• Justice and Peace Studies
• Spiritual Direction Certification through the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program
• Other Educational Opportunities
  • Veterans of Hope Project
  • Courses at Affiliate Institutions
Justice and Peace Studies/Social Change Studies

Concern for Justice and Peace and interest in the way religion has both encouraged and resisted positive social change can be found throughout the Iliff curriculum. Justice and Peace courses approach movements for social change not only in the context of scripture and tradition, but also through those disciplines that foster social analysis: political theory, economics, sociology, and the study of social change. Students evaluate strategies to counter the ways in which the tools of injustice are used to create interlocking, self-justifying and damaging systems.

Building upon strong spiritual foundations, the program supports Iliff’s commitment to education that responds to the challenges of race and racism, class and economic exploitation, sexism/heterosexism, and militarism. The world’s diversity and the challenges of sharing power between dominant and non-dominant cultures are explored from faith perspectives. Students are encouraged to explore and develop personal and community strengths of spirit, which have carried social activists through their struggles against great odds. Adjunct faculty who teach Justice and Peace and Social Change courses often include experienced community activists and other justice and peace workers who bring their expertise and experience to the classroom.
Spiritual Direction Certification Through the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program

Through cooperative efforts with the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program (BSFP) at Benet Hill Monastery in Colorado Springs, Iliff is able to offer credit for a two-year program in Spiritual Direction that leads to certification as a Spiritual Director. Successful completion of the two year BSFP gives you certification (as well as direct experience) as a spiritual director.

This program has been described by Iliff graduates as “progressive” in its theology and deeply informed by the Benedictine charism of hospitality and welcome. The people who teach in the program have years of direct experience in providing the companionship in the Spirit that is traditionally called “spiritual direction.”

The Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program was designed and is directed by the Benedictine Sisters of Benet Hill Monastery. It is a two-year program of 28-2 ½ hour sessions each year with four additional workshops each year. The program broadens and personalizes students’ understanding of Christian beliefs and trains students who answer a call to become spiritual directors in practices of listening and discernment. During the second year of the program, students act as spiritual directors in training under supervision. Successful completion of the program results in certification as a spiritual director.

The intent of the BSFP is specifically to prepare and certify students as spiritual directors. Other courses at Iliff in spiritual life and prayer are offered at the introductory level. The BSFP coursework is offered at the intermediate level and focuses on preparation for practice as a spiritual director.

The coursework in Spiritual Direction may be added to the MDIV, MAPSC or MTS degrees as elective credit.

- The BSFP is four credits per year for two years, for a total of 8 quarter credits.
- Coursework is offered during Fall and Winter terms.
- Students may attend the BSFP in either Denver or Colorado Springs.
- Students must first apply to the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program and pay the BSFP $50 application fee.
• Application forms can be found on the Benet Hill website: [www.benethillmonastery.org/Education/BSFP_home.html](http://www.benethillmonastery.org/Education/BSFP_home.html)

• Those who are accepted into the BSFP and also wish to receive Iliff credit must first notify Rev. Cathie Kelsey, Dean of the Chapel at Iliff.

• Students receiving Iliff credit then enroll for two credits in the Fall term (BSF 201) and pay a special fee to Iliff that covers the cost of the BSFP tuition. Iliff then arranges payment to Benet Hill. This allows students to include these costs in their financial aid package. Iliff scholarships are not available to cover this fee.

• In the Winter term, the same arrangement is repeated (BSF 202)

• Final papers and evaluations are given to the Dean of the Chapel at Iliff who then certifies that Iliff credit has been earned.

• These Fall and Winter arrangements are repeated the second year of the program. (BSF 301/302)

The website for Benet Hill Monastery is [www.benethillmonastery.org](http://www.benethillmonastery.org) and the site for the Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program is [www.benethillmonastery.org/Education/BSFP_home.html](http://www.benethillmonastery.org/Education/BSFP_home.html). For additional information, especially about the Iliff logistics, or to think about whether you are being called to become a spiritual director, please contact the Dean of the Chapel at Iliff, (303) 765-3103.
Other Educational Opportunities:

Veterans of Hope Project: A Center for the Study of Religion and Democratic Renewal

The Veterans of Hope Project is an interdisciplinary initiative on religion, culture and participatory democracy located on the campus of the Iliff School of Theology in Denver. The Project was founded by Dr. Vincent Harding (1931-2014), and Mrs. Rosemarie Freeney Harding (1930-2004), and is based on their half century of work in movements for peace and social change. Since 1997, the Project’s primary mission has been to encourage a healing-centered approach to community-building that recognizes the interconnectedness of spirit, creativity and citizenship. Guided by the Hardings, their daughter Rachel and their niece, Gloria Smith, the Project has produced educational materials, workshops and programming designed to support reconciliation, nonviolence, and an appreciation for the value of indigenous and folk wisdom for contemporary times.

The major on-going program of the Veterans of Hope Project is a public interview series which documents the life stories of “Veterans,” women and men from a variety of ethnic, cultural, and religious communities, who have been active for decades in movements for compassionate social change. These include community organizers, creative artists, religious leaders, educators, and healers. Through an educational video and pamphlet series, public forums with national and international Veterans, workshops, retreats, consultations, and cultural events, the Project collects and shares the transformative histories of “long-distance runners” for peace and justice - passing on the values, faith and practice that have guided their lives and work.

The Veterans of Hope Project is also committed to building strong intergenerational connections, urging younger people to learn about the social justice history of our country and to share their own stories and concerns for the expansion of democracy in the United States. From 2002-2012 the VOHP developed a youth leadership initiative called “Ambassadors of Hope” which featured a biennial summer institute and year-round cultural programming.

Vincent Harding passed in May 2014. Dr. Rachel Harding and Ms. Gloria Smith, together with coworkers, friends and supporters, continue the work of the VOHP. For more information about programs, workshops, videos and pamphlets, please contact Ms. Gloria Smith through the Veterans of Hope Project office, (303) 765-3198 gsmit@iliff.edu. Please also visit www.veteransofhope.org and/or join us on Facebook.
Courses at Affiliate Institutions

Students are encouraged to consult advisors about appropriate courses at Denver Seminary and the University of Denver. To cross-register, a student must be enrolled as a full-time degree student at Iliff. Cross-registration is not available in the summer quarter. Cross-registration procedures are explained in the *The Master’s Student Handbook*. More information about cross registration is also available from the Registrar (303-765-3127).