

Descriptions of New Course Offerings for Spring 2013



Biblical Studies

BIB 790 (AD) Preaching and Teaching in the Book of Revelation (3 credit hours)

Professor: Gail O'Day

Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30pm

***Prerequisite: BIB 542 New Testament Interpretation II*

The purpose of this course is two-fold: to improve exegetical and preaching skills and to show how the two sets of skills are closely interrelated. The skills and insights that enable one to read a biblical text carefully can also be used to analyze the theological and pastoral issues in the life of the congregation. Good, effective preaching depends on careful exegetical work, because the preacher is called to invite the congregation to see its life through the lens of the text. In a related manner, good bible study (teaching) requires similar exegetical skills. This course will focus on what it means for the life of a faith community to see itself and the world in which it lives through the lens of the Book of Revelation. We will spend our time this semester exploring Revelation from a variety of perspectives, in order to come to a deeper understanding of the theological and pastoral witness of this fascinating, puzzling, and often disturbing text.

Historical Studies

HIS 790 (AD) Culinary Culture in Black Experience (3 credit hours) (cross listed as THS 790)

Professor: Derek Hicks

Wednesday, 12:30-2:50pm

This course will explore the historical, social, cultural, theological, ethnographic, and practical components of African American religious life and foodway culture. We will interrogate the convergence of food, faith, community, and identity formation. Particular attention will be paid to the historical relationship between eating and church life, highlighting diverse and creative forms of culinary expression in the African American faith tradition and the ways in which food becomes transformative for those struggling for human dignity. Among several topics, this class will (1) chart a history of African American food culture; (2) draw attention to the historical significance and cultural implications of "soul food" and staple dishes like Gumbo; (3) interrogate perceptions of African American cooking and food consumption in terms of its uniqueness and perceived peculiarity; (4) consider the connection of African American food culture to biblical interpretation and theology; (5) discuss the significance of the fellowship table as an extra-religious space and its role in maintaining a complex religious life; and (6) examine contemporary issues of wellness and food insecurity in the African American Christian community.

HIS 790 (BD) Places of Faith: Congregation, Pilgrimage, and Sacred Site (3 credit hours)

Professor: Thomas Frank

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30-1:45pm

This course introduces basic perspectives and research methods on “congregations in place:” local church congregations in connection with their natural and built environments, their surrounding human communities, their histories, and their continuing challenges in ministry and mission. The class will undertake a limited field study together with a partner congregation, including observation and description of the natural and built environment, community relationships, and congregational activities. Complementing this central focus on congregations, the course will also explore sites of pilgrimage, contemplation, and spiritual aspiration. These may include camps and retreat centers, Native American ceremonial sites, places of exceptional natural beauty, roadside grottoes, and at the broadest point, even rock concerts and sports events that draw followers across the land. The course also seeks to enrich understanding of effective leadership of congregations and other religious organizations. We consider the nature of leadership as a practice of making connections among nature, land, and human community, past, present, and future.

Ministerial Studies

MIN 790 Christian Ministry and Public Leadership in American Life (2-3 credit hours)

Professors: Frank Dew and John Senior

Mondays, 5:00-7:30pm,

15 hours classroom instruction & 15 hours field based work for 2 credit hours

15 hours classroom instruction & 30 hours field based work for 3 credit hours

What is good public leadership for persons called to the life and work of ministry? Part of the answer to this question turns on a minister’s capacity to understand and engage publics and their problems. What cultural, socio-economic, and institutional locations do powerful and marginalized people inhabit? And how do these locations shape the ways in which people think, talk, and act (or not) for their own good and the common good? Another part of the answer has to do with a minister’s capacity to respond to these issues with both theological integrity and institutional savvy – to be, as Jesus put it, as “wise as serpents and innocent as doves.” What are our fundamental theological and moral commitments, and what ought we to do to defend and advance them in public spaces? With what kind of public voice should we speak – a prophetic one, a pragmatic one, some of both, or something else? Then – what exactly do we do? How, concretely, should Christian communities bear public witness, and how do ministers lead them to do so? This course examines these questions with the goal of equipping ministers to be skillful public leaders.

Spirituality

SPI 790 (AD) Spirituality and Discernment (2 credit hours)

Professor: Chris Copeland

Mondays, 2:00-2:50pm, & Retreat Friday/Saturday February 15 & 16

This course introduces students to some theological and spiritual foundations of discernment as it relates to individuals, groups, and systems. Students will learn processes for discernment as a spiritual practice using the Examen, the Clearness Committee, and the Social Discernment Cycle. They will practice individual discernment for themselves, group discernment with others in the class, and discernment of systems with an organization or institution of which they are a part.

SPI 790 Spirituality and Fiction Writing (1 credit hour)

Professor: Stacia Brown

Friday/Saturday, February 8-9

This course explores fiction-reading and fiction-writing using a writers-workshop format. Students will study the contributions of established fiction writers who grapple explicitly with religion or theology in their novels and stories. Students will also work collaboratively to strengthen their own original short stories and creative work. Examining their writing together will challenge students to retrieve the art and the discipline of storytelling for ministry and theological education.

Stacia Brown earned her M.Div. in 1998 from Candler School of Theology, where she was a Woodruff Fellow, and her Ph.D. in historical theology from Emory University in 2007. She was a W.M. Keck Foundation Fellow at the Huntington Library in Pasadena and a Fellow of the Hambidge Center in north Georgia. Her first novel, *Accidents of Providence*, was published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in 2012. She has taught as an adjunct professor at Candler. She currently works as a Director of Development for Emory School of Medicine and is finishing her second novel, *The Year of Ought*.

SPI 790 Spirituality and Poetry Writing: Liturgy and Real Life (1 credit hour)

Professor: Jennifer Wheelock

Friday/Saturday, March 1-2

In this course, students will read and discuss American and British poets from three different time periods, each of whom reflects and responds to liturgy in his or her own verse. In addition to discussing these works with special attention paid to metaphor, use of imagery, and rhyme and meter, students will write original poetry – in collaboration and individually – and discuss it in a workshop setting designed to make them sharper, more disciplined, and more challenging writers.

Jennifer Wheelock's poems have appeared in many journals and anthologies, including *River Styx*, *Garbanzo*, *North Atlantic Review*, *Atlanta Review*, *The Peralta Press*, *Comstock Review*, *The Emily Dickinson Award Anthology*, and the online journal *Blaze*. She placed third in the 2008 *River Styx* International Poetry Contest. Her poem "Feeding Francis Bacon" appears in the book *Thirteen Ways of Looking for a Poem: A Guide to Writing Poetry*, in the chapter on formal verse. She lives in Atlanta, Georgia and works as a writer at Emory University. Wheelock has her MFA and her PhD in creative writing with an emphasis on poetry. She has taught at Florida State University, Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University, and Georgia Tech.

Theological Studies

THS 790 Neuroethics (3 credit hours)

Professor: Kevin Jung

Tuesdays, 3:30-6:00pm

This course introduces students to central philosophical and ethical issues in neuroethics. The course explores two main areas of neuroethics: the neuroscience of ethics and the ethics of neuroscience. The neuroscience of ethics re-examines traditional philosophical ideas and issues through the lens of cognitive science, seeking to ground ethics on empirical science. The ethics of neuroscience investigates the ethical implications of the application of neuroscience and neurotechnology in medicine, law, and religion. In the first half of the course, students will probe the works of some contemporary neuroscientists and neurophilosophers in order to understand and evaluate the nature of mental events and moral agency. In the second half, students will examine major ethical issues related to the use of neuroscience and neurotechnology in light of traditional ethical concepts and norms.

THS 790 Theologies and Practices of Religious Pluralism (WR Core, 3 credit hours)

Professor: Michelle Voss Roberts

Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-1:45pm

Exclusivism, inclusivism, pluralism—this classic model represents only a general overview of Christian approaches to religious diversity. This course will survey the historical and theological range of Christian attitudes to other religions, and it will also consider practical modes of interfaith interaction, including dialogue, service, festival, and worship. In a course project chosen in consultation with the professor, students will engage in one of these modes of encounter with another faith tradition.

Denominational Studies Courses

MIN 695 United Church of Christ Polity & History (2 credit hours)

Instructor: Pastor K. Ray Hill

Mondays, 1:00 – 3:00pm

K. Ray Hill is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ (UCC). He currently serves as Pastor-Teacher at Maple Temple UCC located in Raleigh, North Carolina. Reverend Hill has 24 years of pastoral experience, seven years as rural church pastor and 17 years as urban church pastor. He served on the staff of the Southern Conference for seven years, two years as Area Conference Minister and five years as the Program Associate in Christian Education. He serves on the UCC national staff as an Educational Consultant assigned to the Southern Region for Local Church Ministries-United Church of Christ. He is a UCC History, Theology & Polity instructor for the Pastoral Leadership Development Program.

MIN 790 Topics: History & Polity: Disciples of Christ (2 credit hours)

Instructor: Pastor B. Parvin

Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:30 pm

In this course, students will explore the history, polity, theological foundation, and characteristic beliefs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The scope of the course will include:

- Origins and development of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Stone/Campbell movement on the American frontier
- Overview of the history and practices of other branches of the Stone/Campbell movement
- Ecumenical involvement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Characteristic beliefs, practices, and theology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Restructure and the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from movement (“the brotherhood”) to denomination
- The structure and polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Bob Parvin is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He currently serves as the pastor of Pfafftown Christian Church. Reverend Parvin has over 30 years of parish ministry experience and has served churches in Iowa, Kentucky, North Carolina, Virginia, and Alabama. While in Alabama, Reverend Parvin served the Alabama/NW Florida region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by teaching church history in the region’s leadership training program and leading stewardship education programs for regional congregations.

MIN 790 (FD) Topics: Presbyterian Studies (1 credit hour)

Instructor: Stephen McCutchan

Wednesdays (Jan 23, Feb 6, Feb 20, Mar 6, Mar 20, Apr 2, Apr 17) 8:00 – 9:50 am

This study will enable the student to review the major themes of Reformed Theology and their application to ministry in contemporary churches. It will also help prepare the student for the ordination exams in polity, worship and the sacraments, and theological competence.

Stephan McCutchan is a retired teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of Salem Presbytery. Reverend McCutchan has served in many capacities during his tenure with Salem Presbytery, including serving for 23 years as pastor of Highland Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem, NC. He is the author of several books, including *Streams of Living Water: A Lectionary Devotional for Cycle B*, *Water from the Well: A Lectionary Devotional for Cycle A*, and *Experiencing the Psalms: Weaving the Psalms into Your Ministry and Faith*.