Courses Open for Audit
Spring 2016

Full semester courses: January 12 – April 27, 2016

**HIS 790A Gender, Sexuality, & Community: The Search for Religious Utopia**
Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm, Wingate Hall room 201
Fee: $255
Thomas Frank

If you had some land, a few friends and followers, and a vision of a new society that lived up to all your highest religious ideals, what kind of community would you build? This course explores historical answers to basic questions that all societies face: How should men and women relate to each other? How should sexuality and sexual relations be organized and regulated? How should children be raised? What is the nature of work for men and women, and how should it be rewarded? How should buildings and landscapes be designed and arranged to reflect the community’s ideals? What is the place of education, arts, and music in a good society? Who has the authority to interpret and defend a religious ideal, and what should be done when other disagree?

**MIN 693 History and Polity of the Christian Church: Disciples of Christ**
Fridays, 9:00 am – 11:00 am, Wingate Hall room 301A
Fee: $170
Bob Parvin

The course will explore the history, polity, theological foundation, and characteristic beliefs of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The course will include the following areas of study:

- Origins and development of the Stone/Campbell movement
- Divisions among the branches of the movement
- Restructure and the transformation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) from movement (“the brotherhood”) to denomination
- Characteristic beliefs, practices, and theology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Ecumenical involvement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- The structure and polity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**MIN 790C Worship: Multicultural & Emergent**
Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm, Wingate Hall room 302
Fee: $255
Sunggu Yang

This course begins with the realization that in today’s multicultural, multi-denominational, and even multi-religious ecclesial environment, a new type of Christian worship practice is inevitable; namely, multicultural and/or emergent worship. Utilizing the broadest concept of culture that includes, among others, race and ethnicity, religions, arts, “low and high” Christian denominations, children and differently-abled persons, and sub-cultures (e.g., hip-hop culture and feminist culture), the course is
designed to learn and put into practice theoretical and historical grounds of multicultural and emergent worship. A special focus will go to contemporary emerging worship in the 21st century. Students will work in small groups for group discussion, a field visit, and a multicultural and/or emergent worship design project.

**MIN 790F Ministry Leadership and Coaching Skills**
**Mondays, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, Wingate Hall room 201**
**Fee: $85**
Beth Kennett

Coaching is defined as “partnering with clients in a thought-provoking and creative process that inspires them to maximize their personal and professional potential.” (International Coach Federation) Ministry leaders can use the skills and practices of coaching to enrich the work and life of ministry. The coaching perspective can be used by the minister to develop accepting and affirming relationships with faith community participants and staff as well as to bring about a sense of inquiry that strengthens learning and creativity in the midst of work and life. This course will introduce students to the skills and practices of coaching with application to the life and work of ministry. Students will experience being coached and coaching others and will explore strengthening one’s leadership skills through the coaching process.

**SPI 790B Spiritual & Visual Representation after the Holocaust**
**Mondays, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm, Wingate Hall room 302**
**Fee: $255**
Karen Dresser

This course involves the study of spiritual and visual understandings of the Shoah through post-Holocaust art, poetic metaphor, film/theatre as informed by contemporary post-Holocaust Theology. Themes include absence/presence, authentic voice/questioning faith, *hester panim* (God hiding the Divine Face), Job’s brothers, artist as secondary witness, and the gendering of Holocaust art.

**THS 790A Theology and the Rule of Law**
**Wednesdays, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm, Wingate Hall room 202**
**Fee: $255**
Jonathan Miller

Augustine of Hippo wrote of two cities, an “Earthly City” and a “City of God,” that were entangled with each other and yet destined for very different ends. For two hundred years, American lawyers and judges have followed Thomas Jefferson, framing the issue as one of the relationship between “church” and “state.” In the 1950s, theologian H. Richard Niebuhr reframed the issue from a much different perspective, as he investigated the relationship between “Christ” and “culture.” No matter how one frames the issue, the same questions keep recurring: What exactly is the relationship between law and faith? Are Christians obligated to obey the civil law? Is law created by God to achieve good purposes, or by humans to reinforce unjust social structures? Do Christians have a responsibility to change the law to conform to their moral vision, or is it better for Christians to remain morally pure by refusing to participate in civil government? While these questions are important for any Christian, they are all the more pressing for people whose vocation lies at the intersection of law and faith: the pastor who engages in community organizing or legislative advocacy; the lawyer who works to realize Christian values on earth; or the JD/MDiv student unsure of what comes next. Participants in this course will
examine how various Christian thinkers and communities have answered these questions, and will also reflect on how to live out their own faith commitments and legal obligations.

**Christianity and Politics in American Life, I – III**

This is a three-course sequence that can be taken in any combination.

**Thursdays (dates listed for each course), 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm, Wingate Hall room 202**

**THS 596 Christianity and Politics in American Life I: Historical and Cultural Trajectories**

January 14-February 4, 2015, one evening a week for four weeks

Fee: $85

John Senior

The first module of this multi-part course series examines Christianity and American politics in historical and sociological perspectives, focusing on the development of Church-state relations in cultural and legal frames, “civil religion,” and the religious cast of the American political imagination.

**THS 597 Christianity and Politics in American Life II: Contemporary Public and Political Theologies**

February 11 – March 3, 2016, one evening a week for four weeks

Fee: $85

John Senior

The second module of this multi-part course series considers contemporary public and political theologies, examining a range of Christian voices on the meaning of political community and the common good. Perspectives include neo-Augustinian, realist, Catholic, evangelical, feminist, womanist, and liberationist approaches.

**THS 598a Christianity and Politics in American Life III: Contemporary Public Witness**

March 17-April 21, 2016, one evening a week for six weeks

Fee: $125

John Senior and Frank Dew

The third module of this multi-part course series analyzes the practice of Christian public witness in a variety of organizational forms (intentional community, local congregations, nonprofit agencies, denominational witness offices, faith-based and government partnerships, global mission, etc.) and community settings (local, national, and global), emphasizing the lived experience of public and political theologies.

**Weekend courses: Times for these courses are as follows:**

**Fridays, 2:30 pm – 9:30 pm and Saturdays, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm**

**SPI 790A Centering Prayer & Beyond: Classical Texts & Contemporary Experience**

Weekend course: January 29-30, 2016, Wingate Hall room 201

Fee: $85

Wendy Farley
This class will study classical texts that serve as a background to the practice of centering prayer. This practice is rooted in the theology of love and transformation characteristic of the desert fathers and mothers and the Cloud of Unknowing, Teresa of Avila, and John of the Cross. Christ-centered meditation and a deep desire to transform the mind so that unconditional love and compassion become more natural are distinctive elements of this Christian tradition of spiritual formation. Dialogue between contemplative theology and contemporary experience is intended to deepen students’ knowledge of theological resources within Christianity as well as provide resources for their own constructive theology.

MIN 790E Mental Health for Faith Leaders
Weekend course: January 29-30, 2016, Wingate Hall room 302
Fee: $85
Bryan Hatcher

This weekend course will introduce learners to common mental health issues that are likely to be encountered as a caring professional working in faith communities or related organizations. It will also provide a required 8 hours of training in Mental Health First Aid and allow participants to achieve certification in Mental Health First Aid by completing the curriculum and successfully completing a related quiz. Mental Health First Aid is an internationally recognized organization providing training in understanding, engaging, referral of mental health issues, while reducing stigma of mental health and encouraging compliance with appropriate professional services (see www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org).

MIN 512 Healthy Boundaries: Ministry, Ethics, and Leadership
Weekend course: February 5-6, 2016, Wingate Hall room 201
Fee: $200
Jill Crainshaw

This course explores relationships between ministry, professional ethics, and pastoral leadership. Topics include clergy confidentiality, healthy clergy relationships, clergy self-care, pastoral issues related to business and finances, healthy use of social media in ministry, and practices for ensuring the safety of children and youth in ministerial programs. This course is based on a similar course developed by the Faith Trust Institute and is designed to meet denominational healthy boundaries training requirements. This course is equivalent to Healthy Boundaries 101 and 201 offered by the Faith Trust Institute.

MIN 790D The Ethics of Service Missions
Weekend course: March 18-19, 2016, Wingate Hall room 201
Fee: $85
Alison Lutz

This course explores the power dynamics present in any short- or long-term mission to relieve global poverty. Womanist ethics and liberation theologies will serve as primary tools of analysis, and the provision of health care in communities bearing the dual burdens of poverty and disease will provide a concrete case to analyze. Students will be asked to question how specific formulations of certain values and practices, both named and unnamed (such as control, self-efficacy, participation, sustainability, agency, market logic, Gospel, imagination, conversion, spirituality, leadership and expertise), affect faith communities’ or nonprofit organizations’ service missions. Students will be asked to consider the effects missions have on real communities, interrogating whether service missions replicate the dynamics of oppression that create misery in the first place, and reflecting on possibilities to do otherwise.
SPI 611 Spirituality and the Art of Baseball
Weekend course: April 15-16, 2016, Wingate Hall room 201
Fee: $85
Thomas 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 authors 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 and practices of ministry, so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership.