



SELECTED COURSE LISTINGS

The School of Divinity reserves the right to change programs of study, academic requirements, and assignment of lecturers. The courses listed here are a sample of the courses offered in the School of Divinity. These courses, with the exception of some required courses, are not necessarily taught each semester or each academic year. Their availability is a function both of staffing constraints and student demand. While no guarantees about future scheduling can be made, students are encouraged to alert advisors and the academic dean to course needs or desires. An official list of courses offered in each semester and summer session is issued through the Office of the Academic Dean during the preceding term.

Required courses are indicated by the symbol “R” following the course number and name. Course prerequisite requirements are indicated by the symbol “P” following the course name and number. Courses that require the permission of instructor in order to enroll are indicated by the symbol “POI.” Unless otherwise specified courses listed here count as 3 hours (3h).

Biblical Studies (BIB)

Languages

Students are encouraged to take courses in both Hebrew and Greek. See the school's *Language Requirement* on page 18 for information on the school's language proficiency expectations.

Hebrew

BIB 501 | Elementary Hebrew I

A course for beginners in the classical Hebrew of the Bible, with emphasis on the basic principles of grammar and the reading of biblical texts. Also listed as Near Eastern Languages and Literatures 111.

BIB 502 | Elementary Hebrew II

A course for beginners in the classical Hebrew of the Bible, with emphasis on the basic principles of grammar and the reading of biblical texts. Also listed as Near Eastern Languages and Literatures 112. P—BIB 501 or POI.

BIB 503 | Intermediate Hebrew

Intensive work in Hebrew grammar and syntax. Based on the reading of selected texts. Readings emphasize post-biblical Hebrew. Also listed as Near Eastern Languages and Literatures 153. P—BIB 501 and 502; or equivalent.

BIB 621 | Old Testament Exegesis I

Detailed analysis and exegesis of selected portions of the Hebrew Bible. Also listed as Religion 718. P—BIB 501 and 502; or POI.

BIB 622 | Old Testament Exegesis II

Detailed analysis and exegesis of selected portions of the Hebrew Bible. Also listed as Religion 719. P—BIB 501 and 502; or POI.

BIB 701 | Readings in Hebrew (1-3h)

Directed study for those who have completed an intermediate course in Biblical Hebrew. P—BIB 501 and 502 and BIB 503 or equivalent; or POI.

Greek

BIB 511 | Introduction to New Testament Greek I

A beginning course in Koine Greek, covering the fundamentals of grammar, with extensive reading in New Testament texts.

BIB 512 | Introduction to New Testament Greek II

A beginning course in Koine Greek covering the fundamentals of grammar with extensive reading in New Testament texts. P—BIB 511 or POI.

BIB 611 | Intermediate Readings in Koine Greek (1-3h)

Selections from the New Testament and other early Christian and Jewish writings. (May be offered for one, two, or three hours. May be taken more than once with different texts.) P—BIB 511 and 512; or equivalent.

BIB 641 | New Testament Exegesis

Detailed analysis and exegesis of selected portions of the New Testament. (May be taken more than once with different texts.) Also listed as Religion 723. P—BIB 511, 512; or POI.

BIB 711 | Advanced Readings in Greek (1-3h)

Selections from the New Testament and other early Christian and Jewish writings together with readings on the theory and practice of translation. (May be taken more than once with different texts.) P—BIB 511 and 512.

Old Testament

BIB 521 | Old Testament Interpretation I (R)

An introduction to the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel. Covers the Pentateuch and Former Prophets.

BIB 522 | Old Testament Interpretation II (R)

An introduction to the history, literature, and religion of ancient Israel. Covers the Latter Prophets and the Writings. P—BIB 521.

BIB 615 | Myth and Scripture: The Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Myth

An exploration of biblical texts that depict the creation of the world, divine conflicts, and the abode of the dead within their ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean mythological contexts. P—BIB 521, BIB 541, or permission of the instructor.

BIB 625 | The Major Prophets

A study of the major biblical prophets. Topics vary between the study of a single book and particular historical contexts (pre-exilic, exilic, and post-exilic). P—BIB 522.

BIB 627 | Narrative Literature of the Old Testament

A study of selected biblical narratives with attention to literary and theological issues. P—BIB 521.

BIB 629 | Genesis: Creation and Covenant

A close reading (exegesis) of the book of Genesis with traditional and contemporary methods. P—BIB 521.

BIB 630 | Daniel: Stories and Visions

A close reading (exegesis) of the book of Daniel with traditional and contemporary methods. P—BIB 522.

BIB 631 | The Five Scrolls of the Jewish Festivals

A literary and theological study of Esther, Ruth, Lamentations, Song of Songs, and Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes) both as canonical books and as festival readings in the Jewish liturgical year.

New Testament

All students are required to take BIB 541 and BIB 542 or BIB 543.

BIB 541 | Introduction to New Testament (R)

An overview of New Testament texts and contexts. Students explore the content, historical context, literary structures, and theological perspectives of New Testament texts. In addition, students will learn some basic tools for biblical interpretation.

BIB 542 | Interpreting New Testament Letters (R)

A study of the early Christian epistolary tradition, deepening students' knowledge of Pauline letters, catholic letters, and texts often associated with letter writers (e.g. Hebrews). Students intensify their ability to use a variety of exegetical tools for New Testament interpretation and begin to explore different interpretive frameworks. P—BIB 541.

BIB 543 | Interpreting New Testament Gospels (R)

A study of the early Christian gospel tradition, deepening students' knowledge of canonical gospel texts (including Acts). Students intensify their ability to use a variety of exegetical tools for New Testament interpretation and begin to explore different interpretive frameworks P—BIB 541.

BIB 645 | The Gospel of John

This course focuses on exegesis of the Gospel of John.

BIB 646 | Studies in Paul: The Corinthian Correspondence

An exploration of themes in the letters found in I Corinthians and 2 Corinthians as well as the archaeological and literary milieu in first-century Corinth. Particular emphasis is placed on the ethical legacies these letters (and the ancient discourses in which they participate) construct for contemporary Christians. P—BIB 542.

Theology, Culture, and Hermeneutics in Biblical Studies

BIB 618 | Egypt and Babylon: Ancient Near Eastern Myth

An introduction to ancient Egyptian, Babylonian, and Canaanite myths and their relation to the biblical tradition. Examines the ancient Near Eastern context within which Israelite religion and literature developed. Topics include myths of creation and destruction, prayers and incantations, gods and goddesses, wisdom literature, and fertility and funerary cults discovered in the archaeological remains of these early civilizations. Primary readings in the world's oldest literatures include such texts as the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, *Ishtar's Descent to the Netherworld*, *Isis and Osiris*, the *Book of the Dead*, and the *Baal Cycle*.

BIB 619 | Africa and the Bible

An exploration of the significance of Africa and the Africans within biblical literature, with a focus on ancient Egyptian history and literature. The history of Judaism and early Christianity in Egypt and Ethiopia is also examined.

BIB 661 | Feminist Interpretations of the Bible

An exploration of feminist hermeneutics for the reading of biblical texts.

BIB 726 | Special Studies in Early Christianity

Topical studies in early Christian history and literature, both canonical and non-canonical. One topic is studied each time the course is offered. Examples include: Early Christians and Their Scriptures; Early Christian Asceticism. Also listed as HIS 732. P—BIB 542.

BIB 741 | Jesus in History, Literature, and Culture

A study of the post-Enlightenment quest for the historical Jesus, placing this quest into conversation with contemporary depictions of Jesus in film and other media. P—BIB 541.

Topics Courses in Biblical Studies (1-3h)

Courses in Bible can be developed and offered on a one-time basis using this designation.

Topics | Martyrs, Prophets, Preachers: Women and Slaves in Early Christianity

An exploration of the role of women, named and unnamed, in the religious practices of early Christianity, Judaism, and Greek and

Roman religions. The course traces the historical world of women and seeks to find ways to describe women's spirituality in the first three centuries CE.

Topics | Dead Sea Scrolls and the Life of Biblical Tradition

A consideration of the relationship of the Dead Sea Scrolls 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. P—BIB 522.

Historical Studies (HIS)

HIS 501 | History of Christianity I (R)

A survey of the 1st through the 16th centuries. Attention is given to the early Councils, the rise of the papacy, dissenting movements, and the development of the sacraments. Medieval studies include mysticism, church/state affiliations, and scholasticism. Reformation issues survey the work of Luther, Zwingli, Calvin, and the Radical Reformers.

HIS 502 | History of Christianity II (R)

A survey of the 17th through the 20th centuries. Attention is given to the rise of "modernism" and its impact on philosophy, theology, ecclesiology, and politics. Catholic studies focus on individuals such as Sor Juana de la Cruz, Teresa of Avila, Alfred Loisy, Pius IX, John XXII, Dorothy Day, and on the development of papal infallibility, Vatican I and II, and the impact of Liberation Theology. Protestant studies examine the rise of Puritanism, missionary movements, dissenters, global Christianity, slavery and civil rights, and religions in America.

Early and Medieval Christianity

HIS 611 | Early Christianity

A close reading of primary sources and a consideration of the art, architecture, and music as well as archeological evidence of the period. P—HIS 501.

HIS 631 | History of Medieval Christianity

A study of major themes and events in the medieval churches. P—HIS 501 and SPI 571.

HIS 732 | Special Studies in Early Christianity

Topical studies in early Christian history and literature, both canonical and non-canonical. One topic is studied each time the course is offered. Examples include: Gender in Early Christianity; Early Christians and Their Scriptures; Early Christian Asceticism. Also listed as BIB 726. P—BIB 542.

HIS 735 | Literary Classics of World Religions

(R—World Religions Requirement)

An examination of great works of literature from the world's reli-

gious traditions including Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. While the basic teachings of selected religions are introduced for students with little or no background in the subject, the focus of the course remains on scriptural and literary texts that offer classic theological perspectives on the human conditions. Readings may include Gilgamesh Epic, biblical texts, the Qur'an, Sufi poetry, Upanishads, the Bhagavad Gita, the Dhammapada, and Zen sutras.

Reformation and Modern Christianity

HIS 651 | The Protestant and Catholic Reformations

A study of the origin and development of Reformation theology and ecclesiology. Also listed as Religion 668.

HIS 652 | Radical Christian Movements

A study of selected radical movements in the Christian tradition and their relation to contemporary issues. Also listed as Religion 669.

HIS 671 | Religions in America

A study of religious traditions, events, and individuals shaping religious life in America. Attention is given to native religions, colonization, denominations, awakenings, religious liberty, the western movement, and the rise of the "American Self." The development of pluralism and the impact of immigration, civil rights, and "new religions" are also studied.

HIS 693 | African-American Religious Traditions

An exploration of religious movements, communities, and individuals within African-American traditions.

HIS 771 | Religious Experience in America

An examination of the nature of conversion, mysticism, and other forms of religious experience in American religious life.

HIS 772 | Historical Theology

A survey of the major figures and schools of thought through 2000 years of Christian history. Attention is given to the historical and intellectual context of Christian theology in different periods and geographical regions. Designed as a discussion seminar. Also listed as THS 714.

Studies in Contemporary Christianity

HIS 520 | The Church in Contemporary Cultures

A study of social factors that pose challenges to church life. The course explores the everyday lives of churchgoers, and how faith plays a role in their responses to social, cultural, and political issues. Attention is given to the ways in which communities of faith create religious culture as a means of strength, cohesion, and survival. Also listed as MIN 520.

HIS 591 | The African-American Religious Experience

An exploration of the religious dimensions of African-American life from its African antecedents to contemporary figures and movements. Also listed as Religion 345.

HIS 691 | Women and Christianity

A study of the roles and contributions of women in representative Christian traditions. Also listed as Religion 670.

HIS 692 | Men's Studies and Religion

An examination of the ways in which masculine sex-role expectations and male experiences have both shaped religious ideas, symbols, rituals, institutions, and forms of spirituality and have been shaped by them. Attention is given to the ways in which race, class, and sexual orientation affect those dynamics. Also listed as Religion 640.

HIS 681 | American Denominationalism

A study of the development of denominationalism in America with particular attention to specific faith communities and the shape of religious organizations for the future. Also listed as MIN 681.

HIS 682 | A History of the Baptists

A study of Baptist history with particular attention to Baptists in the U.S. and the diversity of Baptist ways of belief and practice. Also listed as MIN 682.

History of Religions: Comparative Religion

HIS 661 | World Religions (R)

An examination of the ideas and practices of major religious traditions in their historical and cultural contexts. The primary focus is on the Hindu and Buddhist traditions, the religions of China and Japan, and Islam. Also listed as Religion 660.

HIS 662 | The Buddhist World of Thought and Practice (R)

A survey of the development of Buddhism from India to Southeast Asia, China, Tibet, Japan, and the West, focusing on the transformation of Buddhist teachings and practices in these different social and cultural contexts. Also listed as Religion 661.

HIS 663 | Religions of Japan

A study of the central religious traditions of Japan from prehistory to the present, including Shinto, Buddhism, Zen Buddhism, Christianity, and Confucianism. Also listed as Religion 663.

HIS 667 | Islam (R)

An examination of the origins and development of Islam. Particular attention is given to the formation of Islamic faith and practice, as well as contemporary manifestations of Islam in Asia, Africa, and North America. Also listed as Religion 662.

HIS 668 | Religions of Africa (R)

An introduction to Africa's three main religions, often referred to as the "triple heritage," including African Traditional Religions, Islam,

and Christianity. Examines processes whereby these religions' beliefs and practices find new forms and life in contemporary Africa, and looks at the general relationships between and among the religions as they respond to social change.

HIS 762 | Contemporary Judaism (R)

A study of the structure of modern Jewish worship, religious living, and thought; particular consideration to the impact of the Shoah, modern Israel, feminism, and interreligious relations.

Topics Courses in Historical Studies

Courses in history can be developed and offered on a one-time basis using this designation.

Topics | Classics of Contemplative Theology

An exploration of contemplative texts and practices as a mode of doing theology. Students read spiritual classics from early Christianity through the early modern period.

Topics | Evangelicalism in America: Historical, Theological, Political, and Cultural Perspectives

An examination of evangelicalism with regard to its important contributions to American religious culture, its variety in forms, and its ability to reconsider itself in an increasingly pluralistic United States.

Ministerial Studies (MIN)

Homiletics

MIN 551 | Homiletics and Worship (R)

A study of the preparation and delivery of sermons in the context of worship. Attention is given to the history of Christian preaching, to techniques of effective biblical interpretation for preaching, and to the development of a "theology of proclamation." P—BIB 521 or 541

MIN 652 | Contextual Homiletics

An analysis of the impact of various social identities upon the preparation, delivery, and reception of sermons. The social identities examined include, but are not limited to, race and ethnicity, gender, sexual identity, class status, and geography. Students prepare, preach, and receive critiques on at least two sermons in this course. P—MIN 551.

MIN 657 | Women and the Preaching Life

An exploration of the unique and complex voices that women bring to the preaching tradition and to the Christian Church. Considers the preaching traditions of North American women, feminist/womanist hermeneutics regarding the practice of preaching, and the social, cultural, and political contexts in which historical and contemporary women proclaim the Gospel message.

Worship and Liturgy

MIN 530 | Introduction to Christian Worship and Liturgy

A study of the role of symbol and ritual, sacred times and festivals, sacred places and persons, and expressions of art and music.

MIN 644 | Preaching, Worship, and the Care of Souls: Funerals, Weddings, and Other Pastoral Rites

A study of pastoral rites. This course is a seminar and practicum through which students learn how to design and lead pastoral rites, with an emphasis on funerals and weddings. Each student is required to preach for the class a funeral sermon and a wedding sermon.

MIN 654 | Preaching and Worship in Sacred Time

An analysis of the biblical, theological, and pastoral nature of the seasons and special moments of the church year through the lens of liturgical theology and practice. Includes instruction on sermon preparation for the major liturgical moments (e.g., Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost). Attention is given to the relationship between the Christian liturgical year and the calendars and feast days of other religious traditions.

MIN 663 | Ritual and Congregational Life

An examination of the history, theology, and practice of liturgical rites in congregational life. Attention is given to the meaning and function of ritual in a contemporary context.

Topics | Sacraments and Ordinances: History, Theologies, and Practices

A place-based exploration of the history, theologies and practices of baptism and the Lord's Supper in diverse Christian contexts.

Denominational Studies

MIN 641 | Congregational Leadership, Presbyterian Polity, and Reformed Theology (2h)

A study of the polity of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Attention is given to issues of congregational leadership as they are affected by Presbyterian polity structures.

MIN 647 | Episcopal Church Studies: Sacramental Theology and Liturgics

An exploration of the heritage and current theology of the sacraments and worship of the Episcopal church. The course is a prerequisite for Episcopal students preparing for General Ordination Exams (GOE).

MIN 649 | Episcopal Church Studies: Seven Canonical Areas for General Ordination Exams

An extensive review of Episcopal studies in preparation for the GOE and future ministry. P—MIN 647.

MIN 681 | American Denominationalism

A study of the development of denominationalism in America with particular attention to specific faith communities and the shape of religious organizations for the future. Also listed as HIS 681.

MIN 682 | A History of the Baptists

A study of Baptist history with particular attention to Baptists in the U.S. and the diversity of Baptist ways of belief and practice. Also listed as HIS 682.

MIN 691 | United Methodist Polity (2h)

MIN 692 | Methodist History and Doctrine (2h)

MIN 695 | United Church of Christ Polity and History (2h)

MIN 790 | African Methodist Episcopal Zion Polity, History, and Theology (2h)

MIN 790 | African American Baptist Life (1h)

Christian Education

MIN 554 | Introduction to Christian Education and Spiritual Formation in the Local Church

An exploration of the educational and spiritual needs of the membership of local congregations. The organization of educational programs is discussed as well as development and evaluation of curriculum. Leadership recruitment and development are addressed and consideration is given to the importance of spiritual formation as the heart of the educational program.

MIN 664 | Christian Education in the Black Church

An exploration of the practices and theories of religious education that aim to form, renew, and transform Christian faith in persons and communities, with particular attention to religious education in the Black Church in the U.S. Introduces students to the historical emergence of the Black Church, its dual function as religious community and socio-political institution, and investigates contemporary challenges and demands confronting the Black Church, black community and broader American culture.

MIN 667 | Formational and Transformational Practices in Christian Education (R—Spirituality)

An exploration of the practices and theories of religious education that aim to form, renew, and transform Christian faith in persons and communities. Students will investigate interaction between faith and culture in congregations, schools, community agencies, and public forums. Students will also consider educational practices that enhance formative communal memory, including preaching, prayer, sacred music, sacraments, and other aspects of Christian ministry. . Also listed as SPI 667.

MIN 669 | Ministry with Youth and Young Adults: Educational and Homiletic Practices

An exploration of the unique challenges and opportunities—pedagogically, theologically, politically, and ethically—impacting ministry with youths and young adults in the 21st century with particular attention to preaching and religious education.

Pastoral Care and Counseling

MIN 631 | The Ministry of Pastoral Care (R)

A study of the church's ministry of caring for persons throughout the life cycle which is grounded in theological understandings of the human condition, the spiritual journey, and the nature of ministry.

MIN 633 | Introduction to Pastoral Counseling

An introduction to theories and methods of pastoral counseling, including the nature of pastoral identity and essential skills for effective counseling.

MIN 634 | Religious Developments of the Individual

A study of growth and development from infancy through adulthood, with emphasis on the influences of spirituality and mature religion. Also listed as Religion 654.

MIN 635a,b | Multicultural CPE

A clinical pastoral education unit focused on multi-cultural concerns in hospital chaplaincy and pastoral care. Offered through the Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center. Open to second and third year students only.

MIN 638 | A Pastoral Response to Trauma and Addiction

An exploration of pastoral counseling skills in the areas where trauma and addiction intersect. Students learn to utilize their pastoral identity in providing ministries to those suffering with trauma and addiction. Provides an understanding of human trauma and how it interfaces with the manifestation of the many types of addictions that can be encountered in the ministry of the church.

MIN 710 | Topics in the Psychology of Religion (1h course required for MDiv/MA in Counseling joint degree students)

A consideration of "classic" and contemporary texts and research in the Psychology of Religion pertinent to theory and practice of pastoral counseling.

MIN 711 | Topics in Faith Development (1h course required for MDiv/MA in Counseling joint degree students)

A consideration of "classic" and contemporary texts and research in human psychological and spiritual development (and critical responses to same) pertinent to theory and practice of pastoral counseling.

MIN 712 | Topics in Pastoral Theology (1h course required for MDiv/MA in Counseling joint degree students)

A consideration of selected issues and contemporary perspectives in pastoral theology, with a focus on theological anthropology foundational to integrative reflective practice of pastoral care and counseling.

Urban Ministry

MIN 576 | Urban Ministry: Ministering to Urban Churches

A study of the history, theology and practice of doing ministry in urban contexts. Lectures explore issues ranging from scriptures to social justice to the development of nonprofit corporations. Requires a pilgrimage to a regional urban ministry site.

Ministry, Leadership, and Context

MIN 510a,b,c | Introduction to Religious Leadership and Administration (each module is 1h)

Students are encouraged, but not required, to enroll in all three modules for the most complete exploration of this topic. These modules introduce foundational perspectives on the leadership of religious institutions, particularly Christian congregations and non-profit organizations. Site visits and conversations with congregations and pastors in the vicinity provide a lively, current picture of issues in administration and leadership.

MIN 510a | Congregational Culture and Story as a Resource for Religious Leadership

An exploration of 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.

MIN 510b | Organization for Ministry

An exploration of 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. Students consider issues of power and authority in congregations, and the values and varieties of forms of governance.

MIN 510c | Stewardship of Places and Resources

An exploration of the buildings, neighborhood contexts, and financial resources for supporting the ministries of congregations. Students 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. Students also explore varied strategies for raising both capital and operational funds in support of congregational ministries.

MIN 520 | The Church in Contemporary Cultures

A study of 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. Also listed as HIS 520.

MIN 560 | Field, Table, Communion: Food and the Work of Ministry

An exploration of food through scriptural and theological lenses. Students will learn to recognize the difference between healthy and destructive farming practices. Students examine the rise of faith-based

food projects in America and around the world. The course looks at why hunger and obesity are flip sides of the same coin and considers how the church should respond to them.

Vocational Formation

MIN 501 | Art of Ministry I: Theological Imagination: An Integrative Approach (2h) (R)

An introduction to vocational formation for religious leadership.

MIN 540 | Specialized Internship (1-3h)

Provides course credit for students interested in developing ministerial internships beyond the required Art of Ministry II supervised internships. Students enrolled in MIN 540 (fall) or MIN 541 (spring) negotiate internship settings with the professor, design a course syllabus based on learning goals and hours spent in the setting.

MIN 541 | Specialized Internship (1-3h)

See description for MIN 540.

MIN 601a,b | Art of Ministry II: Shared Wisdom: Reflective Practice in Ministry (R)

Academic year internship that includes experiential learning, mentoring, peer group reflection, and classroom learning.

MIN 701 | Art of Ministry III: Integrative Project (R)

Third year required course that (1) integrates the various facets of the MDiv curriculum through an interdisciplinary project, and (2) provides students with the tools to think theologically about a ministerial vocation.

MIN 702a,b | Art of Ministry III: Internship Project (R)

Third year required course that integrates the various facets of the MDiv curriculum through (1) working in an internship setting and (2) engaging in theological reflection and interdisciplinary analysis about practices of ministry in the setting. This is a two-semester course, with 1 hour required in the fall semester and 2 hours required in the spring semester.

Multicultural Contexts for Ministry (R)

All students are required to complete one course focused on specific ministries in diverse cultural and regional contexts. Each course includes a required travel component. Courses vary each year. Recent multicultural contexts courses have included travel to India, Egypt, Israel, Nicaragua, New York City, and Appalachia. Details about each academic year's multicultural contexts courses can be found on the school's website or requested from the Office of the Academic Dean.

Topics Courses in Ministry

Topics | "Daily Bread": Food, Faith, Mercy and Justice

"Daily Bread" is the foundational course in the Food and Faith concentration. Introduction to and examination of the ways that "food" can be an integrative lens for the life and work of faith communi-

ties. 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.

Topics | Faith and Health of the Public

Foundational course in the Faith and Health of the Public concentration. Exploration of issues at the intersections of theology, faith communities, and public health.

Topics | Preaching in the Traditions of the African American Church

Exploration of 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. Course emphases include the theological dimensions of preaching, biblical interpretation, sermon preparation and delivery, contextualization, embodiment, and preaching as a communal communicative act.

Spirituality (SPI)

SPI 571 | Introduction to the Spiritual Life (R)

A study of spiritual life through the consideration of commitment, spiritual disciplines, and the ways of prayer. Students examine their own spiritual life journeys and consider new paths for spiritual growth.

SPI 610 | Spirituality and Discernment

An introduction to some theological and spiritual foundations of discernment as it relates to individuals, groups, and systems. Students learn processes for discernment as a spiritual practice using the Examen, the Clearness Committee, and the Social Discernment Cycle. Students 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 667 | Formational and Transformational Practices in Christian Education (R)

An exploration of the practices and theories of religious education that aim to form, renew, and transform Christian faith in persons and communities. Students will investigate interaction between faith and culture in congregations, schools, community agencies, and public forums is investigated. Students will also consider educational practices that enhance formative communal memory, including preaching, prayer, sacred music, sacraments, and other aspects of Christian ministry. Also listed as MIN 667

SPI 771 | Classics of Christian Devotion (R)

A study of the principles of the spiritual life presented in the enduring classics of devotion. P—SPI 571.

SPI 772 | Varieties of Christian Spirituality (R) (1-3h)

A selected study of conceptions and practices of the spiritual life in diverse Christian traditions. P—SPI 571.

SPI 773 | Worship as Spiritual Practice (R)

A study of how worship shapes spirituality. Students will explore spirituality, broadly defined, along with how congregational worship is a form of spiritual practice.

Spirituality and the Arts

SPI 617 | Spirituality and Ministry in Film, Fiction, and Poetry (R)

An exploration of the stories, images, symbols, and metaphors found in literature and film about faith perspectives, church and clergy life, and the life of the Spirit. Course goals include preparing students for creative and transformative leadership.

SPI 623 | Music in the Church

A study of the history of church music and hymnody and of use of church music in the contemporary church.

Topics Courses in Spirituality

SPI 790 | Topics Courses (1-3h)

Topics | Spirituality and Ministry Courses: in Theater & Performance, in Film & Photography, in Visual Arts and in Architecture & Sense of Place: three 1h modules (R—Spirituality)

This course is offered in three 1-hour modules with students able to register for 1, 2, or 3 hours. Each module requires site visits.

The purpose of this course is to provoke and explore questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with a range of visual and performative arts. The course aims to enrich imaginative resources for deepened spirituality so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership in ministry.

Theater (1h)

Through attendance at a stage play and performance workshop in collaboration with the WFU Theater Department, students will experience the richness of performative arts and probe the significance of drama and performance for ministerial practice.

Film and Photography (1h)

Through site visits to galleries and interaction with the documentary film department at WFU, students will explore the methods and possibilities of the camera, lens, and digital creations as means of exploring spirituality and practices of faith.

Visual Arts (1h)

Through site visits to the Reynolda House Museum of Art (WFU) and the Elsewhere Interactive Museum (Greensboro), students will

encounter and discuss visual arts and explore the process of creativity.

Architecture and Sense of Place (1h)

A consideration of questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with architecture, the creation of space, and the sense of place. The course explores the significance of buildings and spaces for spiritual and ministerial practice, with a larger aim of enriching imaginative resources for deepened spirituality, so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership in ministry.

Topics | Jewish Spirituality (3h) (R—Spirituality or World Religions)

An exploration of Jewish spirituality through four dimensions of experience and through study of traditional as well as contemporary texts. The four dimensions correspond to the four “worlds” of existence posited in Jewish mystical writings.

Topics | Spirituality and Prayer (2h) (R)

An introduction to theological and spiritual foundations of prayer. Students will learn and experience different forms of prayer as spiritual practice and consider how these relate to personal spiritual life and diverse ministry contexts.

Topics | Thriving Nourishment: Christian Spiritual Practices and Food (1h)

An exploration of personal and corporate Christian spiritual practices, as daily ways to contribute to thriving social and ecological systems, specifically related to food.

Theological Studies (THS)

THS 501 | Christian Theology I (R)

A study of central themes and systematic connections in Christian theology from a variety of perspectives.

Systematic Theology

THS 611 | The Providence of God

A study of various alternative models of God’s relationship to and activity in the world, examining evil and suffering, miracle and prayer, tragedy and hope. The study includes a narrative rendering of God’s providence through the Story of Jesus. P—THS 501 and 502; or POI.

THS 613 | The Church

A critical study of the church and its ministries in the varieties of Christian tradition. Special attention to biblical images and corresponding theological models of the church.

THS 711 | The Doctrine of God

An exploration of the being and attributes of God in conjunction with the doctrine of the Trinity.

THS 712 | Contemporary Christology

An examination of the definitive issues and basic alternatives for interpreting the person of Jesus Christ today, with specific attention to the formulation of the humanity and deity of Christ. P—THS 501 and 502.

Theology and Culture

THS 618 | Feminist, Womanist, and Mujerista Theologies

A study of theology utilizing the methods and diverse voices of feminist theology.

THS 634 | Narrative Theology and Story Telling

A critical investigation of the three schools of “narrative theology,” attending to the problems of biblical authority and narrative appropriation, and a careful examination of the relation of narrative theology to contemporary storytelling. P—THS 501 and 502.

THS 635 | Theology and the Holocaust

A critical rethinking of the enterprise of Christian theology after Auschwitz, in conversation with scholars like Elie Wiesel, Jurgen Moltmann, and Paul van Buren.

THS 636 | Sociology of Religion

A survey of the basic elements of sociology with particular attention to religious phenomena.

THS 637 | African-American Theology

A survey of one of the major liberation theology motifs of the twentieth century. Argues that there were formal and informal expressions of Black Liberation Theology from the beginning of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade in the latter fifteenth century AD. Howard Thurman and Martin Luther King Jr. are presented as seminal thinkers and writers who laid the theological foundation and framework for Cone. The perspectives of Kelly Brown, Allan A. Boesak, and Dwight W. Hopkins, among other contemporary writers, are examined through lectures, readings, presentations, and discussions.

THS 720 | Comparative Theology (R—World Religions)

A study of the methods of responsible comparison, analyzes examples from a variety of religious traditions. Students are encouraged to frame comparisons according to their own theological interests.

Ethics

THS 521 | Foundations of Christian Ethics (R)

A study of diverse philosophical and theological approaches to Christian ethics and their applications to specific ethical issues.

THS 522 | History of Theological Ethics (R)

Explores the rich resources of theological ethics by studying the historical development of Christian moral traditions and their interactions with philosophy and politics.

THS 621 | Christianity and Public Policy

A study of biblical warrants, historical developments, and contemporary issues related to Christianity and public policy. A look at the literature, relationship to other theological disciplines, and basic ethics is involved.

THS 622 | Church, Law, and Ethics

A study of the most important rules of contracts, torts, and statutory law that bind the Church as a business and social enterprise.

THS 623 | Religious Traditions and Human Rights

A study of relationships and tensions between religious traditions and human rights, with illustrations from historical and contemporary issues and movements. Also listed as Religion 636.

THS 624 | Church and State in America

An examination of the theology, history, sociology, and politics leading to the unique relationship of Church and State in the U.S. Engages contemporary issues and conflicts in the Church-State field with special attention to current developments and media coverage of those events.

THS 625 | Sexuality, Religion, and the Law

An exploration of issues related to sexual identity and sexual orientation that push the law to address the wide variations of patterns in which human beings relate. Consideration is given to how the law can both constrict societal development and act as a catalyst for radical social change. Examines how religion and popular morality shape the law and, in some instances, are shaped by it.

THS 626 | Contemporary Ethical Issues

An exploration of contemporary ethical issues that have wide social, political, and religious significance. The issues include health care, environment, immigration, dying, and criminal justice.

THS 730 | Philosophy of Human Nature

A scientific, philosophical and theological exploration in search of answers to Big Questions: What is a human person? Is the person all material? Does the universe contain consciousness? Has science proven that religion is a mere illusion? Is life after death really possible? P—THS 501, THS 521, THS 522 or permission of the instructor.

Topics Courses in Theology

Courses in theology can be developed and offered on a one-time basis using this designation.

Topics | Being Human: Readings in Theological Anthropology (1h)

A survey of classic and contemporary treatments of human existence in theological perspective: What makes us human? Are there particular faculties or abilities that distinguish us as created in the image of God? How does Christian theology understand our relation to other species and the earth? P—THS 501 or permission of instructor.

Topics | Markets, Justice and Christian Ethics

An examination of the structure of modern markets and an evaluation of their moral meaning in Christian theological perspective.

Topics | Agape and Eros

An exploration of the meaning and normative content of Christian love by comparing and contrasting eros and agape. Students will examine various philosophical and theological questions concerning the nature of love, the relationship between desire and value, the rationality of emotion, the moral status of self-love, and the ordering of love.

Topics | Culinary Culture in Black Religious Experience (cross listed HIS 790)

An exploration of the historical, social, cultural, theological, ethnographic, and practical components of African American religious life and foodway culture. Particular attention is given 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.

Topics | Ministry, Leadership, and Ethics

An exploration of the many ethical issues faced in various ministry settings. Students will consider ethical issues in ministry, including confidentiality, clergy sexual misconduct, business, and the ethics of preaching, and social witness.

Topics | Neuroethics

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.

Topics | Black Theologies in the U.S.

An examination of the historical and cultural development of Black Theology in the United States. The course includes engagement with multiple modes of the black theological tradition, including early Black Liberation Theology, critical theorists of theodicy, Womanist Theology, intersecting feminist theories, and “Third Wave” Womanist thought.