



**Schedule of Courses  
Graduate Department of Religion  
Spring, 2010**

*(All courses include the prefix REL unless otherwise noted.)*

The Study and Teaching of Religion

**2001-01 Theology + Practice Colloquy**

Smith

F 2:00-4:00 p.m. (once a month)

Tillett Lounge

The two-semester colloquy provides a social and intellectual space for conversation about the goods and purposes of theological education. The colloquy is limited to fellows in the Program in Theology and Practice. It is required of Theology and Practice fellows in their first three years of PhD work. One credit hour is awarded in the spring semester.

**3620-01 Practicum in the Teaching of Religion**

Dickson

TBA

This course provides preparation for the teaching of courses in religious or theological studies through discussion of case studies, issues, and problems. It is required for all GDR students during their first semester of service as a teaching assistant. Zero credit hours.

**3690 Master's Thesis Research** (Select the section specific to your advisor.)

This course carries full-time status. Zero credit hours.

**3790 Non-Candidate Research** (Select the section specific to your advisor.)

This course carries full-time status regardless of the number of hours. Students preparing for qualifying examinations and needing full-time status should register for this course. (0-12 credit hours)

**3953-01 The Sociology of Religion**

Reside

T 10:00-1:00

The course explores a number of possible topics in the sociology of Religion. Topics may focus on classical theorists (Weber, Troeltsch, Durkheim), the study of religious movements, popular religions, rituals and religious experience, and the application of social scientific research methods for the study of religion.

**3990 PhD Dissertation Research** (Select the section specific to your advisor.)

This course carries full-time status regardless of the number of hours. Students post-qualifying examinations and needing full-time status should register for this course. (0-12 credit hours)

Languages

**2501-01 Biblical Hebrew II**

McMurtry

MWF 8:10-9:00

This is the second course of the two-semester sequence leading to a reading knowledge of the Hebrew Bible; concentration continues upon the basic elements and grammatical study of the language whereupon students begin to read from the original texts; the course REL 2500 from the fall semester is a prerequisite for the class. (Not available for credit for PhD students in biblical studies.)

**2515-01 Elementary Modern Hebrew**

Halachmi

MWF 3:10-4:00

306 Buttrick Hall

Elementary conversational Hebrew emphasizing the spoken colloquial usage of Israel today. Course prepares students for further study in modern Hebrew, while also providing a foundation for understanding Biblical Hebrew. No prior knowledge of Hebrew pre supposed.

**2601-01 Koine Greek II**

Redman

MWF 8:10-9:00

This is the second course of the two-semester sequence leading to a reading knowledge of the New Testament; concentration continues upon the basic elements and grammatical study of the language; the course REL 2600 from the fall semester is a prerequisite for the class. (Not available for credit for PhD students in biblical studies.)

**3103-01 Intermediate Modern Hebrew**

Halachmi

MWF 2:10-3:00

140 Buttrick Hall

Reinforcement of advanced grammar, reading, and conversation in modern Hebrew. Some knowledge of elementary Hebrew is required.

**3815-01 Ugaritic**

Azzoni

W 3:10-5:00

Students are introduced to the elements of Ugaritic grammar and will read selected texts.

**ARA 210B-01 Elementary Arabic**

Gure

MTWRF 12:10-1:00

210 Hank Ingram House

Arabic is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world and one of the official languages of the United Nations. It's the vehicle of a great civilization that embodies thousands of years of heritage and has contributed significantly to the Renaissance. This course aims at providing you with a solid background in all four skills, i.e., listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Arabic. It seeks to establish a useful vocabulary base that you can use to converse at the elementary level, and familiarize you with the basic structure of the Arabic sentence. It also introduces you to the fundamentals of Arabic grammar to produce simple Arabic sentences and sustain conversation orally, and to produce sentences and paragraphs in writing within the range of vocabulary and grammar taught. The course will emphasize the comprehension of simple sentences both spoken and *written* within the attained range of Arabic grammar and vocabulary. Understanding some cultural facets of the Arab world is an important component of the course. Five contact hour per week and individual work in the language laboratory. Students with prior Arabic experience will have to take a placement test. No exceptions.

**ARA 210B-02 Elementary Arabic**

Mahmud

MTWRF 10:10-11:00

301F Garland Hall

**ARA 220B-01 Intermediate Arabic**

Mahmud

TR 11:00-12:15

301F Garland Hall

**ARA 230B-01 Advanced Arabic**

Hamad

TR 11:00-12:15

316 Buttrick Hall

Course offers an overview of the target language in its Modern Standard and Classical Arabic manifestations. Of all four skills that you have developed thus far, speaking and reading are emphasized. The spoken form of the language used to develop your speaking ability and bring it to an advanced-superior level is that used by highly-educated speakers of Arabic. Grammar is learned through the reading of authentic texts and in its proper context, while literary techniques and observations are highlighted to aid you in understanding and analyzing similar materials. Prerequisite: 2 years of Arabic at Vanderbilt (or its equivalent elsewhere) or approval by instructor.

**ARA 250. Arabic of the Qur'an and Other Classical Texts. HAMAD (W 10-10-12:30)**

Overview of syntactical and morphological features of Classical Arabic (CA). The differences and similarities between CA and Modern Standard Arabic in terms of vocabulary usage, semantic extensions, and contextual; vocabulary borrowing. Read and analyze a wide range of materials, i.e. Qur'an, Hadith, and Sira (biographical) literature. (Prerequisite: ARA 240, equivalent or instructor's permission)

**FREN 101G-01 French for Reading**

Kevra  
MWF 9:10-10:00  
219 Calhoun Hall

**GER 101G-01 German for Reading**

MWF 12:10-1:00  
217 Furman

**LAT 101-01 Beginning Latin I**

Kitchen  
MTWF 2:10-3:00  
309 Cohen  
*(Form needed to receive graduate credit)*

**LAT 102-01 Beginning Latin II**

MF 12:10-1:00; TR 1:10-2:00  
309 Cohen  
*(Form needed to receive graduate credit)*

**LAT 102-02 Beginning Latin II**

MTRF 11:10-12:00  
210 Hank Ingram House  
*(Form needed to receive graduate credit)*

**LAT 104-01 Intermediate Latin II**

Solomon  
MWF 12:10-1:00  
323 Cohen  
*(Form needed to receive graduate credit)*

Ethics and Society

**2758-01 Ethics in Theological Perspectives**

Floyd-Thomas, S.  
MW 11:10-12:00; F 8:10-9:00

This class will examine the central themes of morality, moral agency, deliberation, and moral discernment that define ethics as a discipline; students investigate the moral arguments from teleological, deontological, and utilitarian perspectives and study the philosophical and theological figures and different theological ethics that have had a sustaining influence on Christian ethics in the West.

**3402-01 Race, Religion, and Poverty: Katrina**

Reside  
T 6:00-8:00

This course seeks to think about and analyze issues of race and poverty from the perspective of faith. However, the course is designed as an interdisciplinary study, and will investigate these

issues from a variety of perspectives. We will use New Orleans and Katrina as a case study to focus our religious and ethical imaginations on the issues of race, religion and poverty in the United States. How have Americans made theological and moral sense of Katrina? What does it tell us about poverty in the USA? During the spring break, students will travel to New Orleans to learn from the residents of that city about their experiences of race, religion and poverty in America, and to contribute in some small way to the struggles there to overcome poverty. While the trip to New Orleans is subsidized, students will be expected to pay \$250 to help defer costs. Enrollment is limited to twenty students; for additional information, contact Graham Reside in office number 140-A.

### **3403-01 Theology and Ethics in America: H. Richard Niebuhr**

Anderson

W 1:10-3:00

This course will focus upon the theology and ethics of H. Richard Niebuhr, one of the most significant Christian ethicists of the twentieth century and whose influences are evident in all the disciplines within the theological academy.

### **3411-01 Religion and War in an Age of Terror**

Snarr

M 1:10-4:00

By examining both Christian and Islamic political thought, students in this course will wrestle with questions such as: When, if ever, is it appropriate to go to war? How has the emergence of "terrorism" as a form of war challenged traditional just war and pacifist theories? Are there ways in which religion and violence are inherently connected? How have religion and war been linked historically? In what ways do religious worldviews challenge or complement contemporary efforts at peacemaking?

### **3412-01 Ethics and Society: Theories of Justice**

Snarr

R 3:10-6:00

This seminar will focus on contemporary theories of justice from both philosophical and theological perspectives. Foci that will guide the seminar will be how varying visions of justice are authorized in a pluralistic society, the role and understanding of religion in these theories, the often contested relationship between love and justice in theological traditions, and how theories of justice affect concrete policy decisions. Among the major theorists who will be studied in the seminar are Rawls, MacIntyre, Habermas, Fraser, Sen, Nussbaum, Young, Outka, and Niebuhr.

### **3463-01 Practicum in Clinical Ethics**

Bishop

M 1:00-4:30; F 1:00-3:00

The course serves as introduction to and reflection on the ethos of the modern hospital. Students participate weekly in hospital rounds and reflect on their observations in seminars that incorporate selected philosophical and theological texts.

### **3464-01 Seminar in Clinical and Research Ethics**

Bliton

F 10:00-12:00

The seminar is an introduction to the central moral themes and issues arising in clinical research settings which configure ethical understanding. Relevant historical movements in the development of modern medicine, the field of bioethics, and the realm of clinical ethics are explored as well as the contextual complexities associated with attempts to identify, articulate, and clarify the moral frameworks and values present in clinical and research settings.

### **3956-01 Philosophical Ethics in the Western Tradition**

Anderson

T 1:10-3:00

This course will examine the influences of the British Moralists upon ethical and philosophical history.

### **3959-01 The Moral Philosophy of Black Popular Culture**

Floyd-Thomas, S & J

M 5:00-7:00

This course offers a historical survey of the moral connections between notions of the sacred and secular as demonstrated in Black popular culture. In seeking to explore the complex interplay of how and why African Americans' sacred concerns have manifested themselves more centrally in everyday arenas such as literature, films, music, comedy, fashion, sports, and others, this course will examine the commonplace nature of Black faith. Drawing upon interdisciplinary analysis, the course seeks to identify that which is distinctive about the wide array of African American religious thought and practices as well as the ways in which they have constructed and defined Black identity and culture in both historic and contemporary terms.

## Hebrew Bible and Ancient Israel

### **3808-01 Ancient Goddesses**

Azzoni

TR 1:10-2:25

The course will examine how ancient cultures (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Ancient Israel and beyond) conceived of the feminine divine, primarily through a survey of the available literature (myths, hymns, and prayers) and iconographic evidence (statues, plaques, figurines). The roles of specific goddesses, their spheres of influence, and their place in the various pantheons will be taken into account, while also paying attention to cultic practices and religious syncretism across the cultures.

### **3811-01 Modern Interpreters of Ancient Israel**

Knight

W 1:10-3:00

Participants will study the characteristic approaches to the history and religion of ancient Israel, as seen in selected writings by prominent scholars since the Enlightenment. Attention will be given to the presuppositions of each scholar and to the view of Israel afforded in each study. A reading ability in German is desired.

### **3829-01 The Book of Joshua**

Knight

R 11:10-1:00

Students will participate in an exegesis of the book of Joshua with special attention paid to literary features, issues of historiography, archaeological evidence, ideological and religious concerns, and the relation to other texts of the Hebrew Bible, especially the Deuteronomistic history.

### Historical Studies

#### **2564-01 The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. and the Social Roles of Religion**

Baldwin

MWF 2:10-3:00

This course explore Martin Luther King, Jr.'s roles as preacher, religious leader, theologian, and social change agent, with special attention to his cultural roots and legacy, the experiential and intellectual sources of his thought and praxis, and the development of his communitarian ideal beyond southern particularism to an explicit and enlightened globalism. King's perspective on the social roles of religion will be studied and critically analyzed against the background of classical Judeo-Christian views (e.g., the ancient Hebrew Prophets, Jesus, the Apostolic Church, the Church Fathers, and Fundamentalist and Evangelical traditions), of Western philosophical streams (e.g., Plato, Socrates, Heraclitus, Hegel, Kant, the Existentialists), of 19th and 20th Century dissenting traditions (e.g., Marx, Thoreau, Gandhi, Luthuli), and of the perspectives of African American leaders from the time of slavery to the present (e.g., Hammon, Walker, Truth, Tubman, Delany, Douglass, Washington, DuBois, Garvey, Jackson, Eikerenkoetter, Malcolm X, and others). The roles of the church and religion in King-led civil rights campaigns from Montgomery to 219 continued...Memphis will also be examined. Finally, attention will be devoted to King's image as a world leader and symbol, taking into account his position against racism, colonialism, poverty, and economic injustice in the United States and abroad.

#### **2703-01 Christianity in the Reformation Era**

Lim

MW 9:10-10:00; F 8:10-9:00

The Reformation era is often regarded as the watershed between the so-called "dark ages" and the modern period. This course introduce the student to the various themes, issues, and events which became contested and heatedly discussed, often sending people to the gallows, stakes, prisons, and living lives of apocalyptic excitement. It was a revolutionary era, it was a period of confusion, it was a period of much unrest as people sought new answers to the age-old problem of one's salvation in/from the world through the mediation of the Catholic Church.

We will cover the following broadly-construed themes:

1. The nature of late medieval Catholicism, both its theology and popular piety.
2. The significance of the advent of the print media, and its impact on the proliferation of Reformation literature: both Catholic and Protestant.
3. "Women and Religion" in the Reformation era, both for Catholic convents and Protestant counterparts, and the nature of women's participation in the religious life.
4. "Politics and Religion," how this problematic was constructed, torn down, and rebuilt during this period.
5. Question of martyrdom and its impact on the pursuit of one's spirituality.

6. "Empire and Evangelism," a key interpretive issue in Colonial expansion and its religious significance, judged by the writings of Bartolome de las Casas.

### **2706-01 History of Christian Liturgy**

Jensen

R 8:10-10:00

The course is an introduction to the origins and development of Christian worship and rituals from 100-1600 C.E.; students will examine the underlying structures of different worship practices as well as the function of rituals in various times and places.

### **2713-01 Art and Empire from Constantine to Justinian**

Jensen

TR 11:00-12:15

Participants in this course will engage in an interdisciplinary study of Roman social, political, religious, and art historical developments in the fourth through sixth centuries.

### **2750-01 History of Religion in America**

Byrd

MW 9:10-10:00; F 8:10-9:00

This course surveys the development of America's religious communities from the colonial era to the present. Secondly, the course will introduce the conceptual tools and vocabulary necessary for further study of American religious history. While the approach of the class is chronological, class readings and discussion will focus on four themes, which influence all and characterize some of America's religions: 1) pluralism, including its causes, such as immigration, assimilation, diaspora, and innovation, as well as its effects, namely, revivalism, denominationalism, and evangelicalism; 2) millenarianism; 3) church-state relations, typically expressed by the terms "freedom of religion," "disestablishment," and "civil religion"; and 4) modernity, requiring consideration of science, gender, higher criticism, urbanization, and social reform.

### **3237-01 History Seminar: Race and Religion**

Dickerson

M 12:10-3:00

This seminar, offered by the Graduate School's department of History, is from the Topics in American History listing documented on page 186 of the Graduate School's Catalogue; please note the course carries four (4) semester hours of graduate-level credit.

### **3251-01 American Religious Historiography**

Hudnut-Beumler

T 1:10-3:00

The topic for the 2010 offering of this seminar is Religion in the American South.

### **3858-01 Thomas Aquinas**

Burns and DeHart

R 8:10-10:00

Students will engage in a systematic investigation of Aquinas' major theological and philosophical assertions with a consideration of his conception of the two disciplines and their relationships. All readings will be available in English translations.

### History and Critical Theories of Religion

#### **3504-01 Freud and Jewish Identity**

Geller

TR 11:00-12:15

This course examines selected writings of Sigmund Freud within the context of contemporary Viennese Jewish life and anti-Semitic discourses. Through an analysis of Freud's rhetorical figures, topoi, exemplar, emphases, omissions, and anomalies, students will explore how psychoanalytic theory developed in response to the traumas of Jewish assimilation and of anti-Semitic repudiation--whether by acting them out or working through them.

#### **3517-01 Mysticism in Islam**

McGregor

TR 9:35-10:50

This course is a historical and topical survey of the origins and development of Islamic mysticism. We will be primarily concerned with the growth of the mystical tradition in Islam, rise of asceticism, the development of the Sufi orders, the gradual systematization of Sufi teachings, and modern forms of Sufism in the West. The spread of Islamic mysticism was primarily due to the teachings of the great Sufi teachers. Thus the course will examine the teachings of prominent Sufi figures like Ibn Arabi, Rabi'a, al-Hallaj, Rumi, al-Suhrawardi and others. No prior knowledge of Islam is required. One third of our class time will be spent reading mystical texts in translation. This will be done in seminar style, with participation marks assigned according to students' performance.

#### **3518-01 The Qur'an and Its Interpreters**

McGregor

TR 1:10-2:25

This course will survey the Qur'an and the Islamic tradition of interpretation. We will encounter figures such as the Biblical prophets, Jesus and Satan. Interpretations will be drawn from the earliest period, up to the modern. Rationalist, dogmatic, Shi'i and mystical schools of interpretation will be discussed.

#### **3537-01 The Holocaust: Representation and Reflection**

Geller

W 3:10-6:00

Students will explore the fundamental questions about the nature of history and representation, especially the nature of the human and the divine that the Holocaust presents.

#### **3880-01 Jewish Theories of Religion**

Urban

TR 9:35-10:50

Jewish religious responses to modernity exemplify many of the salient challenges faced by a minority in a majority culture. The dialectic between Jewish self-understanding and general culture engendered new conceptions of the self and community. The relation between ritual and religious doctrine was renegotiated and brought forth a variety of reconfigurations of the relationship between spirituality and normative religion as well as that between religion and culture. Jewish strategies of self-revitalization, reconstruction and attempts to create a 'religion of culture' as well as feminist appropriations of Jewish faith are paradigmatic for the process of repositioning religion in modern and post-modern culture. We will examine through select primary sources to what extent these transformations of Judaism are informed by philosophy, the study of religion, and social theory and analyze the nature and limits of the envisioned synthesis. We will conclude the course with a discussion on secularized religion and social forms of religion.

### **3911-01 Postmodern and A/Theologies**

Franke

T 4:00-6:30

Some of the most powerful apologies for Christianity today--celebrating its radical liberating potential in history, as well as for contemporary society--have come from avowed atheists. Students will read Zizek, Agamben, and Badiou, concentrating especially on their contrasting readings of the political eschatology of Saint Paul. The post-secular approaches to the renewal of theology, particularly those of Radical Orthodoxy (John Milbank) and thinkers in the wake of the death of God, such as Gianni Vattimo, John D. Caputo, and Mark C. Taylor will also be addressed.

### Homiletics and Liturgics

### **2706-01 History of Christian Liturgy**

Jensen

R 8:10-10:00

The course is an introduction to the origins and development of Christian worship and rituals from 100-1600 C.E.; students will examine the underlying structures of different worship practices as well as the function of rituals in various times and places.

### **2801-01 Introduction to Homiletics**

McClure, J.

T 5:10-8:00

This course offers an examination of theologies and methods of preparing sermons from Biblical texts through hermeneutical approaches, oral/aural skills, rhetorical strategies, narrative and connective logic. Students are responsible for developing a working theology of the Word, review of major homiletic theories, exegetical assignments, skill-building exercises, sermon sketches, and sermon manuscripts. In-class preaching is required. Class time will include lecture, discussion of assigned texts, role plays, case studies and reflection, papers, weekly quizzes, a mid-term and a final exam. The first half of each 3-hour class will typically include a quiz, lecture and discussion of texts, and second typically will include practical application through the use of case studies, role plays, and analysis and discussion of these.

## Jewish Studies

(For a listing of all courses, see the comprehensive schedule for the College of Arts and Science, Spring 2010.)

### **3504-01 Freud and Jewish Identity**

Geller

TR 11:00-12:15

This course examines selected writings of Sigmund Freud within the context of contemporary Viennese Jewish life and anti-Semitic discourses. Through an analysis of Freud's rhetorical figures, topoi, exemplar, emphases, omissions, and anomalies, students will explore how psychoanalytic theory developed in response to the traumas of Jewish assimilation and of anti-Semitic repudiation--whether by acting them out or working through them.

### **3880-01 Jewish Theories of Religion**

Urban

TR 9:35-10:50

Jewish religious responses to modernity exemplify many of the salient challenges faced by a minority in a majority culture. The dialectic between Jewish self-understanding and general culture engendered new conceptions of the self and community. The relation between ritual and religious doctrine was renegotiated and brought forth a variety of reconfigurations of the relationship between spirituality and normative religion as well as that between religion and culture. Jewish strategies of self-revitalization, reconstruction and attempts to create a 'religion of culture' as well as feminist appropriations of Jewish faith are paradigmatic for the process of repositioning religion in modern and post-modern culture. We will examine through select primary sources to what extent these transformations of Judaism are informed by philosophy, the study of religion, and social theory and analyze the nature and limits of the envisioned synthesis. We will conclude the course with a discussion on secularized religion and social forms of religion.

### **JS 233 Issues in Rabbinic Literature**

Lieberman

W 4:00-7:00

316 Buttrick Hall

History of Rabbinic thought from its origins to the Middle Ages through the reading of central Rabbinic texts. Issues such as capital punishment, women in Rabbinic culture, sectarianism, and the power structures of Roman Palestine and Sasanian Babylonia. (*Form needed to receive graduate credit*)

### **JS 234 Reading Across Boundaries: Jewish and Non-Jewish Texts**

Wasserstein

T 12:10-3:00

308 Buttrick Hall

Jewish and non-Jewish literary and historical texts studied in parallel so as to discover the differences between them. The course will consider texts from the ancient world to the early modern period and ask what constitutes Jewish writing and how it has been defined through time and geography. All readings will be in English. (*Form needed to receive graduate credit*)

## **JS 250 The Problems of Evil**

Urban

TR 2:35-3:50

309 Buttrick Hall

The problem of evil and suffering not only poses a major challenge to the belief in a moral God advocated by biblical monotheism but also to religion in general. How does this discourse, which is often steeped in myth, shape our attitude toward social reality and personal responsibility then and now? We will begin our discussion with the Book of Job, which sets the discursive framework for all subsequent reflections on the theme. We will examine the paradigm of Job in traditional Judaism, medieval philosophy and modern thought. Our primary focus will be on modern Jewish responses to the experience of suffering (“justified suffering,” “meaningful suffering”) and how they shape Jewish ethics. The course concludes with post-Shah (Holocaust) theodicies and anti-theodicies. *(Form needed to receive graduate credit)*

### New Testament and Early Christianity

## **2511-02 New Testament**

Levine

MWF 11:10-12:00

This class offers an introduction to the materials documenting the origins of Christianity, to the social, literary, ideological, and theological contexts in which they emerged and which they reflect, and to the various critical methodologies employed in interpreting them.

## **3126-01 Teaching the Bible**

Hylan

MW 1:10-2:30

This course explores the practices of biblical interpretation within a congregational setting. Average church members are not often given the opportunity to interpret biblical texts. At most, they are expected to learn how experts have interpreted the texts and are asked to apply the conclusions others have drawn to their own lives. The course explores the possibilities and pitfalls of giving lay people the skills and resources necessary to become interpreters of biblical texts. The class has three components. We will examine what’s involved in exegesis by engaging as a class in the interpretation of selected biblical texts. We will practice teaching the steps of exegesis that we have identified. And we will discuss the implications of utilizing this approach to biblical study in particular congregational contexts.

## **3154-01 The Gospel of Luke**

Levine

T 10:10-1:00

Participants in this seminar will explore Luke's compositional techniques, soteriology, Christology, the relation to "Judaism," the economic and political views, and gender, ethnic, and class constructions. Students must demonstrate a proficient knowledge of Greek, as determined by the professor, prior to enrolling in the seminar.

## **3162-01 Pauline Interpretation of Christianity: Romans**

Patte

W 3:10-5:30

An exploration of the central themes of Paul's teaching as expressed in the letter to the Romans: universal sinfulness and guilt and justification through faith; Paul's Gospel to the Gentiles and the relation between Jews and Gentile Christians; the power of sin and of evil, its many forms, and the "gospel as power of God for salvation." We will consider these three themes by asking: How is Paul's teaching about them to the church of Rome related to his teaching to the other churches (in 1 Thessalonians, Galatians, and 1 & 2 Corinthians, in particular)? How was this teaching received by the churches of his time? In the following generations? By the Gnostics? By the church through the centuries? By believers today in different religious, political, socio-economic and cultural contexts? Requirements: Brief reading reports, & a research paper prepared throughout the second part of the semester that will be devoted to the topics chosen by the students for their papers. Active participation in discussion expected.

### **3344-01 Racial-Ethnic Biblical Criticism**

Segovia

R 1:10-4:00

Students participating in this seminar will analyze the juncture between Early Christian Studies and Racial-Ethnic Studies with a focus on the problematic of race and ethnicity in biblical texts and contexts as well as in modern and postmodern interpretations and interpreters. The grounding phenomenon of migration; representations of Self and Others, signification of race and ethnicity, approaches to race and ethnicity in the Roman Empire; approaches to race and ethnicity in early Christian texts and contexts are among the topics students will explore.

### **3841-01 Minority Biblical Criticism**

Segovia

T 1:10-4:00

Students who enroll in this seminar will analyze the juncture between Early Christian Studies and Minority Studies with a focus on the problematic of dominant-minority formations with the nation-state in biblical texts and contexts as well as in modern and postmodern interpretations and interpreters. The topics to be addressed include the grounding phenomenon of minority constructions and relations within nation-states; minority theory and criticism; approaches to and trajectories of biblical interpretation among United States minorities (African Americans, Asian Americans, Latino Americans, and Native Americans).

### **3845-01 Global Interpretations of Christian Scriptures**

Patte

M 3:10-5:30

Comparing interpretations of biblical texts by Christians in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Oceania - where at present two thirds of the readers of the Bible are - with those by Orthodox Christians in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, and by Catholic and Protestant Christians in Western Europe and North America. We will raise theoretical and methodological issues by addressing the question: Why all these interpretations can be and should be treated with respect? Considering concrete examples --interpretations from around the world of both New Testament and Old Testament texts -- , we will assess the respective roles of the interpreter/s religious and theological settings, and of her/his social, economic, political, ideological, and cultural

life-contexts in each interpretation, as well as the way in which each interpretation is grounded in the biblical text. Active participation in discussion, seminar presentations, developing a paper over the second part of the semester, are aimed at helping students to recognize the roles of religious and contextual assumptions in their own interpretations, even as they strive to be most rigorous in their reading of biblical texts.

### Religion, Psychology and Culture

#### **2550-01 Pastoral Care and Theology**

Miller-McLemore

R 3:10-6:00

The course addresses the study and practice of various approaches to pastoral care and moral guidance, the ways in which the student develops one's personhood, and the resources for pastoral care in the social sciences and theology.

#### **3054-01 Seminar in Method and Evaluation**

Gay

T 1:10-4:00

The use of the social sciences in the investigation of religious phenomena. The psychological analysis of religion. Representative studies and empirical investigations are sampled.

#### **3057-01 Seminar in Hope and Despair**

Rogers-Vaughn

T 8:10-10:00

This seminar from the pastoral theology and counseling discipline explores variable topics; for the spring term, the themes are hope and despair.

#### **3070-01 Seminar in Gender, Sexuality and the Family: Challenges in Care and Counseling**

Flesberg

M 6:10-8:00

This course addresses such issues as divorce, custody, blended families, reproductive issues, infidelity and adultery, unpaid labor in the household, rape, incest, domestic violence, and coming out. The class will focus on the delivery of pastoral care and counseling to these issues and will also address the utilization of community resources to facilitate further care. The course's design seeks to equip those who intend to be front-line care providers.

#### **3760-01 Clinical Seminar**

Flesberg

R 8:00-10:00

The Clinical Seminar, involving clinical practice, reading, and presentation of clinical work in rotation with peers, is required each semester of all PhD students in Religion, Psychology and Culture during the first two years of residency. It is directed by qualified clinicians and faculty in the Nashville area. Three hours credit is awarded in the spring semester.

#### **3970-01 Advanced Research Seminar in Religion, Psychology, and Culture**

Miller-McLemore

M 12:30-2:30

For students in the graduate department of religion and for third-year master of divinity degree students, the course will focus on research in progress at all levels of advanced graduate study (minor area research, dissertation proposals, chapters, future book, and article publication) and will involve presentation and critical response to selected research as well as the reading and review of major books in the field.

### Theological Studies

#### **2657-01 Constructive Christian Theology, Part II**

Thatamanil

MW 12:10-1:00; F 11:10-12:00

As the second course in the two-semester sequence of constructive Christian theology, the class will address the themes of Christology, the Holy Spirit, the Church and the world, and eschatology.

#### **3320-01 Seminar: Christology**

Meeks

T 3:10-5:00

Reading of contemporary theologies of the life, work, death, resurrection, and future of Jesus Christ. Focus is on ways in which views of salvation, self, society, and nature interact with the memory of Jesus.

#### **3325-01 Theology of the Nineteenth Century**

DeHart

R 11:00-1:00

Participants in this elective seminar will analyze the major movements in theological thought during the nineteenth century from Schleiermacher to Troeltsch.

#### **3326-01 Seminar: Soteriology**

Thatamanil

T 10:00-1:00

This course explores core themes and motifs in Christian accounts of salvation. Just what is salvation? What are we saved from and saved for? And just who/what is it that stands in need of salvation? Is salvation only for persons and communities or also even the Earth? This course will explore Christian accounts of salvation as justification, redemption, healing, liberation and deification. Central to the course will be a critical exploration of the doctrine of atonement. What is the meaning of the cross, and how can the death of Jesus on the cross be said to be atoning? Special attention will be given to the variety of atonement theories as well to contemporary feminist and womanist critiques of the same. Finally, this course will also consider the meaning of religious diversity for any Christian account of salvation. In what sense can we speak of the Christ as salvific and still affirm the positive worth and value of religious diversity? Central figures likely to be considered include Athanasius, Anselm, Gregory Palamas and on the contemporary front Jurgen Moltmann, David Kelsey, Darby Ray, JoAnne Marie Terrell, Ivone Gebara, Paul Knitter.

**3858-01 Thomas Aquinas**

Burns and DeHart

R 8:10-10:00

Students will engage in a systematic investigation of Aquinas' major theological and philosophical assertions with a consideration of his conception of the two disciplines and their relationships. All readings will be available in English translations.

**3908-01 Seminar in Systematic Theology: Anthropology**

Armour

W 3:10-6:00

Other Courses of Interest

**HOD 3200-01 Ethics of Community Research and Action**

Dokecki

MW 11:10-12:25

205 Mayborn

This course is intended to develop the ability to analyze situations encountered by action-researchers in community psychology, community development, prevention and community health/mental health, organizational change, community studies, and related community-based professional activities from the perspectives of (1) practice ethics, (2) research ethics, (3) policy ethics, and (4) the ethical/value issues entailed in conceptualizing the “ideal” community or society.

A comprehensive list of courses taught at Vanderbilt is found at:

<https://webapp.mis.vanderbilt.edu/CourseListing/CourseSchedule.action>