

Intersession 2023

YORUBA SPIRITUALITY AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE PARADIGM (HRIR-2300) GTU Ayanna Grady-Hunt

(01/09/2023-01/13/2023)

Course Memo

Environmental justice pioneer Robert Bullard writes: “Environmental justice advocates continue to challenge the current environmental protection apparatus and offer their own framework for addressing environmental racism, unequal protection, health disparities, and non-sustainable development in the United States —and around the world.” Acknowledging the impacts of physical and epistemic violence mediated through environmental racism on displaced, previously enslaved, and colonized people, specifically women, in the US will undergird course discussions as students collectively engage Yoruba epistemological and theo-ethical concepts of the Divine through the lens of community, gender, and environment. This course will use the spirituality inherent in Ifa-orisa religion as a theo-ethical framework to conceptualize new forms of justice through the lens of eco-womanism. Eco-womanism is a socio-critical theory, theology, and methodology rooted in earth-based philosophical and practical understandings about God, Black woman, and nature. Eco-womanism challenges the parallel oppressions of Earth and Her most structurally vulnerable inhabitants, Black and Indigenous women, through the use of counter-memory and counter-narrative, among other ways. Eco-womanism highlights the multiple theo-ethical influences within Black and Indigenous women’s spiritual lives as sources of latent power.

Course Outcomes Outcome 1: Demonstrate a sound comprehension of epistemology (knowing) and ontology (being) as theo-ethical praxis. Assessment: Regular class attendance and participation. Outcome 2: Demonstrate foundational understanding of the central theo-ethical principles of the Yoruba divinities we will engage in course. Assessment: Students will lead and contribute to partial course discussion daily based on the readings, films, and in-class discussions. Outcome 3: Demonstrate foundational understanding of eco-womanist critique and praxis. Assessment: Students will lead and contribute to partial course discussion daily based on the readings, films, and in-class discussions. Outcome 4: Demonstrate acute awareness of communotheism, ase, egun, iwa pele, and iwa rere and how they function in Yoruba spirituality. Assessment: Final presentations will include a personal epistemic reflection - written or creative - that demonstrates comprehension of Ifa-orisa epistemology through incorporation of one of these principles and how it contributes to an environmental justice paradigm that liberates. This course is a hybrid of on-line/in person seminar format. This course is designed for MA/MTS, DMin, and PhD students. Course meets daily, 1/9/23-1/13/23, from 9:30am - 430pm at GTU Library 3rd Floor Conference Room.

BECOMING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE: CBTE PART 1
(DM-6078)BST LeAnn Flesher

(01/09/2023-01/13/2023)

Course Memo

This course is co-taught by LeAnn Flesher and Eric Sias. Culturally Responsive Competency Based Theological Education (CBTE) To be(come) Culturally Responsive requires mentors and partners. Each student in the newly revised Competency Based Doctor of Ministry program will journey alongside a thematic cohort with several DMin students and two mentors. A student's mentor team can be geographically centered or spread across the globe. The remote realities that have become the new normal in our world create possibilities for communication and gatherings from anyplace at any time. Berkeley School of Theology's Culturally Responsive Competency Based DMin will address several themes. Each student will select one of the several themes to emphasize and build his/her mentor team accordingly (or working with an advisor create their own specialized program): 1) Racism/Prison Renewal/Reparations; 2) Pastoral Care/Spirituality; 3) Preaching Social Justice; 4) Ministerial Training Latinx Churches (Spanish); 5) Biblical Studies/Interpretation; 6) Green the Church/Creation Care; 7) Womanist/Feminist Gospel; 8) Spiritual Formation (Korean); 9) Intercultural Leadership. If one of these themes does not interest the student s/he may work with her/his faculty advisor to create an emphasis that matches their particular needs. Class meets daily, 1/17/23-1/20/23; from 9am to 5pm.

BECOMING CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE: CBTE PART 2
(DM-6080) BST Valerie Miles-Tribble

(01/09/2023-01/13/2023)

Course Memo

For DMin students who have completed most of their competencies and are ready to refine dissertation proposals for submission to Academic Committee for candidacy review. Prerequisite completion of DM-6078 Becoming Culturally Responsive, part 1 & DM 6046 Research Methods. Class meets daily, 1/9/23-1/13/23, from 9:10am-5:00pm, in hybrid formats (in-person and Zoom option).

GOSPEL OF THE MASSES
(FTRS-2100) STP Yu-Shuan Tarango-Sho

(01/08/2023-01/13/2023)

Course Memo

Witnessing the Sacred Among the Marginalized. This is an immersion course, a spiritual pilgrimage, that engages with both the persecution and resilience of marginalized people in the United States. We will spend our time examining and healing our own internal biases and practicing the sacred gift of deep, just, and compassionate listening with some of the most respected street scholars, theologians, activists, and organizers in Oakland. Students will learn to identify and analyze the intersectionality of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, and immigration status in perpetuating generational marginalization as well as influencing one's theology and experience with the Divine. Class meets off campus daily, 1/8/23-1/13/23, from 9am-5pm.

DISCERNMENT IN SYSTEMS
(DM-6062) SFTS Faculty

(01/10/2023-01/14/2023)

Course Memo

In this course, we will first overview the Christian understanding of discernment in order to provide a platform for the constructive work specific to the course. Then we will extend our understanding of discernment and discernment processes into the arena of systems, structures and institutions. Most importantly, we will develop awareness, vocabulary and strategies to assist other persons and groups in this important arena-i.e. to think, imagine, pray and discern systemically. Must be an SFTS DMin student. Course meets daily, 1/10/23 - 1/14/23, from 9am-5pm at SFTS.

Spring 2023

THE BIBLE FROM THE MARGINS
(BS-2093) GTU Joshua Garcia

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

The modern academic discipline of biblical studies has been dominated by white men in American and European institutions. The field's predominant interpretive mode of historical-criticism assumes objective study of the ancient literature to not only be possible but also the foundation of legitimate study. As biblical scholars from diverse backgrounds have entered the academy, recent scholarship has challenged the notion of the disinterested interpreter by contending that all interpretation is contextual. This course will survey the interpretive approaches of North American scholars of racial minority communities in contemporary academic discourse and explore how different contextualized epistemologies have shaped those their interpretations of the Bible. Beginning with secondary sources, we will explore the hermeneutical strategies specific to groups of biblical interpreters who claim a particular community as their interpretive point of departure. The course will then center primary source readings and minoritized critical readings of them to interrogate the similarities and differences between the various interpretive communities. The course will be conducted in seminar format and students will be evaluated on leadership of class discussions as well as mid-term and final case-studies. The course is intended for master-level students seeking to work in diverse contexts of ministry or community advocacy. Course is taught by PhD student Joshua Garcia with a Newhall Award, under the supervision of Uriah Kim. [Intro to Old Testament/Hebrew Bible or Intro to New Testament preferred; 15 max enrollment

FORGIVENESS AND (ITS) RESISTANCE: TRAUMA, GENDER, AND POWER
(CERS-4100) GTU Deidre Green

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course will explore various facets of forgiveness in religious perspective, including considerations of power dynamics, gender, trauma, and collective forgiveness (as in the case of civil or ethnic conflict). The course materials will largely focus on Christian perspective, including scripture, theological reflections, and philosophy of religion, but students are encouraged to incorporate other perspectives into their final papers. The course will be offered in a seminar

format and evaluation will be based on participation in weekly discussions, presentations, and papers. [Auditors with faculty permission]

RACE, RELIGION, AND BELONGING
(HRRS-8350) GTU Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course will examine the intersectionality and multidimensionality of race, religion, and belonging, centering the Black experience in the United States. Social and religious institutions operating within the realm of past and present colonial and hegemonic states will be probed and critiqued for their role as upholders, bystanders, or anti-agents of white supremacy, systemic racism, and the larger struggle for Black humanity and justice. The role of race, religion and belonging will be examined and critiqued as an interactive and contested struggle within the socio-economic and political system for citizenship and human rights. This struggle can also be viewed as an impetus driving and shaping decolonial thought and self-determination as manifested through the discourse and activism of Black people in various religious communities, Black Liberation Theology, and the Black Power Movement. The course will explore these areas from four conceptual and interrelated frames: 1. Blackness and race 2. religion 3. cultural memory and continuity, and 4. identity, justice and belonging, drawing upon historical and contemporary readings from Africana studies, including African diaspora and African American studies; visual and media resources; and guest speakers. This course is taught by PhD student Nosizwe Breaux-Abdur-Rahman with a Newhall Award, under the supervision of Munir Jiwa, and is open to all.

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN RELIGION
(STRS-4242)GTU Yun Jeong Jeong and Keyona Lazenby

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This seminar (required for students in the GTU Certificate in Women's Studies and open to all interested students) explores and analyzes emerging themes and issues in women's studies in religion, focus-ing on those that intersect with race, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, class, culture, nationality, and religious ex-pression. This course will provide theoretical groundwork and common vocabulary for students interested in pursuing women's studies and womanist,

feminist, Mujerista scholarship in theology/religious studies. The course introduces the issues that are raised by the field of women's studies and explores how these issues relate to the study of religion. Evaluation based on Moodle participation, leadership of class discussion, and final project and presentation. This course is open to all degree programs at the GTU and has an inter-religious orientation. This course is taught from a liberationist pedagogy perspective. This is a Newhall Course co-taught by Keyona Lazenby and Yun Jeong Jeong under the supervision of Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP: HOW TO LEAD ALMOST ANYTHING
(FT-8237) BST Valerie Miles-Tribble

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course examines theoethical factors of effective leadership in faith-based contexts, as well as identifying key aspects of leadership competencies crucial to develop effective relations within any organizational setting, whether pastoral or managerial roles in prison, hospital or military chaplaincy, non-profit community service, social entrepreneurship, or parachurch organizations. Use of multi-media and case studies will aid in-depth class discussions, self-reflection, and interaction with secular and faith-based readings to help identify specifics of effective transformational leadership in varied contexts. An effective leader recognizes the importance of understanding the context or organic culture of a church or organizational community as a crucial first step. By the end of the course, students are able to self-assess leadership characteristics; assess church/organizational culture in contextual setting and present on a 'real-life' leadership project.

BODY, DESIRE, AND TRANSFORMATION
(ST-4165)STP Scott MacDougall

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This seminar for advanced students in all GTU degree programs explores the theological intersections of embodiment, multiple forms of desire, and human relationality through the lenses of Christian systematic theology broadly and of eschatology and queer theology more specifically. In critical conversation with work on the theological dimensions of desire, gender, embodiment, and queer and affect theories, this course examines how desires can converge in actual bodies, reconfiguring relational possibilities as part of the inbreaking of the

eschatologically “new” and allowing Christians to anticipate through hope—imaginatively and practically—the promised “not yet.” Active seminar participation and occasional leadership, and a final theological research paper are the course requirements. [Auditors with Faculty Permission]

ROMAN CATHOLIC SEXUAL ETHICS
(CE-2003) DSPT Marianne Farina

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This seminar course will examine human sexuality from the perspective of the Roman Catholic tradition as experienced in various cultural contexts and in dialogue with other religious traditions. The investigation includes an examination of the Church teachings and studies by leading theologians that explore topics such as marriage, family life, single life, and celibacy. The interreligious component seeks to foster a dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and other faith communities concerning the core topics of the course. Method of evaluation consists of two 8-10 page papers (mid-term and final), weekly moodle posts, and group presentations. The course is intended for MA/MTS, MDiv students. PHD and DMin students are welcome but must register for a course upgrade and complete a 20 pages research paper for their final paper. [20 max enrollment; Auditors excluded]

This seminar course is designed to introduce students to Catholic thinking on sexuality. This investigation includes an examination of the official Church teachings and studies by leading theologians that explore topics such as marriage, family life, single life, and celibacy. The goal is to present a wide range of positions within the Christian tradition so that students can discuss and debate the available alternatives and come to their own reasoned positions concerning premarital sex, domestic violence, gender injustice, sexual abuse, and pornography. Requirements include mid-term paper, presentations, and final project. It is designed for those pursuing MDiv, MA degrees [15 max enrollment; Auditors excluded]

QUR'AN: ORIGIN, APPLICATION, INTERPRETATIONS
(SARS-1000) GTU Mahjabeen Dhala

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course introduces students to the Qur'an, the sacred text of Muslims, to the historical context in which it emerged, to its structure, canonization, and key themes, and to the various ways in which the Qur'an has had a presence in Muslim theological, social, cultural, political, and intellectual life with a major focus on the methods of its interpretation(s). Students will be engaging with primary exegetical texts (in translation) selected from a range of periods and

denominations as well as secondary academic literature on Qur'anic exegesis to appreciate the sophistication and diversity of the interpretive methods. A significant part of the course will include conversations on Qur'anic verses on women, sexuality, human rights, prophecy, piety, jihad, the society and the individual, interreligious engagement, environmental ethics, nature and animals, justice, and eschatology. Students will be evaluated on engaging participation in group discussions, individual class presentations, and a final project. This is a seminar course offered remotely (synchronously) via 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.

INCULTURATION AND LITURGY
(LSST-4181) JST Mary McGann

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

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. [Faculty Consent required; 14 max enrollment]

MARIAN ART
(RAHS-5311) JST Kathryn Barush

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

QUEEN OF HEAVEN, MOTHER, ADVOCATE, OUR LADY OF VICTORY, STAR OF THE SEA - From the early Christian centuries to today, representations of the Virgin Mary have evolved and changed, and are as diverse as her many titles. Using a cross-disciplinary approach, this course will examine the making, meaning, and reception of Marian images within the various social,

religious, and cultural milieus from which they emerged. For example, we will consider Greek icons depicting Mary as Theotokos, or God-bearer, Italian Renaissance imagery of the Virgin and Child, portrayals of Mary in film, Marian art and BLM, images of Mary in religious contexts beyond Christianity, and vernacular Marian gardens. Students will be evaluated through final research papers on an original topic of their choice, class participation, and an oral presentation. Intended audience: any advanced graduate student interested in the art and material culture of religion.

POLITICAL THEOLOGY
(RSCE-4157) JST Leocadi Lushombo

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

The course explores how Christian theology is political. It will explore a diverse range of approaches to cross-examining, (re)imagining, and (de)constructing the intersection of politics, religion, and theology, present, and past. It is designed to help students think more deeply about the relationship between faith and politics, Christianity, and political arrangements, and assess theological arguments of democracy as a primary means for pursuing a flourishing life. Running through the course are examinations of how different political theologies address questions about the common good, justice, poverty, commonality, difference, and power across continents. Finally, we will look at distinctive approaches to enduring questions in the Christian tradition by twentieth-century scholarship across topics in contemporary political theology across religions, such as reading the Bible politically, the Option for the Poor, the Kingdom of God, State and Church, Church-Based Politics, confronting the powers, gender and race, and the postcolonial challenges.

SPIRITUALITY, SCRIPTURE AND SELF-IMPLICATION
(SPBS-4100)JST Julia Prinz

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course is designed for advanced M.Div, MA, ThM and STL or STD students. The seminar will employ a modified class format (lectures, presentations by students, discussion, online learning aspects etc) to bring spirituality into direct dialogue with biblical texts, but also mystical traditions in poetics and imagery embedded in contextual theologies referring to biblical text. The learning process will give the student the opportunity to detect hermeneutical approaches that are most fitting with her/his self-implicating research interest. [12 max enrollment]

SACRED TEXTS SEMINAR
(BSHR-6100) GTU Mahjabeen Dhala

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course is co-taught by Mahjabeen Dhala and LeAnn Flesher. This doctoral seminar will explore the diverse ways in which sacred texts are formed, interpreted, and experienced over time. Among the textual traditions that we will study include selections from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim classical canons. Our methods will include historical-critical and literary studies of these texts and their histories as well as a study of the hermeneutical principles that have guided their interpretation through the ages. We will also consider the function of these texts within the communities that regard and transmit them. This will include an exploration of their theological, contemplative, liturgical, ritual, pastoral, spiritual, ethical, artistic, and performative modes. In particular, the seminar will examine several sacred text traditions through the following set of critical lenses (1) textual production, (2) authorship and composition, (3) canonization and recension, (4) liturgy and law, (5) translation and commentary, (6) embodiment of texts. Our course aims to enable you to identify primary aspects of the textual traditions studied, their material and ritual histories, the mechanisms for the production and interpretation of these textual traditions, as well as the historical junctures that led to the consolidation of textual forms. This course is required for doctoral students in the Sacred Texts department.

CHRISTIAN ETHICS: RADICAL LOVE
(CE-8125) PLTS Sheryl Johnson

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

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 and CDSP students only during priority registration. [30 max enrollment Spring 2022 & Fall 2022); 20 max enrollment (Spring 2023)]

CLIMATE JUSTICE; THEO & ACTIO
(CERS-4450) PLTS Sheryl Johnson

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

CLIMATE JUSTICE: THEOLOGY AND ACTION IN RELATION. This course will use methodologies of Christian ethics and interaction with local climate justice activists to examine: 1) the climate crisis as a moral matter in relationship to various forms of structural injustice including injustice grounded in race/ethnicity, class, and colonialism, and 2) pathways for addressing the climate crisis with hope. Special attention will be given to global–local connections and perspectives from marginalized communities. Methodological resources include liberation ethics, Earth ethics, post-colonial perspectives, eco-feminist perspectives, and eco-hermeneutics. The course involves reading, writing, engagement with community groups, collaborative knowledge building, and discussion. The informing undercurrent of the course is the quest for hope and moral-spiritual agency in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles. Fulfills Climate Justice and Faith Concentration requirements. This course is jointly offered by CDSP & PLTS. CDSP and PLTS students will have registration priority. Course only open to CDSP and PLTS students during early registration. [30 max enrollment]

FREEDOM THEOLOGY WITH MARTIN LUTHER
(HSST-8450) PLTS Kirsi Stjerna

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

In this online course, we will examine a selection of Martin Luther's works, employing different hermeneutical approaches 1) to re-engage Luther towards in-depth understanding of his theological motifs, arguments, contributions, and shortcomings in light of his own context, and 2) to re-engage Luther theologically with contemporary questions in mind, particularly focusing on the topic of "freedom". A selection of contemporary interpreters will be consulted. In addition, the class provides first-hand familiarity with Luther's 16th century texts, a lens for critical assessment of the interpretative traditions and trends in Luther scholarship, practice in critical reading of historical texts, and immersion in constructive Christian theology with a focus on the highly relevant topic of "freedom". [30 Max Enrollment]

INTRO TO OLD TESTAMENT: SOCIAL & RELIGIOUS TRANSFORMATIONS
(OT-3003)PSR Aaron Brody

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course gives an overview of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament, with a focus on societal and religious transformations detailed in the texts, and is designed primarily for 2nd year students in the stackable curriculum. Social justice issues in the ancient world of the Hebrew Bible will be discussed along with their modern applications. The geographic focus of the lectures will focus on the southern Levant (Holy Land) in its Middle Eastern contexts, the temporal range will be approximately 1200–400 BCE. Themes will be stressed that echo PSR's core values, with special focus on leadership in its biblical forms, critical thinking, contexts (both ancient and modern), race/ethnicity, sexuality, and gender. Evaluation will be based on class participation in discussion and several written assignments.

RITUAL, TRAUMA AND SOCIAL CHANGE
(LSRS-2000) PSR Keyona Lazenby

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

TO BE ADDED

PASTORAL CARE FOR/WITH MARGINALIZED BODIES
(PS-3260) PSR Susan Abraham

(01/30/2023-05/19/2023)

Course Memo

This course can be taken as either a 1.5 credit course, meeting for the first 7 weeks of the semester (if you are in the congregational track) or as a 3.0 credit course meeting the entire 15 weeks of the semester (if you are in the chaplaincy track).

Part 1: Congregational Track

The first 7 weeks of this course aim to ground the practice of pastoral care in the empowerment

and liberation of marginalized bodies and communities. Grounded in postcolonial, intersectional, and interreligious approaches to pastoral care, this course asks that students reflect on pastoral theologies, pastoral care practices, and various case studies that center experiences of marginalization, including issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and migration. Students will be evaluated through class participation, assigned projects, and a mid-class presentation relating to the final project.

Part 2: Chaplaincy Track

“Chaplaincy is the practical application of the spiritual dimensions of compassion.” The second portion of the course seeks to deepen compassion, empathy, listening, and soul care capacities within the life of a spiritual caregiver as informed by various spiritual traditions. Through course materials, lectures, and dialogue students will identify and analyze how care is extended or stifled at various levels of the care process as well as explore emerging examples where spiritual care is being provided: such as in healthcare, universities, corrections, the military, fire and police departments, athletic teams, and corporate settings.

This course is intended for Masters level students who have already completed an introduction to spiritual/pastoral care course and fulfills the 3rd year pastoral care requirement for MDiv students in the congregational and chaplaincy track/s. Please email registrar@psr.edu to see if space is available and include proof of vaccination with your request. [Who Cares, Intro to Pastoral/Spiritual Care; Faculty Consent required; 15 max enrollment; Auditors with faculty permission].