

Wake Forest University School of Divinity
Course Descriptions for Fall 2022

BIBLICAL STUDIES

BIB 501 Elementary Hebrew I

Isaac Alderman

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. Core requirement is met only after both semesters are completed.

BIB Elective

BIB 503 Intermediate Hebrew

Kenneth Hoglund

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.

BIB Elective

BIB 511 Introduction to New Testament Greek I

Brian Warren

A beginning course in koine Greek, covering the fundamentals of grammar, with extensive reading in New Testament texts. Core requirement is met only after both semesters are completed.

BIB Elective

BIB 521 Old Testament Interpretation I

Neal Walls

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

BIB Requirement

BIB 541 Introduction to New Testament

Katherine Shaner

This course provides an overview of New Testament texts and contexts. Students will 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 Requirement

BIB 543 Interpreting New Testament Gospels

Katherine Shaner

This course focuses on the early Christian gospel tradition, deepening students' knowledge of canonical gospel texts. (including Acts) Students will intensify their ability to use a variety of exegetical tools for New Testament interpretation and begin to explore different interpretive frameworks.

BIB Requirement

Area Requirement: Race and Class (RC), Gender and Sexuality (GS)

BIB 631 The Five Festival Scrolls

Neal Walls

A literary and theological study of Jonah, Qoheleth (Ecclesiastes), Esther, Song of Songs (Song of Solomon), Ruth, and Lamentations as canonical books and as festival readings within the Jewish liturgical year. Attention will be given to the books' original compositional context, literary artistry, festival uses, and history of interpretation in Jewish and Christian traditions. This year's exploration will also put the texts in dialogue with recent American films.

BIB Elective

Area Requirements: Gender and Sexuality (GS), Religious Pluralism (RP)

Interfaith Literacy & Leadership Concentration

CROSS DISCIPLINARY STUDIES**CDS 512 Introduction to Research and Writing**

Kaeley McMahan

This course will introduce students to writing and research in biblical and theological studies. Students will learn the foundational aspects of planning, writing, and revising academic papers as well as how to access and evaluate resources for research. We will also discuss important reading strategies, organizational practices, and appropriate citations.

General Elective

HISTORICAL STUDIES

HIS 501 History of Christianity

Austin Rivera

This course surveys the first 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 Requirement

HIS 673 Evangelicalism in North America

Derek Hicks

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.

General Elective

Area Requirements: Race and Class (RC), Religious Pluralism (RP)

MINISTERIAL STUDIES

MIN 501 Art of Ministry

John Senior

An introduction to vocational formation for religious leadership.

MIN Requirement

MIN 533 Worship Practicum

Jill Crainshaw

In this course, students will learn to create, plan, and lead weekly worship services for the School of Divinity community. In addition to learning different worship and liturgical traditions, students will reflect theologically on the meaning of worship elements, thereby giving them tools to plan worship services with attention and intention.

MIN: Formation

MIN 542A Internship

John Senior

A part-time ministry internship placement (2 semesters at 100 hours per semester, for a total of 200 hours) taken in either the second or third year of program.

MIN Requirement

MIN 551 Introduction to Worship and Preaching

Jill Crainshaw

This course provides instruction in 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.

MIN: Proclamation

MIN 602A Internship Reflection Seminar

John Senior

Internship Reflection Seminar engages second-year students in theological reflection through a year-long internship. The 3-hour, two-semester course (1.5 credits in each semester) includes plenary sessions that focus on skills development. At the center of the internship learning process is a structured relationship between each student and an on-site mentor. Students also learn how to reflect theologically about ministry and leadership through work with peer groups consisting of other student interns.

MIN Requirement

MIN 602C Summer Internship Reflection Seminar

John Senior

Description: A full-time ministry internship placement (300 total hours, to be completed in 6-9 weeks of full-time internship work) during the summer.

MIN Requirement

MIN 628 Financial Leadership in Ministry

Joshua Goocey

This course will explore how pastoral leaders approach personal and church finances and how their approach relates to their theology. Money is a medium of social exchange that creates hope, anxiety, blessing, conflict, opportunity and temptation. Students will examine the values related to money in the communities that have

shaped them; think through their beliefs about money biblically and theologically; evaluate their current money practices in light of their faith; and develop a money-related practice to pursue throughout the course. How will you organize your own finances and provide leadership within your church in addressing financial matters? In this course students will seek to answer questions like this by considering biblical and theological resources for developing a theology of finance along with developing the tools needed for personal financial planning and the management of finances in a church setting. This class might be of interest to the larger community.

General Elective

Fulfills Financial Well-Being Covenant

MIN 636A

Mark Jensen

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: Relational Care

Area Requirement: Science, Health and Ecological Well-Being

Dual Counseling Requirement

MIN 668 The Prophetic Pulpit: Preacher as Public Intellectual

Jonathan Walton

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the intellectual tradition of preaching as both spiritual witness and prophetic resistance in the United States. The ultimate aim is to foster intellectual dispositions, ethical orientations, and personal motivations which enable us to raise voices of dissent against any status quo and/or ideological options offered by popular society. We will thus seek to fulfill the three following interrelated tasks: 1.) Clarify the role of the public intellectual within a prophetic tradition, 2.) Examine historical examples of those who bore witness to horrors otherwise denied and their methods of public address, and 3.) Encourage students to craft creative sermons, write clear, concise, and compelling editorials, and engage pressing social issues in ways that are ethically based, intellectually sound, and emotionally animating.

MIN: Proclamation

Area Requirement: Race and Class

MIN 705 Third-Year Capstone

John Senior

The third-year capstone course will have two interrelated components: (1) A capstone reflection component, in which students develop an electronic portfolio to facilitate reflection on their cumulative learning in light of

School of Divinity curricular standards (in the areas of disciplinary knowledge, vocational reflection, and skill development for leadership). (2) A professional development component, in which students will continue vocational reflection and ready themselves for employment searches. The capstone course will be co-developed and co-facilitated by the director of the Art of Ministry program and the director of the Leadership Development program. The third-year seminar is a pass/fail course.

MIN Requirement

MIN 711 Topics in Spiritual Development

Mark Jensen

This seminar looks at "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. This class would examine psychoanalytic and cognitive-structural approaches to human development and critical responses.

MIN: Relational Care

Counseling Dual Degree Requirement

MIN 790A Formation for Moral Agency and Leadership

Jacob Cook

How do we engage in conversations of consequence and cooperative actions around matters of justice in Christian communities? This course will explore why people of faith disagree when it comes to justice, surveying its many definitions and studying our complex moral psychology. In light of these frameworks, students will experiment with practices for moral formation and skills for leading and intervening in challenging times—from helping a church-community reconsider its own history, language, and practices to organizing its people to get about the work of community building. As we develop these frameworks and skills, we will especially analyze church and denominational conversations and actions around justice related to gender and sexuality.

MIN: Community Building

Area Requirement: Gender and Sexuality (GS)

RELIGION

REL 695 Exploring Interfaith Practice

Pieterella Van Doorn Harder

Leann Pace

This online course on interfaith leadership invites students to consider how they might engage most effectively with people from a variety of religious backgrounds.

Area Requirement: Religious Pluralism (RP)

Interfaith Literacy & Leadership Concentration Requirement

SPIRITUALITY

SPI 678 Christian Mysticism

Porter Taylor

The theologian Karl Rahner said, “The Christian of the future will be a mystic or will not exist at all.” Mysticism has been an underground stream for Christianity. This course will explore the readings of key figures from the 16th to the 21st Century and seek to connect their experience with our current context. The paradox of our time is that even as fewer people attend church in the USA, more people have claimed to have had a direct mystical experience. The mystics covered are Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Thomas Merton, Bede Griffiths, Evelyn Underhill, Dorothee Soelle, Howard Thurman, Richard Rohr, Simone Weil, and Cynthia Bourgeault. Each class will begin with a short lecture followed by discussion and, when assigned, student presentations. Our focus is “What do these mystics have to teach our world and our Church?”

Ministerial Studies: Formation

THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

THS 630 God and the Problem of Evil

Kevin Jung

Many people, including religious believers, experience the existence of evil in the world. But how can this experience be reconciled with a theistic belief that the world is under the loving care of God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and perfectly good? Can the experience of evil be evidence for challenging the existence of God or the common assumptions about the divine being? How should we make sense of various religious beliefs in light of the experience of evil?

THS Elective

THS 650 Ecowomanism: Religion, Gender and Environmental Justice

Melanie Harris

Ecowomanism is an approach to environmental ethics that centers the perspectives, theo-ethical analysis, and life experiences, of women of color—specifically women of African descent. It centers discussion in ecology on how womanist voices contribute new attitudes, theories and ideas about how to face the ecological crises we are living in today. This course will introduce students to the growing field of Ecowomanism in the study of religion and ecology. As a learning community we will engage womanist intersectional race-class-gender and anti-oppression forms of analysis as we examine links between oppressions suffered by women across the globe and oppressions suffered by the earth. We will also ask questions about sacred relationships between African American and African women and the earth regarding planetary and self care as well as practices of spiritual activism for earth justice. The course will use interdisciplinary approaches used in religion and ecology and reflect upon methods in religion, theology, ethics, literature, anthropology, environmental studies and more.

THS Elective

Area Requirements: Race and Class (RC), Science, Health and Ecological Well-Being (SE)

Religious Leadership in Food, Health, and Ecology Concentration

Sustainability Concentration

THS 735 Grace: East and West

Austin Rivera

What does it mean that salvation is a gift? In this class we join the centuries-long conversation on this core concept of Christian theology. By engagement with authors from antiquity to the present we will examine some classic questions of the western theological tradition, such as the relationship between grace and nature, grace and free will, grace and merit. However, we will also call into question the normative status of this western tradition by exploring alternative accounts of grace from ancient authors Origen of Alexandria and Ephrem of Nisibis. Such questions are not merely theoretical: throughout this class we will constantly return to the practical implications of different concepts of grace for pastoral care and faith leadership.

THS Elective

Area Requirement: Cross-Cultural Connections (CC)

THS 790A Queer Theologies

William Boyce

Can “queer” and “theology” break bread together? This course introduces “queer theology” as a strange form of discipleship at the margins, at once complementary and critical of Christian thought and practice. By examining its theoretical sources and methods, lived expressions, and contested sites of discourse, this class will explore the multiplicity of queer theologies which unsettle norms and shape otherwise possibilities. Topics for analysis will include LGBTQ+ inclusive theologies, intersectional queer of color critiques, theology and HIV/AIDS, queer sexual ethics and activism, trans* theologies, trauma, and queer ecotheologies.

THS Elective

Area Requirement: Gender and Sexuality (GS)

Religious Leadership in Food, Health, and Ecology Concentration