Elective Course Descriptions for spring 2014
Wake Forest University School of Divinity

**Note: Other course descriptions will be added as they become available.*

Biblical Studies

BIB 646 Studies in Paul: The Corinthian Correspondence
3 credit hours, prerequisite BIB 542
Katherine Shaner

Paul's multiple letters to early Christ-followers in Corinth indelibly shaped Christian notions of authority, sexuality and ethnicity. This course explores these themes in the letters found in 1 Corinthians and 2 Corinthians as well as the archaeological and literary milieu in first-century Corinth. Particular emphasis will be placed on the ethical legacies these letters (and the ancient discourses in which they participate) construct for contemporary Christians.

BIB 790 Dead Sea Scrolls and the Life of Biblical Tradition
3 credit hours, prerequisite BIB 522
Clinton Moyer

The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal the highly ascetic, apocalyptic, and isolationist worldview of the reclusive Jewish sect presumed to have produced them—a worldview that interprets, applies, and even expands on the preexisting content of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament. In this course, we will consider the relationship of this collection to the Bible; the specific socio-historical context that gave rise to the Scrolls, and into which Jesus was born; and the collection's implications for how we think about the development and continuity of religious traditions in which the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament stands as a centerpiece, including Christianity. This course provides a strong foundation for rich, nuanced, sensitive, informed biblical exegesis. Students who complete the course will have gained an enhanced awareness that living our biblical tradition requires our recognition of the life of that tradition—that no such tradition has been "frozen" since biblical times, but must continually be renewed through ongoing reflection, exegesis, and application

BIB 790 The Gospel of John
3 credit hours
Gail O'Day

This course will focus on the exegesis of the Gospel of John. Course learning goals include:

1. Familiarity with critical issues in the interpretation of the Gospel of John
2. Familiarity with distinctive traits of John, the Johannine portrait of Jesus, and Johannine theology
3. Attention to increasing exegetical skills and facility in biblical interpretation
4. Ability to reflect on the theological and pastoral implications of the Gospel of John

Historical Studies

HIS 790 African American Religious History & Experience
3 credit hours
Derek Hicks

In the words of Howard Thurman, "religious experience is dynamic, it's fluid, it's effervescent, it's yeasty…" These terms describe the nature of African American religious expressions and disclose the black faith tradition's contribution to the robustness of American religion. This course charts black Christian history—beginning with West African cultural expression, continuing through the Middle Passage, chattel slavery, the creation of the "Invisible Institution," and the development of the "Black Church." We will unpack the complexity of contemporary African American Christianity by investigating its various formulations. The course also investigates other traditions and spiritualties the come into cultural contact with Christianity. For example, students will be introduced to traditions such as black spiritualist churches in New Orleans, Father Divine's *International Peace Mission*, and Sweet Daddy Grace's *United House of Prayer for All People*. Additionally, the course will consider the religious implications of black migrations, gender, the material black body, conjure and root work traditions, folklore, storytelling, and the oral tradition.

HIS 790 Race & Culture in Religion & Theology: Politics of the Body, Identity and Gender
3 credit hours
Derek Hicks

Race remains a significant and relevant topic of discussion when considering the function and nature of religion and religious experience in the United States. W.E.B. DuBois' poignant and prophetic declaration that "the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line" sets the tone and formative backdrop to our study of the nature of race, culture, and religion in the Twenty-First Century. Accordingly, this class will engage in constructive conversation through the investigation of several theories regarding race and culture in relation to religious reflection in North America. Attention will also be given to the role politics plays in collective identity formation and in the ways bodies are "scripted" around race and gender. This course will incorporate an interdisciplinary approach to the study of race and culture—utilizing approaches including theology, sociology of religion, history, church studies, and critical race theory.

Ministerial Studies

MIN 510A, MIN 510B, MIN 510C
Introduction to Religious Leadership & Administration
Tom Frank

This course is offered in three weekend modules. Sessions will convene on Fridays 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. *Attendance and participant-observation in Sunday worship of the congregation hosting the class site visit for a particular weekend is also required. Students who are unable to attend Sunday worship must participate in some other major activity of the congregation during the week before or after the module.*

Students are encouraged, but not required, to enroll in all three modules for the most complete exploration of this topic.

The course introduces foundational perspectives on the leadership of religious institutions, particularly Christian congregations and non-profit organizations. We work from a practical theology of leadership grounded in organizational studies and ecclesiology. Site visits and conversations with congregations and pastors in the vicinity will give us a lively, current picture of issues in administration and leadership.

MIN 510A Congregational culture and story as a resource for religious leadership
Weekend course: January 24-26, 2014

This module will explore ways to study and understand the enduring heritage of organizational culture and the compelling narratives and formative stories that give congregations their particular character and presence. We will test various methods of eliciting stories and the guiding images that emerge from them. We will study ways to build on congregational culture and story as a resource for the ministries of the pastor and congregation.

MIN 510B Organizing for ministry
Weekend course: February 21-23, 2014

This module will focus on the ministries of the whole people of God – ministers set apart for leadership as well as the lay members of a congregation – and effective ways to organize a congregation for ministry. We will explore issues of power and authority in congregations, and the values and varieties of forms of governance. We will study methods of strategic planning and ways to engage lay persons more actively in ministries of the church.

MIN 510C Stewardship of places and resources
Weekend course: March 21-23, 2014

This module will focus on the buildings, neighborhood contexts, and financial resources for supporting the ministries of congregations. We will study the forms and possibilities of building design, and ways to understand the relationship of buildings to the natural and built landscape of their surroundings**.** We will explore varied strategies for raising both capital and operational funds in support of congregational ministries.

<u>MIN 669 Ministry with Youth and Young Adults</u>
3 credit hours
Veronice Miles

How might communities of faith engage and support youths and young adults as they discern and live out their Christian vocation? What does it mean to create theologically-grounded and socially conscious ministries that honor the voices of youths and young adults as creative agents in the world? This course explores the unique challenges and opportunities—pedagogical, theological, political and ethical—impacting ministry with youths and young adults in the 21st century. As this is not a "how to" course, our emphasis is upon creating learning experiences that invite us to think critically about the world in which we live, the importance of *ministry in place*, and our own commitments and practices so that we might catalyze youths and young adults toward Christian vocation.

MIN 790 Building Relationships: Shaping a Partnership between Pastors and Worship Music Leaders
1 credit hour
D'Walla Simmons-Burke
Location: First Baptist Church Highland Avenue

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 Ministry in Nonprofit Settings: Leadership Theory and Practice
3 credit hours
John Senior and Margaret Elliott

What does it mean to be a theologically trained leader in non-profit institutions (beyond the congregation)? This course considers the difference that religious leadership makes in these settings. It also explores the practices of non-profit leadership in light of the commitments that religious leaders hold. It has two main content sections. The first, shorter section will look at dominant leadership paradigms in business, legal, and political settings and consider how religious leadership is distinctive. The second, longer section of the course will unpack issues and practices related to leadership in non-profit settings, such as: the legal structure and status of a not-for-profit organization (a 501(c)(3)), the process of casting a mission and vision in non-profit organizations; fund-raising; developing and engaging a leadership board; cultivating a volunteer staff; representing an organization as a public leader; etc. The course will include intermittent sessions that focus on theological reflection around these practices and issues.

MIN 790 Speaking Up: Worship Leadership and Self-Presentation
1 credit hour
Veronice Miles
Location: Davis Chapel

This course explores worship leadership as a performative liturgical practice with attention to public speaking and self-presentation. In dialogue with practitioners and scholars in communications, worship and preaching, the course will investigate the dynamics of public speaking, persistent challenges that stifle our ability to embody the words that we speak, and best practices in worship leadership, including Scripture readings, prayer, calls to worship, sermon presentation and other performative practices for worship. In order to enhance learning, the class will meet in Davis Chapel.

MIN 790 Worship Matters
1 credit hour
Jill Crainshaw & Chris Copeland

Worship "matters" ranging from how leaders make announcements to whether the Lord's Meal bread is scored before it is broken at the table to how to "dress" the table for various services throughout the year--these worship "matters" matter. This one credit course will give students an opportunity theologically to reflect on these and other worship matters using the school's Thursday chapel services as a primary "text." Students will be required to attend most Thursday chapel services and as well as the one-hour reflection seminar that follows lunch on that same day.

MIN 790 Children in Worship
1 credit hour
Jill Crainshaw & Chris Copeland

How can worship leaders effectively encourage the participation of children in Sunday worship? What is the role of worship in shaping children's spiritual life? What is the purpose of the "children's sermon" or "children's worship"? This one-credit course will explore these and other topics related to the presence of children in worship.

MIN 790 Multicultural Contexts for Ministry: The Monastic Impulse Old & New: Prayer, Work and Spirituality of Food
3 credit hours
Fred Bahnson
Course dates: January 17; February 7-9, March 10 and April 18, 2014

Description: Ora et labora. Prayer and work. These are the touchstones of the Benedictine monastic tradition. Learning from monastic voices both ancient and new, this course will give students firsthand experience the monastic life, particularly as expressed through the lenses of field, table, and communion. Since monastic cultures are subcultures, this course will be a first-hand experience of a much different way of life. Through immersion learning, students will discover how the ancient wisdom of *ora et labora* can teach them a spirituality for the long haul, whatever their ministry setting.

Structure: The course will consist of one initial 2-hr. orientation class meeting Friday Jan.17 from 10-12noon at WFUSD and two complimentary immersion experiences. The first trip will be a visit Feb.7-9 (Fri.—Sunday) to Mepkin Abbey, a Trappist monastery near Charleston, SC. Over this long weekend students will be immersed in every aspect of Trappist life, from rising at 3am for Vigils to working in the mushroom operation to helping prepare and clean up meals. We will stay in the retreat center at the monastery, take all our meals with the monks, and work alongside them each morning. Bahnson will accompany students on this trip, and will provide daily reflections and time for discussion. Additionally, each afternoon will include a lecture by one of the monks on different topics pertaining to the course: i.e. “Manual labor in the Benedictine tradition, Monastic Views on Food and Asceticism, etc.” Students will also be able to sign up for spiritual direction/vocational discernment with one of the monks. Before the trip they will have read several classics in the monastic canon (see bibliography).

The second immersion experience will be a one-day immersion at Rutba House, a New Monastic community started by Jonathan and Leah Wilson-Hartgrove in 2003 in the Walltown neighborhood of Durham, NC. On March 10, students will participate in food practices of the community and hear

lectures from members of the community, focused on ways that food is central to a life of prayer, work, and mission in Walltown. Prior to their visit at Rutba House, they will have read articles on the "new monasticism" and eating together as a theological practice.

The third visit will be Friday April 18, at a local new monastic community in Winston-Salem called St. Anthony's Plot. Jonathan will join us and teach at this location. Students will get acquainted with a local ministry they can return to, and see how the monastic impulse becomes embodied in a setting different from Walltown.

Spirituality

SPI 572 Quaker Spirituality
2 credit hours
Max Carter
This course begins Friday, January 31, 2014

"Quaker Spirituality" explores the roots and fruits of Quaker understandings of faith & practice. Using classic Quaker texts, including the works of George Fox, Caroline Stephen, John Woolman, and Thomas Kelly, the class will engage with both the spiritual underpinnings of the Quaker tradition and the varieties of Quaker expressions and experience.

SPI 790 Spirituality and the Art of Baseball
1 credit hour
Tom Frank

The purpose of this course is to provoke and pursue questions of spirituality that arise from encounter and engagement with the game of baseball. The course focuses on the place of baseball in American life, its role in cultural imagination, and its treatment by many commentators as a source of discipline, contemplation, peace, and mystery. The course explores how baseball players, managers, and fans articulate and express human questions in ways unique to the practice of the sport. As these questions evoke theological themes, the course follows a larger aim of enriching imaginative resources for deepened spirituality, so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership in ministry.

SPI 790 Cooking, Serving & Being Served the Lord's Meal: Readings in Gender, Food & Eucharistic Theology
1 credit hour
Jill Crainshaw and Michelle Voss Roberts

This one-credit course explores Eucharistic theology from the perspective of diverse "presences" at worship's meal tables: Who presides at the Lord's table? Who prepares the Lord's meal? Who eats the Lord's meal? Who or what do we mean when we speak about "hosts" and "guests" at the Lord's table? What does a gender-attentive inquiry into Eucharistic theologies and practices reveal about gender and the "body of Christ" broken, served, and eaten in worship? This course is connected to a School of Divinity spring conference: "Half the Sky, Half the Earth: A Conference on Women, Food, and Faith." Students in the course will attend the conference as part of the course requirements and read books by two of the featured speakers, Jennifer Ayers and Sara Miles. By the end of the course, students

will have had an opportunity to 1) explore relationships between gender, food, and Eucharistic practices in Christian traditions, 2) engage in critical and constructive dialogue with classmates, conference presenters, and course authors about these relationships, and 3) integrate course wisdom into a "table prayer" as part of the women, food, and faith conference.

Theological Studies

THS 613 The Church: Its Mission and Ministry
3 credit hours
Frank Tupper

Study of church mission and ministry, e.g. ecumenicity, discipleship, ordination, evangelism, social action, pastoral ministry. Use of creative models: Family of God, Beloved Community, Servant Church, Embassy of Reconciliation, Circle of Friends. Attention to strategic concern for role of women, homosexuality, Jim Crow, secularism, political action and other relevant issues.

THS 712 Contemporary Christology
3 credit hours
Frank Tupper

A study of contemporary issues and major proposals in Christology today across the theological spectrum: the debate on the divinity of Christ; the humanity of the Son of God; interpretations of the cross; controversy over Jesus' resurrection. Explores the truth and meaning of the affirmation of the Incarnation of God in the man Jesus of Nazareth, "the human face of God."

THS 720 Comparative Theology
3 credit hours
Michelle Voss Roberts
Prerequisite: THS 501 or permission of instructor

Comparative theology offers a way for people of faith to understand our religious neighbors: we pass over to learn about another tradition, and when we pass back into our own, we do so with new theological questions and categories. This course trains students in the methods of responsible comparison, analyzes examples from a variety of religious traditions, and allows students to frame comparisons according to their own theological interests. Students should plan to attend the Comparative Theology symposium held on campus Feb 28-Mar 1.

THS 790 Neuroethics
3 credit hours
Kevin Jung

A study of central philosophical and ethical issues in neuroethics. The course explores two main areas of neuroethics: the neuroscience of ethics and the ethics of neuroscience.