

Elective Course Descriptions for fall 2013

*Note: This is not an exhaustive list of course descriptions. We will add other descriptions as they become available.

Biblical Studies

BIB 619 (AD) Africa and the Bible

3 credit hours

Neal Walls

This course explores the significance of Africa and Africans within biblical literature, with a focus on ancient Egyptian history and literature. We will also survey the history of Judaism and Orthodox Christianity in Egypt and Ethiopia before turning to consider some contemporary (post-colonial) readings of the Bible in southern Africa.

BIB 625 (AD) The Major Prophets: Ancient Activists: The Biblical Prophets and Society, Then and Now

Prerequisite: BIB 522

3 credit hours

Clinton Moyer

What kinds of people would the biblical prophets be if they lived today? What would their prophetic activities look like in the modern world? What modern figures might be seen as analogues to the prophets? In this course, we will seek to divest ourselves of the traditional understanding of the prophets as vaunted, even magical figures, and to consider their character as ordinary human beings with passionate concern for the welfare of their society. As a means of constructing and accessing this point of view, we will focus not only on becoming intimately familiar with the prophets as individuals and their interests within their temporal and socio-historical contexts, but also on reading the biblical prophetic material alongside the writings and speeches of modern voices who seek to critique and advance the social consciousness of their own time, possibly including figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Wendell Berry, Charles Bukowski, Dorothy Day, Margaret Atwood, and others. By means of this exercise, we will seek to gain a greater and more nuanced appreciation for the specific relevance of the biblical prophets' perspectives to many of the major social concerns of modernity: poverty, discrimination, inequality, and so on.

Historical Studies

HIS 520 The Church in Contemporary Cultures

3 credit hours

Derek Hicks

This course will give attention to social factors that pose challenges to church life. We will consider the everyday lives of churchgoers, and how faith plays a role in their responses to social, cultural, and political issues. Attention is also given to the ways in which communities of faith create religious culture as a means of strength, cohesion, and survival. Ultimately, we will engage several important issues of our time faced by the church, including the significance of race and colorblindness related to perceptions of the body; food culture and faith; the contemporary church and mass marketing;

evangelicalism; faith and politics; the church and American prison system; as well as youth culture, Hip Hop, and social deviance.

HIS 682 (AD) A History of the Baptists

3 credit hours

Bill Leonard

A study of Baptist History, with particular attention to Baptists in the U.S. and the diversity of Baptist ways of belief and practice.

HIS 790 (AD) Religion and the Civil Rights Struggle

3 credit hours

Derek Hicks

Resistance to racial bias dates back to institutional slavery. This course will chart an intellectual history from antebellum America through the most publicized protest movement during the mid-to-late twentieth century—the Civil Rights Movement. We will assess several classic and contemporary texts on radical black political thought, connecting those historical voices to contemporary religious thinking and social activism. This course will consider the ways in which faith communities, organizations, and individuals have fueled or been reinforced by African American protests and demands for equal rights. As a site of investigation, this class also will pay some attention to the history and nature of the civil rights struggle in Winston-Salem and surrounding areas. Ultimately, this class will engage the complexity of religious voices within the American freedom struggle—including Judæo-Christians, Muslims, or even the non-religious. We will trace the role religious faith plays in the various forms of the resistance over the nearly 400 years of the African American pilgrimage for equal rights.

Ministerial Studies

MIN 790 (BD) Sacraments & Ordinances: History, Theology & Practice

3 credit hours

Jill Crainshaw

This course explores sacraments and ordinances in Christian liturgical theologies and practices. The course will focus on the critical historical, theological and pastoral issues which exist in understanding and practicing baptism and the Lord's Supper in diverse Christian contexts. Students completing this course will be equipped to define the most critical issues in baptismal and Eucharistic theologies and practices; to articulate from their own perspectives and/or traditions a coherent theology of baptism and the Lord's Supper; to assess, design, and lead baptismal and Eucharistic liturgies in their worshipping contexts. The course will include visits to several local congregations.

MIN 790 (CD) Preaching in the Traditions of the African American Church

3 credit hours

Veronice Miles

This course invites students to explore the heart and soul of the African American preaching traditions with attention to the historical emergence of the Black Church, its dual function as a religious and socio-political institution, and the theologies, practices and history that continually give shape to its preaching

traditions. The course is designed to enhance students' ability to create theologically grounded sermons that are intelligible, accessible and transformational by exploring African Americans' contributions to homiletical theory and practice. Course emphases include the theological dimensions of preaching, biblical interpretation, sermon preparation and delivery, contextualization, embodiment, and preaching as a communal communicative act. Also central to the course are questions about the role of preaching in creating experiences that form, transform and sustains persons and communities in the life of faith and the work of justice in the world.

MIN 790 (ED) Ministry, Ethics & Leadership

1 credit hour

Jill Crainshaw

This course explores the relationships between ministry, professional ethics, and pastoral leadership and consider denominational and non-profit institutional codes of conduct and other strategies for healthy responses. Topics will include clergy confidentiality, clergy sexual conduct and misconduct, business and finances, ministries and copyright laws, and practices for ensuring the safety of children and youth in ministerial programs.

MIN 790 (GD) Readings in Religion & South Africa

1 credit hour – ***Permission of the Instructor***

Neal Walls

This readings course will explore religion in South Africa. Students who plan to apply for the spring 2014 South African multicultural contexts course are required to enroll in this course.

MIN 790 (ID) Pastoral Care in Times of Grief

3 credit hours

Susan Dunlap

We human beings are created for love and yet we all die. The experience of grief is inevitable for anyone who loves, and ministry with the bereaved has always been a part of church life. This course will focus on the care for the bereaved by clergy and congregation. Using memoir, psychological and clinical studies, and biblical and theological resources, students will progress toward developing a pastoral and theological response to the pain of loss of a loved one.

MIN 790 (JD) Readings, Briefings, & Orientation in Preparation for Nicaragua

1 credit hour – ***Permission of the Instructor***

Mark Jensen

Students who plan to apply for the spring 2014 Nicaragua multicultural context course are required to enroll in this course.

MIN 790 (LD) Building Relationships: Shaping a Partnership between Pastors and Worship Music Leaders

1 credit hour

Jill Crainshaw

D'Walla Simmons-Burke

This course considers the relationship between congregational pastors and music/worship leaders. Pastors and ministers of music/worship have a platform to be the two most visible and influential people in a church. This being so, the congregation can only benefit from the synergy between the pastor (spoken word-deliverer) and minister of music/worship leader (musical/sung word-deliverer). Responsibilities pastors and ministers of music/worship leaders have to the gospel ministry are defined and articulated. Leadership models are investigated in the light of team building and staff management. Practical application is made through class, small group case studies, panel discussions and performance observation evaluations.

MIN 790 (MD) My Life Flows On In Endless Song

1 credit hour

Sally Ann Morris

This course introduces students to the purpose, importance, and use of congregational song in worship. The course will focus especially on the following points:

1. The variety and wealth of congregational music across cultures and denominations, and how, in 2013, this music is impacting and changing the styles, sounds and experiences of worship in congregations globally and locally.
2. The basic rudiments of the structure of congregational song forms and their purposes, especially classic hymn forms, contemporary song forms, cyclical forms, and ethnic and global forms, and how each form may be used to complement, enhance, move, transform, and influence a particular moment, character, or aspect of a worship service.
3. The planning of a worship service with regard to congregational song especially in its relation to scriptural or topical themes and the worship planning resources available to pastors and musicians regarding the selection of music, including hymnal indexes, online resources, and denominational worship planning guides.
4. Discussion of the congregation's role in its own song as participants versus the performance culture of choirs, ensembles and bands which may diminish the congregation's active engagement.

Wellbeing & Religious Leadership

MIN 790 (DD) "Daily Bread": Food, Faith, Mercy & Justice

3 credit hours

Mark Jensen

"Daily Bread" is the foundational course in the Food and Faith concentration. From manna (Ex 16) to the Lord's Prayer, food has been sign and substance of mercy, deliverance, and a call to shalom in God's Creation. This course utilizes a theologically interdisciplinary approach to introduce and examine the ways that "food" can be an integrative lens for the life and work of faith communities. Bible, theology, ethics, spirituality, and ministries of mercy and justice all "come to the table" for this discussion. Participants will interact with a variety of persons, viewpoints, and models designed to equip them for effective community leadership around issues of food and faith.

MIN 790 (FD) Faith & the Health of the Public

3 credit hours

Gary Gunderson

This course is the foundational course required for students seeking to complete the “faith and health” concentration within the Master of Divinity degree. This course will introduce students to the programmatic, theological and science emerging at the confluence of faith and health with a strong emphasis on the implications for community and church mission. Class will meet in context: first weekend intensive at the Medical Center campus, then at Greensboro Urban Ministry (which shares a parking lot with a primary care clinic) and in Lexington where faith/health organizing efforts are well underway. The primary text is, not surprisingly, *Religion and the Health of the Public* by Gunderson and Cochrane. Dr. Cochrane will join at least one of the weekend intensives to bring the global, especially South African perspective. Other readings assigned to match the interests and appetites of the class participants. Particular attention will be paid to the role of data, evidence and logic models in analyzing the various program and implementation projects alive in North Carolina at the moment. Those considering the class would do well to read the current issue of *Sojourners Magazine* and its article on the Memphis Model of partnership.

Spirituality

SPI 790 (AD), (BD), (CD) Spirituality and Ministry Courses: in Theater & Performance, in Film & Photography and in Visual Arts (Spirituality Core)

The course is offered in three 1-hour modules with students able to register for 1, 2, or 3 hours. Each module is scheduled as a weekend intensive with site visits.

Professor: Thomas Frank

SPI 790 (AD) Spirituality & Ministry In Theater& Performance, September 27-28, 2013

The purpose of this course is to pursue questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from engagement with the performative arts. The class will attend the Wake Forest Theater Mainstage production of “The Laramie Project” on Friday evening, September 27. We will have a chance to explore the set and visit with the cast afterwards, and then discuss the play with the director, Professor Brook Davis, on Saturday morning.

This remarkable play focuses on the beating of a gay man, Matthew Shepard, in Wyoming in October 1998, an incident that became a national symbol of intolerance. The script is based on hundreds of interviews with local residents, and consists of eight actors portraying over sixty different people to produce a complex, troubling, and deeply moving human story.

Readings include the script of “The Laramie Project” as well as the award-winning 1993 play “Angels in America” by Tony Kushner, a frequent reference point of “The Laramie Project.” The class will also engage in a performance workshop and focused discussions on the relationship of performance and practices of spirituality and ministry.

SPI 790 (BD) Spirituality & Ministry in Film and Photography, October 25-26, 2013

The purpose of this course is to pursue questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with the arts of film-making and photography. We will view and discuss documentary films created through the renowned Documentary Film Department of Wake Forest and engage with

professors and students who made the films. The class will visit photography exhibits in local galleries and consider how practices of the lens can deepen our understanding of practices of spirituality and ministry.

SPI 790 (CD) Spirituality & Ministry in the Visual Arts, November 8-9, 2013

The purpose of this course is to pursue questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with the visual arts. On Friday the class will visit the Elsewhere Interactive Museum in Greensboro to meet artists and explore the creative process of working with found objects in this amazing converted surplus store and warehouse. On Saturday the class will spend the day at the Reynolda House Museum of American Art on campus, exploring the exhibit “Things Wondrous and Humble: American Still Life” as well as the permanent collection. Here again we will focus on the depiction and artistic exploration of objects, the material things that shape everyday life and imagination. Class discussion will focus on how practices of art can deepen our understanding of practices of spirituality and ministry.

SPI 790 (DD) Jewish Spirituality (World Religions Core)

3 credit hours

Andrew Ettin

While identifying what is meant by “spiritual” is often problematic, Judaism in all its forms offers many paths of spirituality. Though some paths might not be immediately identifiable as spiritual by a non-practitioner, those who practice them find spiritual meaning through doing so. This course will explore Jewish spirituality through four dimensions of experience as we study traditional as well as contemporary texts. These four dimensions correspond to the four “worlds” of existence posited in Jewish mystical writings.

SPI 790 (ED) Spirituality and Prayer (Spirituality Core)

2 credit hours

Chris Copeland

This course introduces students to some theological and spiritual foundations of prayer. Students will learn and experience different forms of prayer as spiritual practice. They will engage their knowledge and experiences of prayer with the personal spiritual life as well as to various ministry contexts

Theological Studies

THS 611 (AD) The Providence of God

3 credit hours

Frank Tupper

“The Providence of God” proves to one of the most difficulty and pressing problems in contemporary Christian theology. This study of providence explores various perspectives and multiple themes concerning God’s action in and governance of the world. The investigation of providence includes crucial issues: the will and purpose of God, the crisis of tragedy, the gift of joy, the function of prayer, the interpretation of miracles, the reality of evil and suffering, illness and crises, the trauma of death and dying, and Christian hope for eternal life. The seminar will examine the major interpretations of

providence in contemporary theology: traditional, neo-orthodox, open theism, process theology, and eschatological theology. The proposal in eschatology theology is a revision of my work, A Scandalous Providence, which presents a narrative exploration of God’s providence in “the Story of Jesus” as well as contemporary life-stories. The priority of the Jesus story is its characterization as “the Jesus story of God.” The Jesus story “appropriates” or “encompasses” distinct human stories within the story of God.

THS 618 (AD) Feminist, Womanist, Mujerista Theologies

3 credit hours

Michelle Voss Roberts

Christian feminist theology is critical reflection on Christianity done from the perspective of issues of concern to women. It challenges ideas and practices that are unhealthy for women and constructs alternatives to them. The course begins with an introduction to the methods and diverse voices of feminist theology. With special attention to African American (womanist), and Latina/Hispanic (mujerista), and queer perspectives, we will assess some of the major topics in Christian theology: Who is God? What is the human condition? What is redemption, and is Christian narrative redemptive for women?

THS 624 (AD) Church and State in America – cost \$250.00

3 credit hours

James Dunn and John Senior

In order to be registered for this course you will need to send an email to Susan Robinson:

robinsr@wfu.edu

This course examines the history of the relationship between religion and government in the United States. Through the course readings, discussions and travel, students will learn about various theological, ethical, and legal views on the appropriate relationship between church and state in America. The course will also explore some of the specific issues, organizations, and personalities currently relevant to this topic. The course seeks to equip students to develop and articulate as public leaders their own views about the appropriate relationship between religion and government.

Guest speakers on the Washington trip include: Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland; Melissa Rogers, Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships; Rob Boston, Director of Communications of American's United; J. Brent Walker, Executive Director of the Baptist Joint Committee; and Robbie Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute.

This course will meet over the following weekends and includes travel to Washington, D.C. over fall break:

September 13 – 14

October 9 – 12: travel dates to DC

November 1 – 2

THS 790 (AD) Topics Course: Readings in Queer Theology

1 credit hour – **Permission of the Instructor**

Michelle Voss Roberts

This seminar-style reading course surveys classic and new works in queer theology. Queer theology transgresses dominant constructions of gender identity and sexuality; and as such, it can be seen as an expression of the Christian gospel that upends and subverts human understandings of life, community, and the divine. The course explores biblical and Christian theological perspectives on sexuality, social constructions of sexuality, and issues such as power, marriage equality, and sexual ethics.

Prerequisite: THS 501, THS 521, THS 522, or permission of instructor.

This is an upper-level course with advanced readings, but students considering the course might consult Patrick Cheng's book *Radical Love* as an accessible introduction to queer theology.

Denominational Studies

HIS 683 (AD) Denominational History: Anglican Identity & The Episcopal Church Heritage

2 credit hours

Leon Spencer

HIS 790 (BD) African American Baptist Life

1 credit hour – **Permission of Instructor**

Derek Hicks, Bill Leonard

Religion Department Upper Level Course Offerings

Seats open for School of Divinity with permission of the instructor/signature on form

REL 606: Ritual Studies:

Jarrold Whitaker

"Of course, rituals come in all sizes and kinds, from those linking humans to superhuman powers (possession trance, prayer, exorcism, and the like) to the everyday rituals (greeting, socializing, cleansing, and eating) to the rituals of the state, professions, clubs, and affinity groups. There are birth, puberty, courtship, marriage, death, and afterlife rituals. All of life—from the most mundane to the most special—is saturated with and marked by ritual. But what is ritual?" — Richard Schechner
This course will introduce students to the various methods and theories employed in the field of ritual studies, while examining comparative rituals and ritualized practices from around the world.

REL 623: Jesus Traditions:

Mary Foscett

This course examines traditions about Jesus in Christian and non-Christian texts, including the New Testament, early Christian gospels outside the New Testament canon, and the Koran. Students will study these traditions in their historical, cultural, social and literary contexts to gain an appreciation for the diversity of Jesus traditions in various periods.

REL 632: Religion & Public Engagement:
Stephen Boyd

This seminar introduces students to dynamics at work at the interface between religious communities and the public sphere. It will explore, through a wide range of readings, guest lectures, field trips, and films, the potential for social change—constructive and destructive—within and between communities in contemporary local, regional, national and global contexts.

For Fall 2013, among the religions included will be Christianity, Judaism, Islam, and Native traditions. Among the possible topics covered will be the US Civil Rights Movement, the relation of church and state, women's rights, religious intolerance, inter-faith collaboration, and skills in the conduct of public life.

Students will conduct team research aimed at issues related to the semester's selected areas of inquiry (e.g., criminal justice (innocence, re-entry, reform); education and racial desegregation/re-segregation; disaster relief; campus tolerance/intolerance; Native American land rights).

REL 662: Islam & Gender:
Leah Kinberg

The duty to treat women well is adduced in a wide range of Qur'anic verses and prophetic sayings. These quotations underlie a variety of current Islamic studies and argumentative presentations that introduce Islam not only as a religion that highly respects women, but also as the only religion that treats women equally. Western society, however, portrays the Islamic woman as being deprived of her basic rights.

The present course will examine this dichotomy and analyze the religio-cultural background that inspires it. It will begin with an historical review of the status of pre-Islamic women and the Prophet's wives, and continue with an examination of the lives of dominant women throughout Islamic history. Finally, it will probe into the topics that are relevant to the modern Islamic woman, both in Muslim countries and in the West. Along this survey, currently contested issues will be studied: female attire, honor killing, wife beating, women stoning, female circumcision and, what seems to contradict all the above, female jihad.

REL 683: The Quran & the Prophet:
Nelly VanDoorn Harder

During this course we study the contents of the Qur'an, the various stages of the history of its revelation and how it came to function as the basis of Muslim belief, worship, and law. We look at the role of the Prophet Muhammad as the recipient and transmitter of the Qur'an's message and what his symbolic presence as a model for all Muslims means in the spiritual life of a Muslim. We furthermore study the Qur'an's artistic qualities and its place and role in daily Muslim life and try to gain understanding about how the various modes of its interpretation developed.

REL 690: Jewish Identities: Religion, Race, and Rights:
Annalise Glauz-Todrank

"Is Judaism a religion or a race?" Jews and non-Jews have struggled to answer this question throughout the modern period. In this course, we will examine why. In doing so, we will answer the following questions: Why do contemporary Americans often think of Jews as members of a "religion," but when Nazis ruled Germany they classified Jews as a "race?" What is antisemitism and why has it taken so many different forms over the ages? To construct responses to these questions, we will consider how

Jews in a variety of historical and geographic contexts have been characterized by outsiders as well as how Jews have described and identified themselves. We will examine “religion” and “race” as subjective, constructed categories that have been employed to define who is a Jew. In doing so, we will also address how and why these categories have been tied to different types of legal rights and social privileges.