS=Master's in Theological Studies]

KNOWLEDGE OF SELF AND OTHER
(PH-4709) DSPT James Kintz
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

It is commonplace to note an asymmetry between self-knowledge and knowledge of other persons. After all, a person's knowledge of herself is immediate, whereas it is often believed that knowledge of other persons depends on various behavioral cues and inferential reasoning. But this asymmetry has raised a number of philosophical questions, including whether we can know if other minds exist in the first place. While solving this "problem of other minds" is important in its own right, recent work in philosophy of mind and developmental psychology has indicated that we not only have the ability to know that other minds exist, but, at least occasionally, to "mindread" – that is, to know what another person is thinking or feeling. Further, we often engage in acts of shared attention such that one's own experience is interconnected with that of another person. How we understand these social cognitive abilities is intimately linked with our understanding of the nature and character of self-knowledge, and thus studying these issues together can be mutually enriching. In this course we will begin with an exploration of the nature and character of self-knowledge, followed by an examination of our social cognitive abilities. While most of our attention will focus on contemporary work in philosophy of mind and developmental psychology, we will also examine related work from historical thinkers such as Aristotle and Thomas Aquinas. Format: lecture/discussion. Intended audience: M.A.Ph., M.A.Th., and Ph.D. students. [Some background in philosophy of mind is preferred.]

PHILOSOPHICAL ANTHROPOLOGY FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY
(PHED-3500) DSPT Margarita Vega
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This seminar focuses on aspects of our human condition that emerge in faith formation, spiritual direction, and religious education. It intends to offer anthropological tools to teachers, faith leaders, and educators. The course uses philosophical argumentation and theological approaches. While we will consider different traditions, the seminar draws significantly from the personalist and Aristotelian-Thomistic philosophy. Assignments include weekly reading summaries and an end of the semester project. Format includes synchronous in person and asynchronous online sessions.. [Faculty Consent required; Auditors With Faculty Permission]

POETRY & CREATIVE INTUITION
(PHRA-4310) DSPT Christopher Renz
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Students in this seminar course will examine the relationship between creative intuition (sometimes called connatural knowledge) and the fine arts, particularly poetry. Focusing on the work of Jacques Maritain, students will develop a scholastic understanding of how this kind of knowledge is engaged during the creative act. Using contemporary authors, students will then examine how poetry functions to bring humans towards a deeper (connatural) knowledge of transcendent aspects of key human experiences such as suffering, death, resurrection, and the environment. Students will engage the material through seminar discussion. A research paper and class presentations will be used to assess mastery of the material. Intended audience: advanced MA or PhD; others may inquire from the professor.

MONUMENTS, FOLKLORE, AND LANDSCAPES: CULTURAL HERITAGE
AND RELIGION
(RAHR-5400) GTU/CARe Elizabeth Pena
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Whether considering sacred sites or faith traditions, Cultural Heritage is very often intertwined with religion and spirituality. After tracing the history of the World Cultural

Heritage movement, this course will use case studies to focus on issues concerning tangible (monuments, artworks), intangible (folklore, knowledge), and natural heritage (landscapes) with respect to religious practices and spiritual beliefs. Throughout, the emphasis will be on establishing historical and cultural context to understand the meaning of cultural heritage and to consider its evolving definitions. Assignments for this seminar-style course will include readings, discussion, short presentations, and a final paper and presentation on a cultural heritage issue of the student's choice.

INTRODUCTION TO ISLAM: THEOLOGY, HISTORY, ETHICS
(HRRS-8101) GTU/CIS Mahjabeen Dhala
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course will introduce participants to the foundational texts and central beliefs and practices in Islam and important theories and methods in the academic study of Islam as a religion. We will focus on various aspects of Islamic tradition and history including the development of religious law, theology, philosophy, mysticism, art, and culture. We will explore the diverse ways in which Muslims practice and interpret their faith, with a focus on the role of women in the establishment of Islamic thought and institutions. This course will also introduce participants to key themes and issues in the study of contemporary Islam, offer resources to counter Islamophobia, and an opportunity to engage with some Muslim organizations and communities in the Bay area. Participants will be expected to begin formulating various nuanced, internally consistent, and suitable conceptual categories for talking about Islam in its various manifestations. This is a seminar course offered remotely on Zoom and is open to MA, MDiv, MTS, as well as PhD students (with added research). Assessments include class discussions, oral presentations, and a final project.

EVERYDAY JEWISH LIFE: HOUSEHOLD, SYNAGOGUE AND STREET
(HSHR-2028) GTU/CJS Deena Aranoff
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course will explore everyday Jewish life from the ancient through medieval periods. We will examine classical Jewish sources as they reflect the centrality of day-to-day life in the making of Jewish cultures. Topics will include family life, synagogue culture, ritual, education and language. We will also ask methodological questions about how

to read classical texts for their contributions to an understanding of everyday Jewish life. [Auditors with Faculty Permission]

METHODS IN STUDY OF BUDDHISM
(HR-1630) IBS Paula Arai
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

A survey of different approaches to the study of Buddhism, including textual, anthropological, sociological, historical, and bibliographic. Particular attention will be given to contemporary critical studies, appropriate historical and social contextualization of doctrinal claims, and relations between Buddhism and other religions in the modern world. Required for IBS M.Div. and MABS students. Class will meet in person with an hybrid option. [Auditors excluded]

READINGS IN MAHAYANA TEXTS
(SA-3017) IBS Nancy Lin
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Readings in Mahayana Texts: Bodhicaryavatara. This seminar studies the Bodhicaryavatara (Way of the Bodhisattva), a classic guide to the Mahayana Buddhist path, in English translation with commentaries and contemporary scholarly interpretation. We will discuss its themes including aspiration, compassion, wisdom, and patience, along with its place in historical and contemporary Buddhist traditions, its literary qualities, and the work of translation. An introductory level course in Buddhism is recommended as background. Fulfills the textual studies (Biblical Studies or Sacred Texts) requirement for the GTU MA. Suitable for MDiv, MA/MTS, and certificate students; DMin and PhD students may enroll with additional requirements. This course is offered in a concurrent hybrid format and may be taken either in-person or remotely with synchronous weekly meetings; before the first day of class, students should inform the instructor which format they plan to use. [20 max enrollment]

VIRTUE, GRACE, AND MORAL AGENCY
(CEST-2600) JST Monica Marcelli-Chu
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course explores the formation of moral agency according to virtue and grace, as well as its social implications. Topics include: moral and theological virtues, habit, affectivity and the body, role of the Holy Spirit, sin and bias. Consideration of topics is ordered to critical analysis of sources and perspectives, application to specific moral questions, and reflection on ministerial practice. Course format includes lecture and discussion. Evaluation is based on short written assignments, participation, and a final paper.

ECOLOGICAL ETHICS: THEOLOGICAL APPROACHES
(CEST-4425) JST Monica Marcelli-Chu
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course studies the development of ecological concern within Catholic Social Teaching, especially the relationship between human and environmental ecology, and the concept of integral ecology as presented in *Laudato Si'*. It will examine ecological ethics according to theological sources, interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue, and contextual questions. Topics include: role and interpretation of Scripture, preferential option for the poor, role of science, Indigenous ways of life, global and local outlooks. This is a seminar course. Evaluation is based on seminar participation and leadership, short written assignments to facilitate participation, and a final research paper.

INCULTURATION AND LITURGY
(LSST-4181) JST Mary McGann
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Inculturation is a work of justice and liberation by which Christian communities grow into the richness of their mature identity. Vatican Council II and subsequent church documents underscore the importance of etho-cultural and racial diversity to the life of the church. Inculturation, and specifically liturgical inculturation, releases that potential, creating a wholeness and integrity – a true "catholicity" – within the people of God.

Course readings and visual resources draw on emergent theologies from around the globe, key church documents, and narratives of communities engaged in inculturated worship. Focus given to issues of globalization, justice, popular religion, women, as well as community resilience and sustainability, Discussion/reading will explore Asian, African, Latin American, Asian American, Latino, and African American perspectives and practices. Course intended for STL, MDiv, MTS and ThM students. [15 max enrollment]

CHILDREN OF SARAH, HAGAR & MARY
(OTRS-4050) JST Gina Hens-Piazza
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course explores scriptural stories, histories, and interreligious issues concerning women across the three great traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It considers common and distinctive topics that characterize these religious cultures and how they might be addressed in the context of dialogue among the women of these communities. Finally, it offers a two week immersion experience in Jerusalem, Israel during January 2014 whereby students visit the significant religious sites associated with their study. During this time they will participate in learning opportunities with Jewish, Moslem and Christian women living there. (A minimum number of students is required for the immersion component with a maximum of 12 students). Estimated Cost of Immersion Component \$1000. Interview with the professor required for registration. Course satisfies either either a Biblical Studies or Interreligious Requirement [Faculty Consent required; 12 max enrollment; Interview required]

ART AND PILGRIMAGE
(RAHS-3821) JST Kathryn Barush
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Geoffrey Chaucer famously wrote that 'folks long to go on pilgrimage.' Indeed, traveling over long distances to a sacred destination is an important ritual practice that has crossed cultures and time. Such journeys have inspired legends, folk-stories, and artistic representations from the early Christian centuries to today. Using a cross-disciplinary approach, this course surveys the relationship of art, material culture,

and Christian pilgrimage practice through a close examination of major shrines and their dedications and decorations, paintings, pilgrimage badges and other souvenirs, films, and surrogate sites of pilgrimage such as maps, labyrinths, and manuscripts. We will address the literal and metaphorical meanings of pilgrimage and the conjunction of artistic practice and contemplative prayer. Students will have the option of a final paper OR a praxis project.

CULTURE, CONTEXT AND LIVED RELIGION
(RS-2092) JST Jerome Baggett
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the much-discussed (but less often understood) concept of culture and its implications for theological study and pastoral ministry today. After attending to more theoretical concerns, we will investigate the manner in which a nuanced construal of culture is essential for better understanding such things as secularization, religious change, and the salience of religiosity in shaping people's perceptions, identities and strategies of action. By attending to these (and other) topics, students should acquire the theoretical and methodological tools necessary for becoming more sophisticated observers of religion as it is actually lived out as well as for deepening their studies in theology and ministry. [25 max enrollment]

CLIMATE CHANGE, CULTURE, AND CREATION
(RSCE-2300) JST Jerome Baggett
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course explores the reality of climate change as well as what it means for people in terms of understanding humans' connection to nature, thinking about possible responses among individuals and governments, imagining the future, and accessing the wisdom of religious traditions with respect to re-conceptualizing spirituality and ministry. Drawing upon sociology, environmental science, political theory and so forth, this course is interdisciplinary and is targeted to students from all programs with an interest in this critical topic. It also includes "upgrade" options for students needing to take it at the 4000 level. [30 max enrollment].

EXPERIMENTS PRAYER & MEDITATION
(SP-2492) JST George Murphy
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

To explore ways of prayer and meditation within the western Christian tradition. Through these experiments in prayer one hopes to develop his or her relationship to God and one's sensibility to the religious dimension of one's everyday life. The course aims to help people notice and articulate their religious experience as a ground and test of their theological reflection. Seminar type. Evaluation: Reflection papers, journal, active participation. Course can be upgraded with research paper. [Faculty Consent required; 20 max enrollment]

KENOSIS: THE ART AND THEOLOGIES OF SELF-EMPTYING
(HSST-4600) Multi-campus Devin Zuber
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This seminar explores the multivalent concept of "kenosis," or self-emptying, and is co-taught by Dr. Deidre Green and Dr. Devin Zuber. First appearing in Paul's first century letter to the Phillipians concerning Christ's incarnation—that Christ "made himself nothing" or "emptied himself" in order to be filled with the Divine—the term has since become a rich site for theorizing and contemplating broader varieties of religious and mystical experience. We will survey both the history of early Christian writings that first took up kenosis as a rich theological problematic, as well as its later instantiations in both apophatic mystical traditions (Meister Eckhart, St. John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila) and modern philosophy from the Romantic period onwards. Readings will include Søren Kierkegaard, Simone Weil, Maurice Blanchot, Maggie Nelson, Jacques Derrida. MA / PhD level; oral presentation, final research essay.

THEOLOGY OF INTERFAITH DIALOG
(STHR-4055) Anh Tran
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This seminar is an exploration of how religious pluralism may find a place in Christian theology. The course will explore various historical and contemporary approaches to

and understandings of theology of religions and interreligious dialogue. The phenomenon of multiple religious identity and the implications for contemporary missiology will also be discussed. Students will undertake and reflect on their own dialogue with a member of another religion. Course requirements include weekly critical reading and on-line discussion; field work; in-class presentation and leading class discussion; mid-term project; and a final project. [Faculty Consent required; 20 max enrollment; Auditors with Faculty Permission]

XN ETHICS: RAD LOVE EMBODIED
(CE-1125) PLTS Cynthia Moe-Lobeda
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course introduces the practice and theory of moral formation, discernment, and conduct through the lens of Christian Ethics, Ethics is viewed as the art-science bringing Christian traditions and critical theory to the tasks of: 1) discerning what is right for any given situation, 2) finding moral-spiritual power to act on that discernment, and 3) discovering what forms individuals and society toward the good and what mal-forms away from it. The course includes some emphasis on Anglican and Lutheran perspectives, and holds social transformation toward justice and ecological well-being as an inherent aim of Christian ethics. This course is jointly offered by CDSP & PLTS. PLTS & CDSP students only during priority registration. [30 max enrollment]

READING CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY IN CONTEXT
(HSST- 1126) PLTS Kirsi Stjerna
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course will introduce students to a variety of Christian teachers and theologians and thereby, with their texts, provide students with a framework for the study of Christian faith in context, familiarity with major developments in theological inquiry, and a map for the diversity of sources and voices that speak particularly to the Christian experience of faith over centuries. Chronologically, the materials engaged range from the 3rd century Christian Creeds to the Enlightenment, concluding with the challenges presented in the post-Holocaust and Scientific revolutions reality. The focus in the study is theological, and the primary intent is to connect students with the Christian sources and hermeneutical explorations. Students are invited to orient towards a critical

constructive look into their own faith traditions, historical or theological analysis, and/or methodological and source-critical issues. Meets Thursdays, 2:10 - 5:00 pm synchronously on Zoom. [20 max enrollment]

FNDTNS CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
(SP-8100) PLTS Leslie Veen
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course is designed to provide a general survey of the general theological basis for and characteristics of spirituality as practiced in Christian traditions. Students will delve into the theological underpinnings of Christian spirituality, interact with writings on Christian spirituality from historical as well as contemporary authors, explore various forms of Christian spirituality, and engage various practices of Christian spirituality in order to construct their own conceptual framework of Christian spirituality that will enable them to evaluate the effectiveness of various practices and to engage in them in ways that will deepen their own faith. Students will participate in this work through: course readings writing assignments; in-class lectures, discussions, and activities; and, a final culminating project. PLTS students will have registration priority. This is a 7-week hybrid course with one in-person gathering on the first Friday of the semester and one online synchronous meeting on the third Saturday of the semester. The rest of the course will be completed online asynchronously. [20 max enrollment]

MORE THAN WORDS: PREACHING THROUGH ART
(BSHM-3000) PSR Kelly Colwell
(10/24/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to preaching through various artistic mediums. Students will read and analyze selected biblical texts in their historical, social, and political contexts and use different artistic mediums to construct interpretations of these particular texts. The use of art will help students construct interpretations from different perspectives and different social locations leading to a deeper reflection and addressing ethical and moral issues relevant to our contemporary context. Various artistic forms will be engaged such as movement, drama, poetry, music, song, painting etc. Preaching using artistic mediums achieves an analogous effect in retelling narratives and bringing to surface the silent and invisible voices that have often been

ignored in our written analysis of the texts. This course will seek to expand the genre of text to include other artistic mediums as texts that attempt to decenter the written word where the rules of interpretation are not predetermined for the audience. This is an upper-level course and requires Introduction to Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as prerequisites. Course meets Tuesdays, 10/24/23-12/15/23.

VISIONS OF TOMORROW: HOWARD THURMAN,
JAMES BALDWIN, ADRIENNE MARIE BROWN AND OTHERS
(HS-2550) PSR Dorsey Blake
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Dr. Howard Thurman wrote: "The movement of the Spirit of God in the hearts of people [men] often calls them to act against the spirit of their times or causes them to anticipate a spirit which is yet in the making. In a moment of dedication, they are given wisdom and courage to dare a deed that challenges and kindle a hope that inspires" The course will the role of imagination, mysticism, and alternative consciousness in creating alternative, Beloved communities. Alternative methods of evaluation will be utilized including research and/or reflection papers, artistic work as well as class participation. Class is open to MDiv, MA/MTS, DMin and PhD students.

GOD'S SACRED EARTH
(STSP-4820) PAOI John Klentos
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

Eastern Christian Perspectives on Creation and Anthropology Eastern Christians have developed theological understandings and spiritual practices expressing the sacred dimension of creation. Their worldview begins with God as Creator and culminates with the restoration and transfiguration of the entire cosmos. Today's worsening ecological and social situations are viewed as tragic manifestations of the shattered relationship between God, humans, and creation. Through its characteristic ascetical, liturgical, and mystical experiences, Eastern Christianity can suggest steps toward reconciliation, healing, and transfiguration. Using a combination of liturgical, patristic, and modern texts, this course will explore how the Eastern Christian Churches understand creation and the human person. Beginning with early theological interpretations of the Genesis creation narratives, the class will consider spiritualities of daily living that seek to restore healthy connections between God, humans, and creation. Students will discuss how

modern Eastern Christian writers address today's environmental crises and societal challenges. This course is designed for Masters students who are interested in looking at the environment and humans through the lens of Eastern Christianity's theological vision and lived spirituality. It will introduce significant early theologians and modern Eastern Christian theological writers and scholars from a variety of places. The course will be taught in seminar format with occasional lectures. Students will write short weekly reflections (2 pages), 2 short research papers (5-8 pages), and a final synthetic paper (12-15 pages).

APPROACHES TO NON-VIOLENT SOCIAL CHANGE
(PRRS-8220) WI Chitra Golestani
(09/05/2023-12/15/2023)

Course Memo:

This course explores the history, theory, and practice of nonviolent social change, in dialog with the principles of the Bahá'í Faith and the relevant experience of the Bahá'í community. As students reflect on how to become effective protagonists of social change, we will explore the following questions: How has the philosophy of nonviolent social change contributed to societal development? What is the spiritual or inner dimension to social change? In the pursuit of peace and justice, how can the means we employ become fully coherent with the ends we seek? What is the role of knowledge, learning, training, and capacity building in processes of social change? Students will contribute to public discourse and community building efforts through dynamic discussions, analysis, research, and presentations.. [20 max enrollment; Auditors With Faculty Permission]