



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLICAL STUDIES

Richard P. Carlson, Mark Vitalis Hoffman, Brooks Schramm, Marty Stevens, Briant Bohleke

The educational goals of the Biblical Studies disciplines grow directly from the Seminary's Vision Statement, which declares that this school "proclaims Jesus Christ to a restless world" and seeks to "listen to God's Word in community."

Biblical studies endeavor to prepare each student for the role of the public theologian as proclaimer of God's Word. This goal is achieved through a critical and disciplined study of the Bible as the normative tradition of the church and the authentic source of the gospel to which this Seminary bears witness. Courses offered in Biblical studies aim at helping students to interpret biblical material responsibly, so that they are able to discern and communicate what biblical texts once intended in their original historical and canonical contexts; to experience the claim of such texts on their own lives; and to address the message of these texts to the church and to the world.

Mastery of these goals, as appropriate to their degree, will enable students to:

- Describe the basic content, theological perspectives, and key theological themes of the Bible.
- Utilize skills in grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of a biblical language (normally Greek) as a basis for the interpretation of biblical texts.
- Recount the movement of history depicted in the Bible for Israel and the early church, particularly as related to the relevant history of the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean world.
- Articulate and employ critical methodologies in the exegesis of biblical passages.
- Formulate a conceptual framework of the canon that takes account of its unity and diversity.
- Analyze how key theological themes are presented in the various books and literary complexes within the Bible.
- Interpret the Bible faithfully and thoughtfully through preaching, teaching, and writing.

- Express a vision of faithful mission appropriate to the cultural context of ministry informed by an understanding of leadership models and qualities evidenced in the Bible.
- Participate in global, multicultural, and ecumenical hermeneutical conversations about the Bible.

The Old Testament

Introduction to the Old Testament (1.103) or equivalent, is prerequisite for all other Old Testament course, except Biblical Hebrew.

1.103 Introduction to the Old Testament (3 credits)

An introduction to the Old Testament with a survey of its structure, contents, and major theological themes. The course includes an introduction to historical-critical methodologies of interpretation. This course, or equivalent, is prerequisite for all other Old Testament courses, except Biblical Hebrew.
Marty Stevens

1.107 Prophets Seminar: Jeremiah (3 credits)

A study of selected texts from Jeremiah, with special attention to exegetical method. Rigorous seminar format. Prerequisite: Hebrew or Greek.
Brooks Schramm

1.111 Biblical Hebrew for Exegesis (3 credits)

A one-semester introduction to the original language of the Old Testament. The course will cover basic grammatical principles and frequent vocabulary found in the Old Testament. Students will use analytical tools (computer Bible programs, analytical lexicons, etc.) to assist in elementary exegesis of texts in Hebrew. Open to all students.
Marty Stevens

1.113 Hebrew Readings (1.5 or 3 credits)

The Church's proclamation of the Word finds its source and norm in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Proclamation is enhanced when the texts are studied in their original languages. This course is a deeper study of Biblical Hebrew and its use in exegesis. Prerequisite: Hebrew.
Brooks Schramm/Marty Stevens/Briant Bohleke

1.114 Exodus: Shaping a Community

(3 credits)

An exegetical seminar of the book of Exodus exploring how the interweaving of narrative, ritual, and covenant shaped the ancient community of Israel and shapes faith communities today. Particular attention will be given to economic and stewardship issues in the text.

Prerequisite: Hebrew or Greek

Marty Stevens

1.150 Bible Facts and Artifacts

(3 credits)

A seminar to explore archaeological material from the ancient Near East as a means of informing the interpretation of biblical texts for preaching and teaching. Students will study and report on excavated artifacts and relevant biblical material.

Briant Bohleke

1.162 Song of Songs

(1.5 credits)

An overview of the history of interpretation of the Song of Songs in Judaism and Christianity. Prerequisite: 1.103.

Brooks Schramm

1.163 Job and Human Suffering

(3 credits)

The most enigmatic, haunting, and elusive of all biblical books is the subject matter of this course. While not ignoring various attempts to reconstruct the "original" story, the course's focus will be on canonical Job. Special attention will be given to significant paraphrases and reinterpretations engaged in by the Septuagint version(s) of the book. Students may work with the Hebrew text, the Greek text, or various English translations. Prerequisite: 1.103.

Brooks Schramm

1.172 The Psalter and the Life of Faith

(3 credits)

A study of the poetic character and theological implications of the Psalms, with reference to their use in corporate and individual prayer. Particular attention is given to the role in the Psalms of the omnipresent "enemy."

Brooks Schramm

1.174 Daniel & Apocalyptic

(3.0 credits; 1.5 also possible, 1.174a)

A general study of the latest book in the Hebrew Bible, together with an examination of the religious, political, and social factors at stake in the Maccabean Revolt. The second half of the course will focus on three key extra-biblical apocalyptic texts: 1 Enoch, 4 Ezra, and 2 Baruch. The course is designed as an introduction to apocalyptic thinking and writing in the Greco-Roman world. Students who need or desire 1.5 credits may

take the first half of the course (1.174a). Prerequisite: 1.103.

Brooks Schramm

1.177 Biblical Economics and Stewardship

(3 credits)

A seminar focused on biblical texts dealing with stewarding wealth so as to provide God's abundance throughout all levels of society. Special focus will be given to texts in the Torah, the Prophets, and the Gospel of Luke. Attention will be given to ancient and contemporary contexts.

Marty Stevens/William Avery

1.200OL New Testament Foundation Online

(3 credits)

This course is designed to provide Diaconal Ministry concentration students with a foundation for understanding the New Testament and to integrate its proclamation with their particular calls to ministry. This New Testament foundation includes a developed understanding of the interpretative issues, major writings, theological themes, literary structures, historical backgrounds and social worlds within the New Testament. Others may take this course with the approval of the instructor. This course is offered biennially in an on-line format only.

Richard Carlson

1.205 The Witness of the Gospels

(4 credits)

A general introduction to the traditions, the literary structures, the historical settings, and the theological witness of the synoptic Gospels as basis for ministry to the gospel today. Course meets in plenary session and in small sections. Prerequisite: Knowledge of Greek.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

1.206 Studies in the Epistles of the New Testament

(4 credits)

This course is designed to enable the student to become a skilled interpreter of apostolic literature through historical and exegetical studies in the epistles. Course meets in plenary session and in small sections. Prerequisite: Knowledge of Greek.

Richard Carlson

1.210 Introduction to New Testament Greek

(3 credits)

An introduction to Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary as a basis for the interpretation of the New Testament. This course is required of all M.Div. students entering the seminary without knowledge of Greek. It begins during the last two weeks of August and continues throughout the fall semester.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman/Richard Carlson

1.270 To Speak in Parables: Proclamation of the Gospel in the Parables of Jesus

(1.5 credits)

The parables of Jesus are among the best known memories of Jesus. The parables of Jesus are also among the most controversial aspects of our understanding of Jesus' message. This course will provide a survey of the interpretation of parables, but the main focus will be on the study of specific parables of Jesus. Prerequisite: 1.205 and knowledge of Greek.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

1.277 Women in the New Testament

This course will examine the portrayal of women in New Testament texts. Women characters, texts about women, and symbolic uses of female images will be interpreted through historical, literary, and reader-oriented strategies. Students will explore the relevance of these texts for understanding the lives of women in the early church and for Christian life and ministry today.

(1.5 credits)

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HISTORICAL-THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Maria E. Erling, Kristin Johnston Largen, Robin J. Steinke and Kirsi Stjerna

As the Christian tradition is received from the past and creatively imagined for the future, the present global, human, experiential context is the dynamic location where God's action and presence in the world is interpreted and shared. Students will engage the disciplines of history, theology and ethics so that they will be equipped to address, with considered mutual reflection and action, the challenges facing the church and the world.

Mastery of these goals, as appropriate to their degree, will enable students to:

- Make sound theological judgments based on engagement with a wide range of historical evidence, and articulate, in writing and discussion, cogent reasons for their hopes, planning, and action as church leaders.
- Recognize the important and enduring aspects of experiences of women and men in the Christian tradition, and systematically relate these aspects to contemporary issues and global concerns.



- Analyze and interpret texts in their historical, literary, multicultural, ecumenical, inter-religious and socio-political contexts.
- Assess moral issues that affect communities with considered ethical analysis, common reflection, and faithful judgment.
- Understand and evaluate the plural forms of Christian identity, particularly diversity in the Lutheran tradition, and relate that tradition to other ecumenical and religious perspectives.
- Demonstrate proficiency in working with a theological tradition so as to be able to continue to engage new questions and developments in contemporary theological and ethical arenas.

2.301 Introduction to Systematic Theology

(3 credits)

This course will deal with the role and significance of systematic theology for the faith and life of the church by reflecting on the sources, nature, purpose and methods of doing systematic theology. The course will also include a discussion of major systematic theologians and schools, particularly as they relate to specific theological loci. Finally, this course stresses the practice of integration, so that students can think and communicate theologically both in the classroom and also in a variety of public ministry settings. Normally, this course is a prerequisite for any theological the-
matics course.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.304 Introduction to Theological Ethics

(3 credits)

This course offers a theological framework, rooted in the biblical and confessional witness of the Church, within which we seek to live the responsible life of faith. Major methodologies in moral discernment will be examined including deontology, situationism, teleology, character ethics and consequentialism. Theological themes to be addressed in the light of the social teachings of the ELCA include: justification, church and state, gospel and law, sin, creation and eschatology. Robin Steinke

2.306 Theology and Public Life

(3 credits)

The purpose of this course is to prepare Church leaders to respond theologically in the public arena while still being attentive to the nuances required to steer a course through the public and private arenas. The course includes an action/reflection component, which is the opportunity to integrate academic rigor with the practice of ministry. Alongside the traditional classroom, the action/reflection component of the course provides an opportunity to test ideas against the actual events of ministry in the public square. Fulfills Theology and Public Life concentration requirement. Robin Steinke

2.311 Practical Issues Between Muslims and Christians

We will examine three areas of shared concern between Muslim and Christian communities in the United States: 1) spiritual resources in our respective traditions to sustain individual believers during their transitions from birth through maturity to death; 2) authority and responsibility of leaders in our respective communities of believers; 3) relations of the community of believers to society at large, including participating in civic life and bearing witness. In a setting of free inquiry, mutual respect, and honest exchange between instructors and students, the course studies and compares Muslim and Christian practices. (3 credits)

Richard Jones

2.362-28 Theological Thematics: Ecclesiology

(3 credits)

This course uses the traditional theological locus of ecclesiology to explore what it means to be church in the 21st century world. We will explore traditional theological marks of the church by examining how they function both in the current ecumenical context of the United States, as well as the broader global Christian context. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Also fulfills the Theology in Public Life requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Maria Erling/Kristin Largen

2.362-29 Theological Thematics: They Might Be Giants: Barth, Tillich & Rahner

(3 credits)

This course focuses on the theologies of Karl Barth, Karl Rahner, and Paul Tillich, arguably the three most influential theological voices of the 20th century. The students will engage in an in-depth study of their core theological insights and convictions, as well as their influence on late 20th century theological developments, in order to examine how they can help interpret the theological context in which we live today.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-31 Theological Thematics: The Doctrine of Creation: Science, Beauty, and Faith

(3 credits)

In this course students will use a variety of theologians to explore traditional and contemporary theological assertions concerning the doctrine of creation—including what those assertions also claim about God and humanity. Aspects of the dialogue between science and religion will be considered, as well issues directly related to the contemporary ecological crisis. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-32 Theological Thematics: Sacraments: Lutheran and Contemporary Conversations

(3 credits)

How tangible is grace? Are there limits to grace? What can we say about the “means of grace” and their use in the church? Are there unexplored possibilities for contemporary experience and outlooks on grace and sacraments? With a close look at Luther’s teaching on the sacraments and grace, in light of medieval sacramental theology, and in conversation with post-reformation and modern theologians, we will interpret sacramental theology and its promise with contemporary concerns in mind and with attention to ecumenical and interfaith conversations and relations. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.362-33 The Theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (3 credits)

This course will examine the theological, social, historical, political, ecumenical and cultural framework that informed the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and influenced his formation as a pastor, theologian, Christian and martyr. We will explore reasons for enduring interest in his theology through critical engagement with his biography and primary writings. Particular attention will be given to the meaning in Bonhoeffer’s early theology of the theological and ethical implications of what is meant by “confess-

ing Christ in community.” We will explore ways in which his theology informs our current challenges as Christians in a global, ecumenical and interfaith community. Students will be asked to focus on a particular theological aspect of Bonhoeffer’s work for the final project or paper (e.g., Ecclesiology, Doctrine of the Trinity, Christology or Pneumatology). Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301. Robin Steinke

2.362-34 Theological Thematics: Theology with my Neighbor: Doing Theology Inter-religiously (3 credits)

In this course, we will examine three central Christian loci—doctrine of God, doctrine of creation, and theological anthropology—through engagement with specific doctrines and practices from the four major world religions. We will pay special attention to the ways in which traditional Christian theology is both challenged and enhanced by the truth claims and religious life of non-Christians, resulting in Christian theological discourse that speaks to the pluralistic context of the 21st century world. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Also fulfills the Theology in Public Life requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301. Kristin Largen

2.392 Theology of Paul Tillich (1.5 credits)

In this 1.5 credit seminar course, students will read Tillich’s 3 volume Systematic Theology, as well as selected sermons, and meet weekly for discussion. The course does not fulfill the Theological Thematics requirement, and requires the permission of the instructor. Kristin Largen

2.401 Luther and the Reformations (3 credits)

We will survey the history and theology of the Reformations in the sixteenth century Europe, with focus on Martin Luther and his theology, in conversation with other voices. The roots and the promise of the “evangelical” faith for men and women are interpreted in light of its building blocks from the early church and the developments in the medieval world. We will seek to understand the heart of the reformation concerns and the changes that occurred in the forming of confessional fronts, and to appreciate both the distinctions in Christian identities and the continuities between different traditions united by scripture and the ancient creeds. Recommended: Christian Thought and the Ecumenical Creeds
Kirsi Stjerna

2.402 Religion in America (3 credits)

This course will introduce students to the diversity of religious expression and practice in the United States. Through a study of major figures and communities in American religious history, students will learn to place these individuals and groups in their time and place—the basic discipline of historical study—and gain skills in discerning and recognizing the choices and constraints faced by historical actors. Fulfills Modern Church History requirement.
Maria Erling

2.403 History of Lutheranism (3 credits)

This course will examine the diverse communities and traditions that have contributed to the present shape of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America and its partner churches in the Lutheran World Federation. Both in Europe and in America since the 1600’s diverse social, cultural, and theological challenges have pushed Lutherans in these various churches to adapt to nationalism, industrialism, migration, economic exploitation, and globalization. Students will examine the various strategies and forms of ministry that leaders have used to shape a Lutheran identity. Fulfills Modern Church History requirement.
Maria Erling

2.406 Luther and the Lutheran Confessions (3 credits)

Drawing from the confessional texts in the Book of Concord, this course focuses on the teachings of the Augsburg Confession and Luther’s Catechisms to explore the characteristically Lutheran theological approaches and conclusions on matters of faith. In light of Luther’s central teaching of justification by faith and in the interest of learning to employ the peculiarly Lutheran principle of “law and gospel” in preaching and teaching and practice of one’s faith, we will examine Lutheran teaching on God; Christ, sin and redemption; human life, will, and sin; Christian life and spirituality; church and sacraments. The Creeds of the Early Church, on the one hand, and the ecumenical partners, on the other, serve as reality checks and touch points when assessing the promise of historic Lutheran teachings for today, in the world of global Christian traditions with expanding questions, and towards the practical goal of applying them meaningfully in ministry today. (Online course Spring 2012 and 2014 with limited enrollment of 12; residential course Fall 2012). Fulfills the Lutheran Confessions requirement. Recommended: Luther and the Reformations, Christian Thought and the Ecumenical Creeds.
Kirsi Stjerna

2.409 a/b World Christianity

(1.5 credits each; 3 credits total)

This course will examine the expansion of Christianity beyond the West during the modern period, focusing on the missionary mobilization of the churches in response to colonialism, and the subsequent rethinking of mission, colonialism, and development. Results of this rethinking include the ecumenical movement and the growing appreciation of world religions, but also the astounding growth of Christianity in the global south, once the former missionizing churches and cultures leave the scene. Fulfills Modern Church History requirement.

Maria Erling

2.410 Christian Perspectives on Sexuality: From Bible to the Reformation

(3 credits)

What have Christians historically taught about sexuality and body, human relations and love, and sex-gender issues? How did early Christians' "ascetic impulse" develop with medieval monastic traditions and celibacy ideals? How did negative attitudes towards women's gender and towards sexuality develop hand in hand? What changed with the "reformation theologies" and the renewed recognition of marriage and sexuality as God's gifts with specific blessings and responsibilities? This course invites students to take a focused look at Christians' teaching and experience of sex/gender and sexuality over centuries from the world of Antiquity and Augustine to the medieval women mystics and the Early Modern period with Martin Luther and Marguerite de Navarre. In light of Christianity's radical message of the incarnate God and the many dimensions of love in human experience, Christians' interpretation(s) of the bible is at the heart of the study that seeks for an enlightened view of the past and for constructive perspectives to address contemporary issues and facilitate adjustments.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.411 Lutheran Confessions: Then and Now

(3 credits)

This course explores the Lutheran confessions included in the Book of Concord as they developed in their historical context as a witness to the gospel. We will explore how Lutheran theological and ecclesial traditions emerged alongside other Reformation churches and assess the way that confessions instruct and guide churches today. First-hand reading of the documents and learning about their history, context, and content will give students an appreciation of the historical foundations of Lutheran theology as well as perspectives for critical reflection on the role of the Lutheran Confessions in ecumenical and interfaith contexts. Fulfills the Lutheran Confessions requirement.

Kristin Johnston Largen/Maria Erling

**2.425-1 Christian Thought and the Ecumenical Creeds**

(3 credits)

We will survey the development of Christian thought, in light of central events and documents and from diverse theological voices, to appreciate Christians' balancing act between "believing" and "knowing". From the "Jesus movement" until the 16th century European Reformations, we will follow the footsteps and visions of those committed to "imitatio Christi" and the radical message of "God becoming flesh." We will examine Christian thought as it was articulated, applied, and lived, through persecutions, creedal conflicts, and identity crises of the Early Church, through the flourishing of Christian theologies, spiritualities and arts in the Middle Ages, with attention to both the establishment of church institutions and authority, and the recurring voices of reform and protest. Fulfills Early Church history requirement. Recommended before Luther and the Reformations and Luther and the Lutheran Confessions.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.454-05 Luther Seminar: Lectures on Genesis

(3 credits)

The Book of Genesis contains some of the central and most intriguing texts in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. Martin Luther devoted much of his time to interpret the fascinating stories of Creation and Fall and of the patriarchs and matriarchs following. In this seminar we will read carefully selections from the book of Genesis and analyze them in their own right, with an exegetical approach. At the same time, we will study Martin Luther's sixteenth century commentary on the same texts, applying methods from systematic theology. The interdisciplinary course is open to all, while familiarity with Luther and the Reformations and pas-

sion for the Genesis stories would be beneficial. Does not fulfill Old Testament elective requirement.
Brooks Schramm/Kirsi Stjerna

2.481 Religion, The Civil War and Pilgrimage to Gettysburg's Battlefields (1.5 credits)

The course explores the religious dimensions of the battle itself, as revealed in the experience of soldiers, clergy, and partisans of both sides of the conflict. We will then investigate how modern Americans visit the battlefield and how they through their visiting or pilgrimages, make the history of the battle a part of their own lives. We will examine how visitors "use" the various monuments and locations on the battlefield to explore the meaning of patriotism, gender, religion, honor, peace, sacrifice, holiness, death and eternity.
Maria Erling

2.484 Forgiveness and Reconciliation for the Churches, the Community, and for the World. (1.5 credits)

The role of the faith community is of prime importance in enabling forgiveness to become a lifestyle instead of a concept. Here on the Gettysburg Seminary campus, a scene of battle but also an arena of reconciliation, a more visible understanding and practice of forgiveness can provide an important witness to the nation. This half course will explore the role of forgiveness from a historical and ecumenical perspective, drawing from the important witness of the use of reconciliation as a tool for peace, and the experiences of churches and people of faith in the Anabaptist and Lutheran traditions around the world.
Warren Eshbach/Maria Erling

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Michael L. Cooper-White, Stephen P. Folkemer, Leonard M. Hummel, Mark W. Oldenburg, Marty Stevens, Nelson T. Strobert, Gilson A.C. Waldkoenig

Practical theology prepares students for faithful discipleship and the proclamation of Jesus Christ to a restless world through studies in the theology and practice of ministry. Mastery of these goals, as appropriate to their degree, will enable students to:

- Articulate a theology and embody a praxis (reflective practice) of ministry that integrates both pastoral identity and the practice of collaborative leadership within the context of a pluralized and diverse social world.

- Demonstrate engagement in the spiritual formation inherent in the study and practice of the arts of ministry.
- Engage a faith community in administration, stewardship, evangelism, and mission.
- Provide pastoral care and counseling that is rooted in the Christian tradition, informed by the sciences, sensitive both to individual particularity and social/cultural diversity, and ethically sound.
- Develop, prepare and demonstrate teaching models for the interpretation of the Christian tradition across the human lifespan and among various religious/ethnic/cultural groups.
- Proclaim the gospel through sermons that are accountable to sound exegetical, pastoral and rhetorical criteria within the context of the historical homiletical tradition.
- Think empirically and holistically about religion and issues facing the church and its ministry, and utilize methods of congregational and community analysis.
- Prepare and lead services in which the Word is proclaimed faithfully and responded to appropriately, taking into account the rich traditions of the church, the context of the congregation, and the needs and abilities of its members and neighbors.
- Assess, support and modify congregational music practices to serve worship and other congregational ministries.
- Identify, evaluate and use appropriate information resources in addressing the problems and issues that arise in theological research and ministry.

3.103 Ecology & Stewardship (3 credits)

This course examines the church's response and obligation to God's creation. From biblical and theological foundations to the current ecological ministries of the church, students will have an opportunity to develop their own positions. Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement.
Gilson Waldkoenig

3.106a/b OL Portraits of Mission Strategies online

* (1.5 credits each; 3 credits total)

This course focuses on the mission of Christian congregations. It will develop a theology of mission that can assist in bringing renewal to congregations that

are stagnant, in decline or even dying. This course will process the context for evangelizing, namely the U.S. as a postmodern, post-Christian society. The course will examine the particular characteristics of the Millennialists and Gen X. One session will be a workshop done in cooperation with the staff of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit of the ELCA.

William O. Avery

*The course will be offered in two 1.5 credit segments. The first half will be "The Basics of Evangelizing" and the second half will be "Evangelizing in a Postmodern, Post-Christian Society." The course is open to all students; first-year students must take the first-half of the course in order to be able to take the second-half. Other students may register for either half or both halves.

3.114 Exodus and Stewardship

(3 credits)

An exegetical seminar of the book of Exodus exploring how the interweaving of narrative, ritual, and covenant shaped the ancient community of Israel and shapes faith communities today. Particular attention will be given to economic and stewardship issues in the text. Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement. Marty Stevens

3.177 Biblical Economics and Stewardship

(3 credits)

A seminar focused on biblical texts dealing with stewarding wealth so as to provide God's abundance throughout all levels of society. Special focus will be given to texts in the Torah, the Prophets, and the Gospel of Luke. Attention will be given to ancient and contemporary contexts. Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement.

Marty Stevens/William Avery

3.400OL Church Administration, Leadership and Polity online

(3 credits)

Those called to lead in congregations and other ecclesiastical and public arenas require an in-depth knowledge base, as well as a set of practical skills and administrative abilities. The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop a personal theology of administrative leadership, explore organizational dynamics at play in congregations and other settings, and learn practical approaches to common challenges of planning, budgeting and fiscal stewardship, personnel management, and coping with conflict. To function effectively within a church "system," the leader must also understand its structure and way of being or polity. By means of readings, lectures and class discussions, as well as case studies and presentations, students will grow in confidence as church leaders. Enrollment limited to 18 students.

Michael Cooper-White

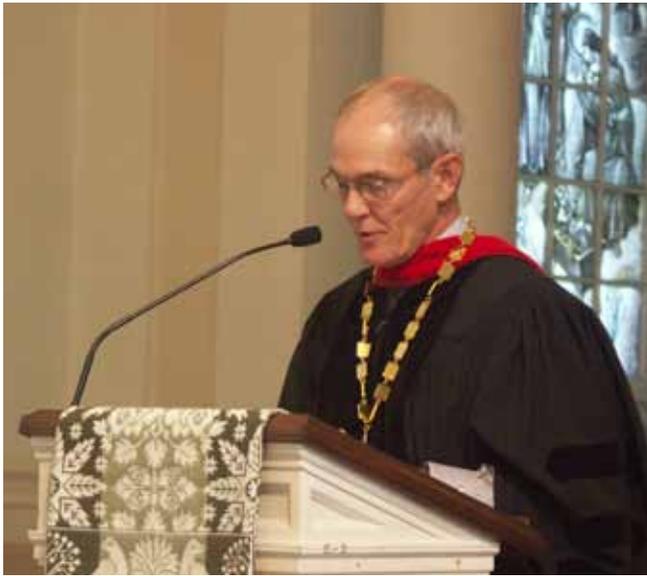
3.510-05 Pastoral Care: Consolation for Suffering

(3 credits)

Where is God when one suffers? How may one be consoled for suffering? What is the ministry of consolation for suffering? In this core course for pastoral theology, we will address these and other questions as we examine the theology of consolation for suffering in the early Lutheran tradition and as practiced by some contemporary Lutherans. Situated in the pastoral concern for what helps/what hurts in the messiness of lived religion, we will investigate how the theology of consolation in Lutheranism may inform the beliefs and practices of those who suffer and also may be reformed in response to them. In doing so, we will address the central issues of pastoral care for the church and the world. Students will examine numerous cases of communal and individual suffering, and construct pastoral responses for those cases. Case studies also will be derived from the pastoral care provided by students during their supervised clinical ministries and/or internships, and from their own surveys of the contemporary church and world. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement.

Leonard Hummel





in films themes relevant to religious vocation/ministry, and also to reflect on the meaning of those themes for their own vocation and pastoral ministry. Particular focal-themes include “Minister as Saint/Sinner,” “Minister as Prophet/Clueless,” “Minister as Mad-Person/Fool for Christ,” “Minister as Savior/Spoiler of Church and the World.”

Leonard Hummel

3.523 Health and Salvation

(3 credits)

In this course, we will examine the relationship between health and salvation in particular religious traditions, cultures, ethnic groups, and in the experiences of men and women. We will explore various pastoral responses to this relationship: for example, healing services, health-care institutions, health-care ministries, congregational nursing, visitation of the sick, social advocacy for health care. We will study these pastoral responses from theological, historical, psychological, and ethical perspectives

Leonard Hummel

3.530 A Thing That Cannot and Can Be Changed: A Pastoral Theology of Cancer

(3 credits)

The goals of this course are to enable students to (1) demonstrate an understanding the fundamental principles and practices of pastoral care refracted through the “case-study” of the phenomenon of cancer; (2) evidence comprehension of the intra-personal, inter-personal, political, social, and economic dimensions of pastoral care of cancer; and (3) indicate an understanding of how to bring a pastoral theological perspective to bear on particular issues in the cancer care. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement.

Leonard Hummel

3.581 A Practical Theology: Religion, The Civil War and Pilgrimage to Gettysburg’s Battlefields

(3 credits)

In this practical theological endeavor we will examine the past, present, and possible future of Gettysburg—a place that has been called “the most American place in America” and the “most beautiful place in the world.” We will explore the religious dimensions of the battle itself, as revealed in the experience of soldiers, clergy and partisans of both sides of the conflict. We will then investigate how modern Americans visit the battlefield and how they through their visiting of pilgrimages, make the history of the battle a part of their own lives. We will examine how visitors “use” the various monuments and locations on the battlefield to explore the meaning of patriotism, gender, religion, honor, peace, sacrifice, holiness, death and eternity. Area clergy will be consulted to discuss the nature of their ministry in this most commonplace and most unusual

3.511-06 Pastoral Counseling

(3 credits)

This course is an introduction to theory and practice of pastoral counseling as a congregational ministry, with attention to theological perspectives which shape pastoral assessment and to psychological resources which foster understanding of the dynamics of the pastoral counseling process and of those who seek help. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement.

Leonard Hummel

3.516 Pastoral Care of Marriage and Families

(3 credits)

This course examines the theology and practices involved in pastoral care for families and marriage. Biblical, Historical and Systematic Theological perspectives on the communities and individuals that comprise couples and families will be analyzed. Pastoral therapies and strategies will be examined for their use in both clinical and congregational settings. Throughout, the question will be: what kinds of pastoral care for families and the communities of which they are a part may assist them in wise and faithful living. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement

Leonard Hummel

3.522 Religious Vocation, Ministry and the Movies

(3 credits)

Movies have been and remain a powerful source for moral development, intellectual formation, and pastoral care. The goal of this course is to assist students in their vocational development through a critical assessment of ministry/religious vocation as depicted in the cinema. Through this practical theological endeavor, students will develop their abilities to identify

place on God's earth. Throughout we will struggle to define and propose what a practical theology of Gettysburg means for ministry to Gettysburg, America and the world.

Leonard Hummel/Maria Erling

3.600 History and Theory of Christian Education

(3 credits)

This course examines the historical-theological development of Christian education from the early church to the contemporary church period. Special attention is given to Christian education as it has evolved in the Lutheran Church on American soil. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.601 Foundations for the Teaching Ministry

(1.5 credits)

This is an initial seminar for M.A.M.S.-Christian Education students. This course introduces students to the field of Religious Education. Students will examine the biblical, theological, and historical foundations for the teaching ministry as they discern their call to this area of the church's work. This course is required for MAMS-Christian Education and is open to other degree students as an elective.

Nelson Strobert

3.605 Religious Education Project Seminar

(1.5 or 3 credits)

This course will assist the student in integrating field, clinical, and classroom experiences through a written education project of interest in preparation for educational leadership within the church. Normally, this seminar is taken during the last semester the student is

in attendance. It is required for the MAMS Christian Education degree.

Nelson Strobert

3.606 Introduction to Christian Religious Education

(3 credits)

This course provides students with an overview of education in the church. The historical, theological, social, and developmental foundations of religious education are examined in relationship to contemporary congregational life within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its ecumenical partners. This course is particularly helpful for those students who have limited or no background in educational ministry. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.613-01 Special Topics in Religious Education: Death, Dying, and Religious Education

(3 credits)

This course examines the relationship between thanatology and religious education. Through selected readings, seminar sessions, guest presentations, field experiences, congregational and personal experiences, and the use of audio-visual resources, students will see death education as integral to life and ministry in the faith community.

Nelson Strobert

3.614 Special Topics in Religious Education: Sharing Our Lives

(3 credits)

This course utilizes the theory and practice of educational biography and religious education to examine the role of religious education in the lives of Christian



religious leaders (i.e. Martin Luther, Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniel A. Payne, Bonheoffer, Maria Harris). In addition, students will compare and contrast these lives with their own educational biographies and theologies of religious education.
Nelson Strobert

3.621 Church-Related Schools

(1.5 credits)

This course examines the development and purpose of Christian education outside the parish Sunday School. These outside venues include Christian education in prisons, the military, after-school centers, etc. Special attention will be given to Lutheran early childhood centers and schools in the United States.

Nelson Strobert

3.635 Children in the Church

(3 credits)

This course offers a developmental study of the individual from early childhood to pre-adolescence. Emphasis on the significance of development processes for the educational ministry of the parish. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.637 Current Trends in Adult Christian Education

(3 credits)

The course is a study of Christian education of adults with special reference to the theory which undergirds it as well as program, curriculum, methods, and current models in various congregational settings. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.639 Christian Initiation and Confirmation

(3 credits)

This course examines education in the church with attention to the pre-adolescent or transescent and adolescent person in the community of faith. Topics to be considered are baptism, first communion, confirmation, and catechetics. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement. Fulfills a requirement in Youth and Young Adult Ministry concentration.

Nelson Strobert

3.645 Development and Evaluation of Curriculum

(1.5 credits)

This course examines the historical-theological, psychological and sociological components in the religious education curriculum. Attention is given to curriculum development in and outside the Sunday church school model.

Nelson Strobert

3.700 Introduction to Preaching

(1.5 credits)

This course introduces students to homiletical theory and practice. Through readings, sermon analysis, discussion and in-class preaching exercises, students study major theories and preaching practices in historical and contemporary homiletics. This course or an equivalent is a prerequisite for all other preaching electives in the curriculum.

Loy/Langknecht

3.720A/B Preaching and Pastoral Care: Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms

(1.5 credits)

This course considers the vital role of preaching at times of significant life transitions and pastoral rites. Participants will first focus on weddings, funerals and baptisms, but are invited to bring other topics and concerns to the course. The course is designed for all seminarians seeking an elective in worship or pastoral care and experienced pastoral leaders seeking to reflect on and renew their ministries of preaching and pastoral care.

Craig Satterlee

3.737 Preaching the Principal Festivals

(3 credits)

There are six major Christological festivals of the Church year: Christmas, Epiphany, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Holy Trinity. Students will explore the rich theological, historical and cultural history of these festivals through class room discussion and preaching. Limited to 15 students. Prerequisite: 3.700.

Mark Oldenburg

3.754 Preaching the Lectionary Year (Variously: Matthew, Mark or Luke)

(3 credits)

Participants will preach sermons based on various texts in the current lectionary year's designated Gospel, which are drawn from the Revised Common Lectionary (A – C). The course schedule consists of alternating weeks of the theological, linguistic and homiletical discussions of the texts to be preached and preaching in class on such texts.

TBA

3.803 Rural and Small Church Ministry

(3 credits)

A course in the culture, place and issues of ministry in rural, small town and small church settings. Building upon congregational and community studies, the course provides an opportunity to gain exposure to the distinctive features of rural ministry, to consider the effects of social change upon traditional church life, and to explore one's own reaction and possible sense of call to rural ministry. Students have options for field

research or other creative projects, while readings, presentations and discussions form the backbone of the course. Fulfills Church in Society requirement. Gilson Waldkoenig

3.846 Appalachian Ministry

(3 credits)

Step into the world of Appalachian ministry to listen for the Word of Christ among God's people, and to experience everyday ministry. From traditional rural life to global issues in economy, ecology and culture, the Appalachian context will invite, challenge and inspire. An immersion for nine days involves residence with parishioners in parishes of north-central West Virginia. The course fulfills Church in Society requirement or may be eligible for Multicultural Requirement upon approval. The course is suited for the Concentration in Town and Country Church Ministry, or possibly for other concentrations upon approval.

Gilson Waldkoenig

3.848 Youth and Young Adults Ministry

(3 credits)

An introduction to contemporary mission with youth and young adults, providing a practicum for assessing and adapting particular aspects of ministries, ministry strategies and pastoral identity, in light of social-scientific and practical-theological perspectives on youth and young adults in the church and the world. In the

process, we will look at the broad ecology of relationships, human dynamics and traditions that influence ministry by and among youth and young adults. Does not fulfill the Church in Society requirement. Fulfills a requirement in Youth and Young Adult Ministry concentration, and is open to others.

Nelson Strobert

3.870 Ecology and Religion in Global and Interfaith Perspective

(3 credits)

A seminar in which students will explore (a) a wide range of religious perspectives on ecology, and (b) the public and political implications of religious commitments for global ecological issues. Students will gain a basic comprehensive framework for understanding religion in public life, and the church in society, while exploring the role of religious traditions and especially the Christian church in global ecological concerns.

The relationship of religious perspectives with secular environmental ethics, and the longer development of ecological consciousness in American society, will also be in focus. Fulfills Church in Society Requirement.

Gilson Waldkoenig

3.875 Ecotheology in Northern Appalachia

(3 credits)

Northern Appalachia is home to deeply-rooted local cultures in a beautiful landscape. Conflicts defined by



environmental and economic issues are fierce for both communities and churches. This seminar will give students an inside look and an opportunity to strategize for dealing with conflict in and around ministry. The environmental history of the landscape's use and abuse, the shape of human cultures, and the history of tightly held religious traditions, will frame discussions with religious, environmental and industrial leaders from the region. The course meets at Lutherlyn in Butler, PA, and makes day trips in the region. Fulfills church in society requirement.
Gilson Waldkoenig

3.900 Music in the Parish

(1.5 credits)

Issues, skills and resources related to music in the life of the parish are explored. Foundational readings in the history of parish music and contemporary concerns provide grounding for class discussions. Students integrate learnings from other theological studies and apply them to visioning for music ministry in changing settings.

Stephen Folkemer

3.901 Music in the Town and Country Parish

(1.5 credits)

Issues, skills and resources related to music in the life in the town and country parish context are explored. Foundational readings in the history of parish music and contemporary concerns provide grounding for class discussions. Students integrate learnings from other theological studies and apply them to visioning for music ministry in rural settings. Fulfills Music in the Parish requirement.

Stephen Folkemer

3.902 Music of Spiritual and Religious Formation

(1.5 credits)

This course will provide the student an experientially based sampling of some of the styles of music that have shaped spiritual and religious formation of the Church from Medieval times to the present. Many pieties will be approached from the standpoint of the music that characterized and served them. Each musical style will be experienced through interactive presentations allowing the student to incorporate into their own spiritual development and religious formation those musics that the student finds most meaningful and nurturing. Field trips may also be incorporated into the course.

Stephen Folkemer

3.903 Worship Leadership: Sung and Spoken

(1.5 credits)

This course explores the communication issues involved in the worship leader's speaking and intoning skills and style. Time will be devoted to allowing each

student to speak and sing worship leader texts with peer review/critique/advice and individual, one-on-one evaluation with the instructor. Does not fulfill the Music in the Parish requirement.

Stephen Folkemer

3.919 Practicum in Worship Music

(1.5 credits)

A student who participates in either the Motet or Seminary Choir for a fall and spring semester will receive 1.5 credit hours elective credit. Participation in the choir does not need to be in consecutive semesters, but must include a fall and a spring semester. A student will register both semesters s/he is participating in either choir and will receive an Incomplete at the end of the first semester. At the end of the second semester of participation, the student will receive a Pass or Fail grade. Grading will be based entirely on attendance and participation.

Stephen Folkemer

3.923OL Worship Preparation for Lay Leaders

(1.5 credits)

More and more, lay leaders are being invited to plan a community's worship. Some are rostered and called (AIM's deaconesses, and diaconal ministers). Some do this preparation as part of their professional responsibilities (church musicians and synodically authorized worship committees). In any case, they could all be well served by knowing about the basic structure of the service and how it might be creatively adorned, the church year, some history of Christian worship, the "choreography" of liturgical leadership, and the flood of resources available from hymnody to occasional services. Fulfills worship requirement normally satisfied by 4.105a for students enrolled in M.A.M.S. degree.

Mark Oldenburg

3.930a (fall) and 3.930b (spring) The Church's Worship

(1.5 credits)

An examination of the origins and meaning of the major acts and forms of Christian worship, with particular attention to baptism and the Lord's Supper. Lectures and practicums. Students must register for both fall and spring.

Mark Oldenburg

4.110 Practicum in Theological Research

(1.5 credits)

Students preparing to write theses will develop a trial thesis statement, become familiar with research tools and literature in their areas of interest, formulate search strategies for materials and information pertinent to their projects, and draft a preliminary thesis proposal.

Briant Bohleke

4.201a/b Integrative Seminar I

(1.5 credits)

This course is concurrently related to the Teaching Parish field education requirement (M.A.M.S. and M.Div.) and therefore extends over two semesters. Students registering for 4.201a during fall semester must register for 4.201b during the following spring semester to receive credit for the course. This seminar focuses on the congregation and has as its purpose to build an effective pastoral understanding of the congregation as simultaneously social system and people of God. Students may not register for this course without a positive entrance decision from the candidacy committee.

Maria Erling

4.202 Integrative Seminar II

(1.5 credits)

This course is related to the Supervised Clinical Ministry field education requirement (M.A.M.S. and M.Div.). It builds on Integrative Seminar I and takes place during the fall semester following Supervised Clinical Ministry. This seminar focuses on ministry with persons and has as its purpose to build an effective pastoral understanding of the person as simultaneously creature and child of God. The goals of this course are to:

Articulate key notions around the past, present and future elements at work in their formation as minister; Demonstrate a capacity to use literature for reflection on development of the person of the minister; Demonstrate a capacity to employ concepts from the field of practical theology to understand case-studies of ministry

Leonard Hummel/Peter Kuhn

4.203 Integrative Seminar III

(1.5 credits)

(Capstone Interns only)

This course is related to the Internship field education requirement (M.Div.). It builds on Integrative Seminars I and II and takes place in the fall semester following Internship. This seminar focuses on building an effective understanding of professional leadership in ministry. The emphasis is on understanding leadership as simultaneously a systemic, institutional function and as a ministerial calling.

Michael Cooper-White

4.204 Diaconal Ministry Formation Event

(3 credits)

Every candidate for consecration as a diaconal minister in the ELCA must take part in a Formation Event, which provides a diaconal perspective for shaping a course of study and field experience. Participants will study the Biblical and historical roots and contemporary expressions of diaconal ministry, examine current models for ministry, and develop spiritual insights and disciplines for active ministry through worship, prayer, and group processes. Participation in the DMFE re-

quires a positive entrance decision and a participation fee in addition to tuition.

Mark Oldenburg

4.301 Multicultural Studies

(1.5 credits)

The Seminary coordinates a network of study opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the life and culture of an ethnic/cultural group other than their own. Normally, this requirement is fulfilled during a January term.

Nelson Strobert

4.301-06 The Socio-Cultural Roots of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Civil Rights Movement in Context

The objective of the trip is to examine the socio-cultural roots of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This travel seminar will examine the Civil Rights Movement in the context of King and the Black community of Atlanta, Georgia. Students will visit selected sites including: Morehouse and Spelman Colleges (historically Black Colleges - HBC), the Interdenominational Theological Center, the King Home and Museum and Ebenezer Baptist Church. In addition, this seminar includes a field experience at the Civil Rights Institute and the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Cost: \$600 (This covers transportation, lodging, entrance fees, and most meals).

Nelson Strobert

4.312 Central American Study Tour

(1.5 or 3 credits)

Some of the most dynamic and prophetic faith communities in the world today are to be found in the lands of Central America. Accompanied by a long-term ELCA resident missionary, and led by Gettysburg Seminary president Michael Cooper-White, who is bilingual and has visited Central and South America on several occasions, the viajeros (travelers) will learn about action-reflection models of living the faith, observe how churches under stressful conditions thrive and grow, and explore implications for ministry in our own North American context. Participants in the most recent trip described it as "physically rigorous and not for the faint-of-heart;" i.e. participants must be prepared for stressful experiences under rugged conditions in both urban and rural contexts.

Michael Cooper-White

4.400 M.A.R. Keynote Course

(3 credits)

This course serves as both an orientation to the M.A.R. degree concentration in Religion and Media, and also as an orientation to the M.A.R. program in general. It introduces the landscapes of media culture with an emphasis on active engagement in creation within those landscapes, and it also engages important theo-

logical issues raised by and in those landscapes. It examines how spiritual formation and theological reflection occur within media cultures, and raises questions around the promotion of faith in public life through media. Required for M.A.R. students, preferably at entry into seminary. Recommended for M.A.M.S. students.

Kristin Largen/ Mary Hess

4.401 Religion and Media

(3 credits)

Odyssey Network Staff

4.402OL Religion and Media course TBD

(3 credits)

TBD

S.T.M. COURSES

Master of Sacred Theology Courses

(Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies, and Master of Arts in Religion students need permission from the instructor to enroll.)

6.104 Biblical Facts and Artifacts

(3 credits)

A seminar to explore archaeological material from the ancient Near East as a means of informing the interpretation of biblical texts for preaching and teaching. Students will study and report on excavated artifacts and relevant biblical material.

Briant Bohleke

6.109 STM Ancient Near Eastern Laws

(3 credits)

The laws and codes for a range of human conduct set down in Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy resonate the rights and obligations of citizens of neighboring societies such as the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Hittites, Egyptians, and the people of Ugarit. Selected readings of primary and some secondary texts (in English). The thrust of the course is to discover to what extent Hebrew laws parallel regulations in other cultures and how and why they have been adapted to a unique, monotheistic culture.

Bohleke

6.110 STM The Book of Acts, the Early Church, and the Church Today

(3 credits)

The book of Acts provides a remarkable picture of the

issues the early Church faced as it grew in its understanding of Jesus Christ and in its self-understanding as a community engaged in the mission of declaring and living the Gospel. This survey course of Acts will provide both an opportunity to discover the history of the early Church and to reflect on how it might inform our understanding of the Church today.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

6.111 STM Qumran and Nag Hammadi

(3 credits)

The mid-20th century witnessed the near simultaneous discovery of two collections of ancient texts that profoundly altered scholarly understanding of late Second Temple Judaism and the development of early Christianity. This course will orient students to the contents of the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi Library through close readings of selected texts.

Briant Bohleke and Brooks Schramm

6.112 STM The Gospel of Mark

(3 credits)

Neglected through much of Church history, the Gospel of Mark is now recognized as a true work of literature that functions narratively to proclaim the “good news of Jesus, God’s Son.” While attending to its narrative features, this course will be attuned to how this Gospel is experienced by a variety of readers/hearers in various social locations, in order that students in the class may both appreciate the subtle power of this gospel and themselves become more effective proclaimers of this good news.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

6.113 The Gospel of John

(3 credits)

An insightful New Testament scholar once described John as the “maverick gospel” because it was so different from the synoptic gospels in so many ways. While this course will note some of the components that make John distinctive, the heart of this class will involve following the theological plot of John from its poetic prologue to its summative postlude. Intentional attention will be paid to the ways John’s gospel intended to engage and critique the late first century imperial world as well as the ways John still engages and critiques our twenty-first world and at the same time seeks to empower our call to discipleship. Finally in appreciation of John’s delight in polyvalence, we will consider daily cinematic presentations of themes related to John.

6.209 STM Reformation Studies: New Methods and Hermeneutics

(3 credits)

This course enters the international world of Reformation and Luther studies. The newest of sources and approaches are explored, as well as selected clas-



sics are perused, to facilitate cutting-edge study and interpretation of the reformers and their theologies, Renaissance/Reformation history and materials, and other pertinent themes, such as gender and women in the early modern world. Special attention will be given to the present direction of Luther studies and the global discussions around Finnish Luther research, with its ramifications in the areas of spirituality and ecumenical work. The course is recommended for all students in the S.T.M. program and particularly those considering further work in history or theology. (Interested qualified students may be invited to the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference.)

Kirsi Stjerna

6.210 STM Sin & the Human Condition: The Seven Deadly Sins

(3 credits)

Using the seven deadly sins as a basic structure, this course surveys a variety of ways in which the concept of human sinfulness has been articulated in the course of Christian history. Students will reflect critically on how the different doctrines of sin have influenced our understanding of both the person and work of Jesus Christ, as well as the relationships between God, humanity and creation.

Kristin Johnston Largen

6.212 STM: The Doctrine of Creation: Science, Beauty, and Faith

(3 credits)

This course examines a Christian doctrine of creation from a variety of 20th/21st century theological lenses, including eco-theology, process theology, theology and science, and theological aesthetics. Through

reading and reflection, students will explore Christian concepts of justice, beauty and truth, gaining insight into what Christian reflection has to offer contemporary discussions of pressing planetary issues.

Kristin Largen

6.213 STM Global Christologies: The Beautiful Faces of Christ

(3 credits)

In this course we will examine a variety of ways in which both the person and the work of Jesus Christ have been interpreted in different geographical and cultural contexts. As we look at how the various pictures of Christ have been constructed, we will focus on the need for fidelity not only to Scripture and the tradition, but also to the lived reality in which a specific Christian community exists.

Kristin Largen

6.214 STM Ecclesiology

(3 credits)

This course uses the traditional theological locus of ecclesiology to explore what it means to be church in the 21st century world. We will explore traditional theological marks of the church by examining how they function both in the current ecumenical context of the United States, as well as the broader global Christian context.

Kristin Largen/Maria Erling

6.215 STM Women and the Reformation

(3 credits)

In this class we will explore sixteenth century women's contributions as reformers, theologians and teachers of faith. We will interpret the lives, spiritualities and most of all theologies of women from different Christian traditions (Lutheran, Reformer, Catholic, Anabaptist) with interdisciplinary methods. We will consider the role of gender when reading women's own works and appraising the meaning of faith and Christian living from women's perspectives. Church mothers and mystics of the earlier centuries just as modern feminist thought will serve as important mirrors. (Master's level students need the instructor's permission.)

Kirsi Stjerna

6.306 STM The Church Year in the Presence of Christ

(3 credits)

All too often, the observance of the church year tries to function as a time machine, taking us back to "when Christ was alive." While often a powerful teaching tool, this effort is in conflict not only with the Resurrection, but with the fundamental evangelical tenet that God always comes to us, when and where we are. This course will not only serve as a survey of the history and practice of the Church Year, but will investigate that practice through a concentration on the abiding

presence of the Crucified and Resurrected Christ in and through his disciples.
Mark Oldenburg

6.310 Environmental History of Christianity

(3 credits)

Landscapes and nature have been a part of the history of Christianity, but many written accounts emphasized “great men,” and treated theology as if it did not arise from daily living in local places. Today, creation receives special attention among theologians and biblical scholars, and ecological spirituality emerges in the contemplative arts. Environmental History is an establish method among secular historians, and Ecocriticism shapes studies of literature. This course will re-read the history of Christianity using the methods of Environmental History and Ecocriticism, and survey the history of ecological spirituality from ancient to modern Christianity.

Gilson Waldkoenig



6.313 Preaching Elective

(3 credits)

Steven Loy

6.315 STM Pastoral Formation and the Gettysburg Experience

(3 credits)

In this course, we shall investigate the theological significance of the borough and battlefield of Gettysburg for pastoral formation and for ministry to the church and world. In doing so, we shall develop a practical theology about Gettysburg for faithful understandings about and pastoral responses to war and peace, church and state, slavery and freedom, suffering and consolation for suffering. Particular topics will include: “Formation at the Crossroads of History and Hope: Pastoral Identity and Mission on a Seminary Battlefield,” “Sacred Ground/Cash Cow: A Theology of Gettysburg Economics,” “God and Nation: Varieties of Religious Experience in Gettysburg,” “The Icon and Iconic Significance of Old Dorm: A Structure for Ministry to the World.” We shall make visits to the Seminary Ridge Museum, to the NPS Gettysburg Visitor Center and to other interesting sites throughout the borough and the battlefield.

Leonard Hummel

6.316 The Story of Faith and Money in American Protestantism

(3 credits)

This course is a biblical/historical study of the connection between faith and money in American Protestantism, and its impact on views toward money, possessions, and giving today. The United States is a money economy where peoples’ deepest obsession seems to be with money (or its manifestation as power, prestige and security). Money seems to be the ultimate value against which many Americans measure everything else. The methodology of this course will be to study primary historical documents, examining the ongoing struggle between faith and money from John Wesley’s writings to documents in social media from the first decade of the 21st century. The purpose is to help students move to a deeper understanding of how we got where we are, and make suggestions for where we might go as a church in the future.

William Avery

6.400 Practicum in Theological Research

(1.5 credits)

Students preparing to write theses will develop a trial thesis statement, become familiar with research tools and literature in their areas of interest, formulate search strategies for materials and information pertinent to their projects, and draft a preliminary thesis proposal.

Briant Bohleke