

Selected Course Descriptions for Fall 2016

August 2016 Intensive Courses

The three courses listed below are being offered **August 15 - 26, 2016** in an intensive format over a two week period. These courses will be listed as *first part-of-term* (August 29 - October 17) in WIN, with class times and rooms listed as TBA. The actual dates of class meeting times will start Monday, August 15 and end Friday, August 26, with all work having to be completed before October 17, 2016. Please note class time below and on the fall 2016 course schedule.

Continuing students can register for only **one** of these courses. These courses are not available for incoming students.

Last day to drop one of these courses is **Monday, August 1, 2016**.

MIN 790C Film & Preaching: The Gospel According to Hollywood

Sunggu Yang

1 credit hour

Monday – Friday, 10:00 – 11:30 am

The course begins with the realization that in today's visual media-driven society, pop film has had a strong cultural, spiritual, ideological, and even theological influence over people's minds. Plus, pop movies have shown creative and communicative ways in narrating stories or propagating important ideas. Give the "cinematic-social situation," this course is designed to help class participants improve their preaching practice through critical dialogue between film and preaching. At the beginning of the course, the class participants will discuss film's cultural influence, theological or religious themes in movies, and filmic ways of effective communication, as well as topics in pop theology. That discussion will be followed by critical consideration of how we can render preaching performance culturally more relevant, theologically richer, and communicatively more effective in relation to film. Participants will spend the latter third of the course watching and analyzing films and writing and preaching creative, cinematic sermons.

THS 521 Foundations of Christian Ethics

Kevin Jung

3 credit hours

Monday – Friday, 9:30 am – 12:00 noon, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

A study of various approaches to Christian ethics and their applications to specific ethical issues.

THS 712 Contemporary Christologies

Liz Gandolfo

3 credit hours

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 12 noon, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

An examination of the definitive issues and basic alternatives for interpreting the person and work of Jesus Christ today, with specific attention to the role of socio-historical contexts in formulations of Jesus' humanity and divinity and in models of atonement.

Fall 2016 Full Term Courses

Biblical Studies

BIB 651 Reading Our Common Scriptures

Neal Walls & Andrew Ettin

3 credit hours

An invitation to Jews and Christians to gather together and read texts from the Hebrew Bible as our shared or common Scripture. This year's class will focus on the literary and theological study of the Five Megillot—Ecclesiastes, Esther, the Song of Solomon, Ruth, and Lamentations—as both canonical books and as festival readings within the Jewish liturgical year. Attention will be given to the books' history of interpretation throughout Jewish and Christian traditions.

BIB 790A Food & Faith in the World of the Hebrew Bible

Leann Pace

3 credit hours

This course explores points of intersection between food and faith in the texts of the Hebrew Bible and in the archaeological record from the Levantine region. Topics for the course include: the sacrificial system as a means of creating and maintaining relationship with the divine; home cooked meals in the Hebrew Bible and their ability to create sacred space within the household; the practice of feeding the dead, a practice prevalent in the world of the Hebrew Bible but about which the text itself is nearly silent; hunger and food scarcity; and creating a religious and cultural identity through what you eat (or don't eat). Not only will the class explore these topics in their ancient historical and textual contexts but will also consider how opinions and practices related to food and faith in the world of the Hebrew Bible can help us to think deeply and act meaningfully in relation to these issues in our own faith communities.

BIB 790B Dead Sea Scrolls

Clinton Moyer

3 credit hours

This course is being taught in the Religion department and so the first day of class will be Wednesday, August 31, 2016 and this course will meet on Labor Day Monday, September 5, 2016.

A consideration of the relationship of the Dead Sea Scrolls to the Bible; the specific socio-historical context that gave rise to the Scrolls, and into which Jesus was born; and the collection's implications for how we think about the development and continuity of religious traditions in which the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament stands as a centerpiece, including Christianity.

Historical Studies

HIS 591 African American Religious History and Experience

Derek Hicks

3 credit hours

This course charts black religious history - beginning with West African cultural expression, continuing through the Middle Passage, chattel slavery, the creation of the "Invisible Institution," and the

development of the "Black Church." The course will unpack the complexity of contemporary African American Christianity by investigating its various formulations.

HIS 673 Evangelicalism in North America

Derek Hicks

3 credit hours

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.

HIS 681 A History of the Baptists

Bill Leonard

3 credit hours

A study of Baptist history with particular attention to Baptists in the U.S. and the diversity of Baptist ways of belief and practice. The course places Baptists within the larger context of American denominational transitions.

Ministerial Studies

MIN 530 The Work of the People: An Introduction to Christian Worship & Liturgy

Jill Crainshaw

3 credit hours

"Liturgy" is a word communities sometimes use in connection with communal worship. "Liturgy" comes from a Greek word, *leitourgia*, which means public service or "the work of the people." This course explores worship as the work of people to encounter, praise, and serve God in the particular and peculiar places where they live, work and play. The course uses place-based teaching and learning strategies to invite students to consider "what makes worship work" in their traditions and ministering contexts. The course encourages students to develop worship practices that are theologically intentional and provides opportunities to explore intergenerational possibilities and challenges. Topics for the course include a) exploration of historical worship patterns and elements; b) considerations of prophetic leadership "from the table" and "through the waters"; c) exploration of creativity and innovation in worship as public and prophetic work; d) considerations of how theology and faith are formed in and by worship practices

MIN 598A Readings course for the Holy Land Trip

Neal Walls

1 credit, application required (2 credits of this course are offered in the spring term)

This year's focus, "Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Holy Land," will introduce students to the history and religious traditions of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim communities in the land of Israel and Palestine from ancient times to the present. Participants will "walk the pilgrim's road" together through these contested lands to examine historic successes and failures of religious pluralism.

The class will visit Jewish, Christian, and Muslim places of worship and historical remembrance as we explore the rich religious heritage of this land. We will examine the historic origins of Judaism and its development through the medieval period and the modern Zionist developments of the twentieth

century. In addition to Jerusalem, site visits include synagogues and rabbinic tombs in Sepphoris and Tiberias; the town of Safed, where Kabbalistic mystics led by Isaac Luria established a community after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492; Masada; and the Holocaust History Museum (Yad Vashem). Students will follow the life of Jesus in Nazareth, the Galilee, on the Mount of Olives, and along the *Via Dolorosa* in Jerusalem's Old City. We will visit diverse Christian communities in Jerusalem and Bethlehem and witness Eastern Orthodox (and other) liturgical traditions at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. We will consider the violent history of the Christian Crusaders at Akko and the 1400 year history of Muslim communities and culture in this region. We will tour the medieval Islamic mosque of al-Jazzar in Akko, and the Dome of the Rock and Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem. We will visit Baha'i shrines, a Druze village, and the (heterodox) Ahmadiyya mosque in Haifa as we also consider diversity within each of the Abrahamic traditions. As a result of meetings with local religious leaders and our own interfaith conversations, our group will return from this pilgrimage with an increased awareness of the diverse religious sensitivities that claim Israel and Palestine as "holy land," the difficult position of minority religious communities, and the value of interfaith cooperation.

MIN 790A Prophetic Ministry: Social Witness, Protest Arts, and Preaching

A Recipient of the Provost Fund for Academic Innovation, Wake Forest University

Sunggu Yang

3 credit hours

Prophetic Ministry is the core of Christian life and the Christian church's *raison d'être*. What is prophetic ministry? It is a ministry seeking justice, reconciliation, and peace of the broken world and restoration of the suffering Mother Nature, with the Divine-inspired, compassionate mind and heart. In the recent history of the U.S. (and of the world), particularly in the 20th and 21st centuries, we have witnessed the rapid rise of prophetic ministry as an effective and transformative social force, well-exemplified in Mother Teresa's Calcutta ministry, Rev. King's Civil Rights Movement and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Rev. William Barber's Moral Mondays, Father Romero's protest on the violation of human rights, Rev. William Sloane Coffin's ministry at the Riverside Church, Pablo Picasso's *Guernica*, Byung Mu Ahn's *Minjung* Theology and its related social movement, Pope Francis's critique of climate change, etc. Given the urgency and positive impact of prophetic ministry, this course navigates three prominent forms of prophetic ministry: social witness (either verbal, written, or performed), protest arts (e.g., film, music, painting, photography, posters and placards, digital media, graffiti, cartoons, installation arts, etc.), and prophetic preaching. Students will explore biblical, theological, historical, ethical, philosophical, political, social, economic, and ecological aspects of social issues and relevant prophetic ministry in these three forms. Throughout the semester students will write one social witness statement, produce one protest art piece, and deliver a prophetic sermon in class.

Note: All art work produced in class will be fully funded by the Provost Fund for Academic Innovation

Please consider taking MIN 790B Practicum: Festival Week of Prophetic Ministry with this course (1 credit hour, see below). Festival Week is a critical component of this class, regardless of the student's registration in MIN 790B Practicum. Once the students complete the two courses, they will earn 4 credit hours in total. Students may also take MIN 790B only just for 1 credit.

MIN 790B Practicum: Festival Week of Prophetic Ministry

Sunggu Yang

1 credit hour

Meeting dates: September 8 & 22, October 6 & 20, November 3

This course is offered in close collaboration with the *Prophetic Ministry* course described above. Through this integrated course, the students will take active leadership roles in organizing and hosting the Festival Week event, alongside their own participation in the art display and preaching contest. The class will meet four times for a two hour meeting for reading reflection and Festival organization. Students will actively participate in the Festival Week (Nov. 14-17, 2016), as a hosting team.

MIN 790D Introduction to Research and Writing

Hilary Floyd and Kaeley McMahan

1 credit hour

First part-of-term meeting on Fridays, September 2 – October 7, 2016

This course will introduce students to writing and research in biblical and theological studies. Through assignments such as preparing an annotated bibliography and writing an academic plan, students will develop skills that support their future work in the School of Divinity.

MIN 790E Introduction to Congregational Budgeting & Finance

Christopher Gambil

1 credit hour

Weekend course: September 23-24, 2016

This course is designed to provide ministry leaders a basic understanding of business and financial concepts in a congregational (and nonprofit) context. The overall goal is to help students learn how to use financial information in decision-making and leadership roles. The course will be praxis-oriented, aimed at helping learners develop basic skills in the areas of budgeting and related financial processes. The course will also provide an overview of effective fundraising and giving philosophies and practices.

MIN 790G Community Engagement, Organizing, and Development

John Parker

1 credit hour

Weekend course: September 30 – October 1, 2016

Followers of the Way should know themselves as the God's Beloved and should intentionally learn from neighbors and Creation in order to engage and develop culturally appropriate and contextual ministries. Faith community leaders will learn continuously in their ministry setting if they've explored various ways of community engagement, organizing and development. This course explores the basics of the fields of community organizing and development and explores how they can inform and strengthen each person's journey and directions in ministry and community. Each participant will develop a plan for further study, development, and action.

Spirituality

SPI 669 Modern Spiritual Writing: *Pilgrimage and Place*

Fred Bahnsen

3 credit hours

Conference in Asheville required: October 21-22, 2016 (fall break)

When St. Augustine penned his *Confessions*, he began a genre of Christian writing that has continued to this day. Part literature course, part writer's workshop, this course introduces students to literary nonfiction whose subject is faith. Students will study narrative structure, voice, character development, scene, and dialogue—all tools of the writer's craft—and discuss how those tools can be employed to create compelling stories of religious experience. Students will workshop their own essays, and will also be introduced to a variety of writers (Christian and otherwise) whose modern spiritual narratives form part of our current cultural dialogue.

The theme for fall 2016 will be "Pilgrimage and Place." The metaphor of the journey has long been part of the Christian narrative. Israel wandered in exile. Jesus set his face to Jerusalem. Paul trekked far and wide across Asia Minor. The outward journey mirrors the inward journey. But what of rootedness and staying put, which the Desert Fathers and Mothers insisted was a necessary condition to achieve holiness? How does *place* shape religious experience? And how does our own American landscape leave its imprint on our souls, both individually and collectively? This course will explore--through writing--that liminal religious space between staying and going.

The course meets weekly, during which student writing will be peer-reviewed. We will also be reading and discussing various spiritual writers, including some of those speaking at a conference in Asheville. The conference takes place October 21-22, 2016, on the UNC Asheville campus. *Faith in Literature: A Festival of Contemporary Writers of the Spirit* is co-sponsored by WFUSD and UNCA, and will feature contemporary spiritual writers such as Marilyn Nelson, Krista Tippet, Scott Cairns, and Pulitzer Prize winning writer Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Students will attend panels, readings, and discussions with the authors. Students will be required to cover their own transportation, lodging, and food, but the conference is free. It is also a required part of the course.

Note: Students may repeat this course from previous years.

SPI 790A Embodied Spirituality

Chris Copeland

1 credit hour

Weekend course: October 28-29, 2016

This course introduces students to historical, biblical, and theological foundations of embodied spirituality. Students will learn and experience different ways of embodying spiritual practice using movement, story-telling, and vocalization as tools to attend to and nurture their relationship with God. Additionally, students will explore embodied spirituality at the intersection their personal spiritual life and their practice of ministry.

SPI 790B Spirituality & Ministry: Architecture and the Sense of Place

Thomas Frank

1 credit hour

Weekend course: September 9-10, 2016

The purpose of this course is to provoke and pursue questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with architecture, the creation of space, and the sense of place. The course explores the significance of buildings and spaces for spiritual and ministerial practice, with a larger aim of enriching imaginative resources for deepened spirituality, so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership in ministry. The class will make site visits to several churches in Winston-Salem.

SPI 790C Spirituality & Ministry in Visual Arts

Thomas Frank

1 credit hour

Weekend course: September 30 – October 1, 2016

The purpose of this course is to provoke and pursue questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with the visual arts. The course will focus on the art collection at Reynolda House Museum of American Art on the Wake Forest campus, and in particular the special exhibit "Grant Wood and the American Farm" (<http://reynoldahouse.org/exhibitions/detail/grant-wood-and-the-american-farm>). Fred Bahnson will give a public lecture at Reynolda House on food, farms, and sustainability as part of the course. The course explores how artists articulate and express human questions in ways unique to their own experience and creativity. As these questions evoke theological themes, the course follows a larger aim of enriching imaginative resources for deepened spirituality, so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership in ministry.

SPI 790D Embodying the World's Religions

Angela Yarber

3 credit hours

This course begins with the foundation that the major religions of the world value embodiment. Whether they are participating in Israeli folk dance, whirling dervishes, Tai Chi, liturgical dance, or bharatanatyam, persons from differing faith traditions can find themselves on common ground when they move their bodies. The course is a fusion of theory and praxis, enabling students to learn about the histories and theories surrounding embodiment through reading, lecture, discussion, and research, while also witnessing embodiment and dancing themselves. We will concentrate on the dances of the five major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity), though attention will also be given to ways of embodying other traditions. Utilizing Parker Palmer's threefold goals of pedagogy, students will engage in the course material by *knowing*, *being*, and *doing*.

SPI 790E Thriving Nourishment: Christian Spiritual Practices and Food

Nancy Wiens

1 credit hour

Weekend course: October 7 – 8, 2016

Whatever we *practice* shapes our lives from the minutest levels within a human being to the macro levels of culture and nature. Christian spirituality studies daily, lived experience through the lens of God's incarnate self-revelation. This course explores personal and corporate Christian spiritual practices, as daily ways to contribute to thriving social and ecological systems, specifically the human-nature relationship called food. It delves into the insights of Christian spirituality in dialogue with three natural sciences for the purpose of inviting students to:

- know themselves as Nature, as created co-creators, and as God's Beloved, and
- to develop conscious life practices that nourish their relationship with the divine, themselves, and their neighbors, both human and natural, and that create more redemptive food systems where God's shalom becomes visible for a hungry world.

By the end of this course, students will encounter ways to:

- Be cultivating the theological habit that living in peace with the land and with non-human Creation is a core pastoral practice for religious leaders and the communities with whom they serve.
- Gain familiarity with ways that some Christian spiritual practices shape personal and corporate relationship to food and thus to Nature as a whole.
- Be able to articulate more fully how food and faith issues touch different arenas of our human experience.
- Bring mindfulness to the ritual enactment of our human-nature relationship called food.
- Experience what Christian hope and mourning bring to matters of food and faith in this ecological time.

Theological Studies

THS 619 Readings in Queer Theology

Michelle Voss Roberts

1 credit hour

Fridays, September 9 – November 4, 2016

This seminar-style reading course surveys classic and new works in queer theology, an approach to Christian thought that questions dominant constructions of gender identity and sexuality. The course explores biblical and Christian theological perspectives on sexuality, social constructions of sexuality, and the relation between power and knowledge in contemporary sexual ethics.

THS 629 Markets, Justice, & Christian Ethics

John Senior

3 credit hours

In a globalized economy, the market system is the single most powerful mechanism for organizing human life. But markets are morally ambiguous in many ways. For example, the market system is a useful tool for creating goods efficiently and cheaply, but it often fails to distribute goods equitably or to account for the human and non-human costs of production. This course examines a range of ethical issues related to market economies, including consumption, desire, freedom, capitalism, exchange, market regulation, globalization, corporate responsibility, and the relationship between economy and ecology. Students will learn how to notice, diagnose, and, as ministry leaders, empower others to respond to the profound and morally complex ways that market systems condition everyday life.

THS 790A Comparative Mysticism: Christianity and Islam

Joshua Canzona

3 credit hours

This course examines the mystical traditions of Christianity and Islam on their own terms and in relationship with each other. Through comparison, we will draw out questions and points of emphasis that will deepen our understanding of the two traditions. We will also examine the phenomenon of mysticism and pursue some of the most intractable philosophical and historical questions it produces: What is mysticism? How does it relate to normative religious practice? What will be its role in the future?

THS 790B Invoking the Public Theological Voice

Byron Williams and John Senior
1 credit hour

“Religion is at its best when it makes us ask hard questions of ourselves. It is at its worst when it deludes itself into thinking we have all the answers for everybody else.” Archibald MacLeish

The rationale for this course is to enhance the public theological voice so that students can participate faithfully and effectively in public discourse. The contribution of the public theological voice in public discourse is not adequately realized in the contemporary left/right axis that dominates so much of the discussion. Ministry leaders need to be equipped to approach important issues not as an advocate for any particular group or orthodoxy, but with a focus on the larger pursuits of justice outlined in the biblical narratives. This course will explore key amendments to the Constitution, selective writings of Reinhold Niebuhr, as well as the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and '60s. In addition to constitutional, theological, and historical application, participants will have the opportunity to develop their own public theological voice through writing assignments class participation, and a class blog.

Byron Williams is a free-lance journalist, based in Winston-Salem, who writes for the *Huffington Post*, the *Winston-Salem Journal*, among other publications, and is the host of “The Public Morality” radio show (<http://www.publicmorality.com/>).