Comparative Religious Traditions

Religions in the World 4 credits
A brief introduction to the history and doctrines of some of the world’s religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, African Religions, North American Indian Religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The course is meant to give students an overview that can then be built upon in other courses.

Interreligious Dialogue 4 credits
Can members of different religious groups genuinely meet as equals, or does one group always have the upper hand? Is there a hidden agenda in such dialogue? This course explores various perspectives that help students expand their ability to see both sides of an issue and respect multiple faith traditions.

Comparative Philosophy of Religion 4 credits
A cross-cultural and comparative introduction to the philosophy and practices of religion focusing on definitions of religion, the relationship between faith and reason, religion and language, the problem of evil and arguments for and against the existence of God(s).

Indian Philosophy 4 credits
A survey of the major religio-philosophical traditions of India up to the time of the Muslim conquests: the Indus Valley culture, the sramanic traditions (Buddhism and Jainism), the six orthodox philosophical schools and devotionalism (bhakti).

The Gods and Goddesses of India 4 credits
An exploration of the development, character, and function of the gods and goddesses of India by looking at a variety of mythological, historical, and ethnographical sources. The course is roughly divided into two halves, the first of which will focus predominantly on male images of the divine, the second predominantly on female images of the divine.

Pilgrimage in Comparative Perspective 4 credits
A comparative study that examines the dynamics of pilgrimage from a number of different angles-theoretical, doctrinal, ritual, social-and which utilizes a variety of sources (including classical, ethnographic studies of actual pilgrimages) and focused studies of particular pilgrimage places.
Sacred Space and Place in Comparative Perspective  4 credits
Examining sacred spaces and sacred places from a comparative perspective. Through close reading and discussion of primary and secondary sources, students will be challenged to think critically and theoretically about sacred spaces and places. Prerequisites: Religions in the World, at least one Bible sequence course, or permission from one of the instructors.

Intro to Islam  4 credits
This is an introductory course on Islamic history, theology, and culture that provides a basic knowledge of the vast set of traditions known collectively as “Islam.” We will attempt to understand Islam not as a strict set of rituals or as a collective identity, but as a mosaic of practices and traditions shaped by 1,400 years of engagement with societies around the globe, from Arabia to Europe. It is through this attention to the diversity of beliefs and practices that exist among the 1.3 billion people who identify as Muslims that we will come to a more nuanced understanding of what Islam is and is not.

Buddhist Philosophy  4 credits
An introduction to the Buddhist philosophical tradition that covers both the different philosophical movements within Buddhism as well as schools of thought and major philosophical issues.

Native American Religious Traditions  4 credits
A survey of the world views of Native American people as these pertain to both inter-tribal beliefs and Native American ceremonial life, with an attempt to show how Native American practice proceeds from their world view.
Constructive Theology

Theological Imagination and Construction
I and II 4 credits each quarter
These courses: (a) introduce students to the main movements in Christian theology since the late nineteenth century and their particular historical foundations; (b) introduce students to the tasks of Christian theology: its varying criteria, methods and substantive proposals on what it has often taken to be the fundamental human questions; and (c) enable students to develop a systematic statement of their own theological perspective, with attention to: (1) its clarity, coherence and capacity to illuminate experience; (2) its relationship to the resources and limitations of a particular historical tradition and the interests of a particular social location; (3) its relationship to alternative Christian perspectives, especially those of a traditionally excluded peoples; and (4) its possible implications in terms of social and personal praxis.

Theological Anthropology 4 credits
What does it mean to be human? This question lies at the heart of every worldview and theological system. Students will begin to formulate their own sophisticated answer to this question in conversation with important thinkers on this topic from the Christian theological tradition, philosophy, and anthropology.

Christology 4 credits
Understandings of Christ and salvation in Christian theology.

Theology, Religion and Science 4 credits
An examination of the nature of truth and method in religion and science, and an investigation of the impact/challenge presented by science to religion and vice-versa.

Twentieth-Century American Theology 4 credits
Consideration of the developments in American theology in the 20th century.

Feminist Theology 4 credits
An introduction to feminist perspectives as found both in historical texts and in contemporary theological works. Particular attention is given to issues of methodology and to the diversities within feminist theology. Prerequisite: at least one introductory course in theology, gender studies, or a related subject area.
Process Theology  4 credits
Introduction to process thought and its influence upon theological reflection. Readings of major process philosophers and theologians.

Kierkegaard & Existentialist Theology  4 credits
Kierkegaard and the origins of existentialism; Twentieth-century forms of existentialism and recent developments; the decline of neo-orthodoxy and resurgence of phenomenology.

Schleiermacher & Liberal Theology  4 credits
Consideration of the theology of Friedrich Schleiermacher. Analysis of the philosophical and theological predecessors of Schleiermacher as well as the tradition of theological liberalism that followed him.

Theology and Culture  4 credits
An examination of the ways in which artistic and aesthetic expressions reflect and initiate religious meanings, with particular attention to American theology, poetry and fiction.

Religious & Theological Interpretations of America  4 credits
A critical examination of religious and implicitly theological interpretations of America from Puritanism to the present.

Theology & the Challenge of Postmodernism  4 credits
An examination of representative postmodern thinkers, how they have changed the context for theology, and how theology has responded to them.

Theology and Human Sexuality  4 credits
A critical survey of both historical and prevailing concepts of human sexualities in various religious, cultural and theological traditions. An examination of the phenomenology of sexuality in relation to issues of power, identity, as well as in relation to the politics of sexual difference.

Liberation Theologies  4 credits
Consideration of contemporary liberation movements with focus on feminist, black, and third-world theologies.

Disability & Difference: Theological & Ethical Perspectives  4 credits
This course will introduce disability studies as a lens for theology and ethics, and will consider options for theory and praxis that are authentic to the full diversity of human embodiment.
Systematic Theology I & II  
4 credits each quarter
Systematics focuses on the importance of system in Christian theology and on the development of students’ own systematic theology through a reading of three prominent systematicians, classical, modern, and contemporary. Quarter 1-method, doctrine of God, sin, and Christology. Quarter 2-the work of Christ, faith, eschatology, ecclesiology, and sacraments. Either quarter may be taken independently. Prerequisites: Theological Imagination and Construction I or II, or permission from the instructor.

Narrative Approaches to the Religious Life  
4 credits
An introduction to narrative approaches to theology and biblical studies and explores the role of narratives, such as contemporary novels and films, in the religious imagination of individuals and communities.

Practical Theology  
4 credits
This course explores models of practical theological reflection and methods of reflective professional practice as frameworks for religious leadership in the variety of contexts in which students will work.
Sacred Texts

Note: In most cases, Introduction to the Hebrew Bible and/or Introduction to the New Testament are prerequisite for 3000 level courses in the area of Sacred Texts.

Introduction to the Hebrew Bible
4 credits
An introduction to the literature and history of ancient Israel and early Judaism with special attention to the various methods appropriate to studying the Hebrew Bible.

Introduction to the New Testament
4 credits
An introduction to the literature of Christian origins that begins with a look at the context out of which the New Testament emerged, then turns to the earliest extant texts, Paul’s letters and covers the Gospels, Acts, and post-Pauline epistles.

Life and Teachings of Jesus
4 credits
There are many conflicting views of Jesus of Nazareth, from apocalyptic prophet, to peacemaker, to the Son of God. This course looks at ancient evidence for what we can possibly know about the life of Jesus of Nazareth beginning with what the different gospels say about him. It will then also look at archaeological and sociological evidence, taking into account both conservative and liberal views of him, including recent quests for the historical Jesus and multiple portrayals on film.

Sacred Space and Place in Comparative Perspective
4 credits
An examination of sacred spaces and sacred places from a comparative perspective. Through close reading and discussion of primary and secondary sources, students will be challenged to think critically and theoretically about sacred spaces and places.
Hebrew Bible Literature Each class is normally 4 credits
Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year. Introduction to the Hebrew Bible is a prerequisite for all Hebrew Bible Literature courses.
  - Genesis
  - Job
  - Psalms
  - Wisdom Literature
  - Prophetic Literature
  - Writings
  - Isaiah
  - Ruth & Esther
  - Jeremiah
  - Jonah
  - Poetry of the Bible
  - I Samuel
  - Judges
  - Exodus
  - Leviticus

New Testament Literature Each class is normally 4 credits
  - Synoptic Gospels
  - Parables
  - Matthew
  - Mark
  - Luke
  - John
  - Acts of the Apostles
  - Romans
  - Corinthians
  - Galatians
  - Ephesians
  - Revelation
  - Hebrews
Biblical Theology 4 credits
Each quarter the course is offered it will deal with a selected issue, e.g., Old Testament theology, Christology, Jesus the hero.

Feminist Interpretation of the Bible 4 credits
An exploration of feminist hermeneutics as it pertains to selected texts from the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. Attention will be given both to examining the works of feminist interpretation and to the development of critical skills in reading biblical texts.

New Testament Seminar: Language and Text 4 credits
This seminar focuses on advanced Greek grammar, reading and vocabulary building, textual criticism and reference tools. Prerequisite: at least one year of Greek language

Hebrew Bible Seminar: Language and Text 4 credits
This seminar focuses on the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia; Hebrew grammar and syntax; and text critical methodology.
Greek and Hebrew

Greek I  4 credits
Introduction to grammar of Koine Greek for translation and exegetical study (offered every other year).

Greek II  4 credits
Continuation Greek I

New Testament Greek Exegesis  4 credits
Continuation of Greek II with a focus on exegetical method (offered every other year).

Greek Reading  2 credits
Selected readings from the New Testament and other early Christian literature. Greek I, II, and Exegesis are prerequisites. May be repeated for credit.

NT Seminar: Language and Text  4 credits
Focuses on advanced Greek grammar, reading and vocabulary building, textual criticism, and reference tools. At least one full year of Greek language is required.

Hebrew I  4 credits
Introduction to grammar of biblical Hebrew for translation and exegetical study (offered every other year).

Hebrew II  4 credits
Continuation of Hebrew I (offered every other year).

Hebrew Bible Exegesis  4 credits
Continuation of Hebrew II with a focus on exegetical method (offered every other year.)

Hebrew Reading  2 credits
Selected readings from the Hebrew Bible. Hebrew I, II, and Exegesis are prerequisites (offered each year). May be repeated for credit.

Hebrew Bible Seminar: Language and Text  4 credits
Focuses on the Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia; Hebrew grammar and syntax; and text critical methodology. At least one full year of Hebrew language is required.
Historical Development/Exploration of Religious Traditions

**Christianity in Antiquity (to 600 C.E.)** 4 credits
An introduction to the social, institutional, and intellectual history of Christianity in Europe from the beginnings through the century following the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Topics include: context and origins, structures of worship and ministry in the early church, persecution and martyrdom, early Christian thought and Greek philosophy, unity and diversity in early Christianity, orthodoxy and heresy, the rise of Constantine the Great, the Arian controversy and the Council of Nicea, early ascetic movements, and the theology of Augustine.

**Christianity in Western Europe in the Middle Ages** 4 credits
An introduction to the social, institutional and intellectual history of Christianity in Europe from the seventh century to the eve of the Reformation. Topics include: the growth and reform of the papacy, the medieval monks and friars, Scholasticism, the rise of the universities, the theology of Aquinas and the breakdown of the Thomistic synthesis, the decline of the papacy, conciliarism, medieval mystics, the conflict between the late medieval Church and State, the Renaissance and Christian humanism.

**Christianity in the Modern World: Colonialism and Christianities in the Americas, Asia, and Africa** 4 credits
Looks at the emergence of Christianity in the modern world, from the colonialism of the late fifteenth century to Christianities in the Americas, Asia and Africa. An examination of the Aboriginal-Euro-African culture of North America; the impact of Christian missions on indigenous cultures and religions; Christianity in Latin America, Asia and Africa, and the non-Christian world; contemporary theologies in their various contexts.

**Christianity from Reformation to the Enlightenment** 4 credits
A brief survey of classic texts in the history of Christian thought, with particular emphasis on the period from the Reformation to the early modern period. Designed as an exploratory introduction to the major themes, movements, and key thinkers which have shaped the Protestant tradition and the ever-changing landscape of modern theology.
Encountering God at the Margins: Hispanic Spirituality Past and Present  2 credits
An examination of selected themes and authors representing the spiritual traditions, religious practices, and literary works of Hispanic and Latino cultures across time and place.

Holy Spirit: History and Traditions  2 credits
What is the role of personal experience in relationship with God and the Spirit? Why has the Pentecostal legacy functioned simultaneously as a way of critiquing dominant Church paradigms while also sparking creative re-interpretations of Christian tradition among so many reformers? These questions will be examined across a variety of Christian beliefs and approaches.

Spanish Mystics and Reformers  4 credits
The works of mystics and reformers such as Teresa of Ávila, John of the Cross, and Ignatius of Loyola are examined. We learn about their mystical practices and commitments to religious reform and social change, and explore why their work threatened the authority of European nation states and the established church.

Women in American Religious History  4 credits
Exploration of the history of women’s experience, changing images and roles, and leadership and participation in North American religious life from the Seventeenth to the Twentieth centuries.

Muslims, Jews & Christians in Medieval Spain  4 credits
An exploration of the “Golden Age” of cross-cultural encounters that occurred in Medieval Spain from the Muslim conquest in 711 to the fall of Granada and the expulsion of Jews in 1492; an overview of the historical and ecumenical dimensions of Jewish, Christian, and Muslim coexistence known as “La Convivencia.”

Women in Medieval Europe  4 credits
A focus on the role of medieval women in the time frame of 1100-1600, who struggled to find a voice as writers or leaders in the political, religious, social and literary arenas including Hildegard of Bingen, Julian of Norwich and Teresa of Avila among others.
Historiography 4 credits
A survey of the various theories and methods developed by historians since the emergence of the historical profession from the roots of historicism and philosophy of history in the mid-1800s, and an examination the relationship of history to theology, cultural theory and literary studies.

Violence & Toleration in Medieval Europe 4 credits
An examination of a wide range of texts and events from the Eleventh to the Sixteenth centuries dealing with various forms of violence across the medieval world and contrasts these with medieval notions of tolerance in theological and political discourse.
Social and Contextual Analysis

**Christianity in Contemporary American Society**  
4 credits  
An examination of institutional, cultural and ideological aspects of Christianity in the contemporary United States. Topics include denominational and doctrinal divisions, congregational cultures, membership growth and decline, gender and sexuality, and racial minority communities.

**Ethical Analysis and Advocacy**  
4 credits  
Introduction to ethical reflection about contemporary moral issues in an ecumenical and global context. This course draws on ethical and sociological theory and analysis and on theological and psychological perspectives.

**Formative Figures in Christian Ethics**  
4 credits  
Selected Christian ethicists, either historical or contemporary.

**Social Ethical Issues**  
4 credits  
Examination of the scope of Christian social ethics and the relationship of the analytic and diagnostic task to normative and prescriptive endeavor. May be repeated.

**Doing Christian Ethics from the Margins**  
4 credits  
The aim of this course is to enable students to: construct ethical responses to case studies from the perspectives of those suffering from race, class and gender oppression; to investigate Biblical protest narratives as the resistance and struggle against race, class and gender domination and oppression; and to examine various liberationist ethical interpretations as a source for overcoming dominant religious power structures.

**Theological Ethics**  
4 credits  
An examination of the emergence and development of liberation theology, religious faith, and social protest thought.
Ethics of Neo-liberalism and Globalization 4 credits
People of faith have responded to the triumph of the free market economy around the world in a variety of ways. To some, “neoliberalism” seems to hold the key to sustained economic growth worldwide and, eventually, to nothing less than the eradication of poverty itself. To others, it represents the unleashing of corporate greed on a scale previously unknown, with momentous and often disastrous consequences for the working poor, the economically marginalized, and the environment. Does the new global economy signify the lifting of all boats or the race to the bottom? Does it further Christian ethical values or subvert them?

Fanon, Foucault, and Friends 4 credits
Readings of the primary sources of postcolonialists (mainly Fanon) and postmodernists (mainly Foucault) to explore creating ethical approaches to globalized manifestations of race, class and gender oppression. Special attention will be given to the use of Christianity as a liberationist response to global structures of oppression, and its historic use in causing much of said oppression.

Hispanic Ethics and Theology 4 credits
The primary sources of Latino/a theological and ethical thought will be read to discover its foundational tenets. The course will explore this contextual approach to religion to discover how it could serve to liberate the Latino/a community from prevalent oppressive social structures. Comparisons will be made with Eurocentric ethics and theology.

Race and Religion in the United States 4 credits
An exploration of the different ways in which race is understood religiously in the United States and how race impacts both white and racial minority religious institutions. Specific topics include the black church, the Nation of Islam, Native American theology, the Christian far right, Asian American religions, Latino/a religions, and multiracial congregations.

Science and the Christian Right 4 credits
An examination of the American Christian Right’s challenges to mainstream scientific theories and practices. Specific topics include the Intelligent Design movement, reparative therapy of homosexuality, denial of human-driven climate change, and opposition to stem cell research.
Sects, Cults, and New Religions 4 credits
An exploration of religious groups that are considered to be outside mainstream society. Specific topics include: theories of religious group innovation and recruitment, controversies over identifying “cults”, sectarian Christianity; gender and sexuality, religious understandings of extraterrestrial life, and religion and marginalized racial projects.

Contemporary Sociology of Religion 4 credits
An examination of contemporary theoretical and empirical issues in the sociological study of religion. Principal topics include secularization and religious revival, rational choice, politics, ethnography, and religious pluralism in the United States.

Liberal and Evangelical Protestantism in the United States 4 credits
An examination of differences, commonalities, and interactions between liberal and evangelical forms of Protestantism in the United States. Topics of focus include congregational cultures, race, sexuality, politics, science, and popular media.

Biblical Ethics 4 credits
Can the text liberate those who are oppressed? To do so, it must be read with the eyes of the disenfranchised. This course will explore how the Bible can be used to liberate those who suffer due to race, class and gender oppression.

Congregations 4 credits
An introduction to the social scientific literature on congregations. Students learn basic methodology for analyzing congregations and their surrounding communities. A review of the empirical literature on congregations covers such issues as congregational cultures, leadership styles, adaptation to community change, racial/ethnic diversity, fund-raising, and membership growth and decline.

Ethical Perspectives on Justice & Peace 4 credits
An exploration of various ways to study justice and peace, including normative theories. Special attention will be given to the contributions of religious perspectives and the meanings of justice and peace and their interrelation.
Race, Gender, Class: Historical & Social Scientific
Analysis of Individual, Institutional and Systemic
Racism in the Modern World 4 credits
A historical survey of the role of racism, sexism and classism in shaping
the oppressive institutional structures of the existing world order and of
how sociological analysis of these structures can help justice and peace
activists direct effective action toward the elimination of race, gender and
class oppression. Offered annually.

Foundations of Social Change 4 credits
An interdisciplinary critical review of social change strategies and their
historical and contemporary contexts. Students will identify and share
their own motivations for social change as part of a critical attempt to
identify and understand the meaning systems behind social change
strategies such as: social movements, legislative and political systems,
violece-based conflict, market systems and economics, education and
multimedia, direct service, and alternative communities.

Social Construction and Selfhood 4 credits
An interdisciplinary exploration of the intersection between formational
social structures and individual identity or selfhood. Among the themes
discussed will be the relation of social construction to individual or
communal agency within the formative and systemic power of social
structures and institutions, and the development of coherent religious,
educational, and other forms of social change.

Social Change Seminars: 2 to 4 credits
An in-depth and interdisciplinary exploration and analysis of a variety of
topics pertaining to individual and collective social change experiences,
strategies, and practices. Topics change each term.

Social Change Praxis: 1 to 4 credits
An integration of theory and practice within a practice-based learning
environment, often including community-engaged collaboration with
non-profit organizations, government agencies, or civic groups. Topics
change each term.
Religion, Media and Culture

Religion and Popular Culture 4 credits
Explores the complex ways in which religion and mass media interact in contemporary society, helping students articulate their own individual and communal theological understandings in conversation with popular culture.

Media, Religion and Culture 4 credits
Draws on social theory, ethnography and reception studies to examine how religion is embedded in media, and how ritualized media practices function as religion.

Studies in Popular Culture: Myth, Religion and Story 4 credits
This course examines the cultural function of mass-market storytelling in television, film and print and looks at religious critiques and interpretations of the media and at religious broadcasting.

Religion and Film 4 credits
Explores the interactions between religion and film. Students relate reading in film criticism, aesthetic theory and theological reflection to a range of popular and art films from diverse cultures.
Pastoral and Spiritual Care

Pastoral Theology and Care 4 credits
An introduction to theories of care, counseling, and psychotherapy in relation to theories of humanity and personhood. Special attention will be given to theological, psychological and ethical perspectives. Course normally requires one extra hour TBA in small group meetings. Normally, Pastoral Theology and Care is a prerequisite for all other courses in the area of pastoral care. Petitions for exceptions should go to the area faculty before registration.

Substance Abuse and Dependence: Psychological and Theological Perspectives 2 credits
Bringing psychological and theological perspectives on substance abuse and dependence into dialogue, we will explore ways to draw on religion and spirituality to help people moderate their use of alcohol and addictive substances.

Impact of War on the Pastoral Care of Families 4 credits
An examination of the impact of war on families and the occasions, brought about by war, for pastoral care with families. We will closely examine the pastoral needs of soldiers, protestors, bystanders, refugees, and veterans in the context of family dynamics. Religious symbolism and ethical orientations operating in families will be analyzed through case studies, research literature and novels.

Theodicy and Tragedy 4 credits
Using tragic narratives in film, literature and experience, we compare theological understandings of suffering to assist care-seekers in making sense of tragedy.

Spiritual Care in a Clinical Setting 4 credits
Supervised ministry in a clinical setting such as a hospital, hospice, geriatric facility, correctional facility or treatment center. Includes three hours a week of hospital chaplaincy and a mandatory four hour hospital orientation.

Sexual and Physical Violence: Pastoral Responses 4 credits
Employing the use of contextual, cross-disciplinary pastoral theological methods to understand and respond to victims, perpetrators and witnesses of physical and sexual violence, as well as catastrophic violence.
Pastoral Care in Death & Dying, Grief & Loss 4 credits
An examination of representative contemporary literature on death, dying, grief, and loss from a pastoral and theological point of view. Combining theory and practice, the course will help students develop a personal, pastoral, and theological response to persons and communities challenged by loss.

Ministry and Human Sexuality 4 credits
Reflecting on narratives of sexual desire and intimacy, gender, sexual orientation and body image, this course compares theological and psychological ways of understanding sexuality.

Self Care: Theological and Psychological Perspectives 2 credits
Students will form both an accountability/support group and peer counseling relationships in which they evaluate how they habitually cope with stress, including how they draw upon religion and spirituality.

Multi-Cultural Pastoral Care & Counseling 4 credits
An integration of cultural sensitivity and self-awareness into pastoral care and counseling through the development of practices that affirm cultural diversity and particularity.

Theological Themes in Pastoral Care 4 credits
Theological bases of pastoral care. Contributions of contemporary pastoral care to theology.

Pastoral Care of Families 4 credits
Examination of marriage and family from religious perspectives. Basic methods of marriage and family counseling for the parish minister.

Research Methods in Religion and the Behavioral Sciences 4 credits
A post-modern approach to cross-disciplinary quantitative and qualitative research in religious/theological studies and the social sciences.

Clinical Practice: Theological and Psychological Perspectives 4 credits
In learning how to evaluate spiritually-oriented approaches to counseling, we will examine whether and how religious and theological studies are used in the practice of care. Using case studies drawn from our own practices of care, literature, and film, we will experiment with using various spiritually-oriented approaches to counseling by writing fictional verbatim of spiritual care conversations.
Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Pastoral, Psychological, and Theological Responses  4 credits
Students will observe groups on the inpatient psychiatric units at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) in Denver. They need to be able to attend an orientation one month prior to the course at the VAMC. Students will reflect upon the observations, as well as their own experience of trauma using theological and psychological perspectives. Permission required to register.

Process Theology and Spiritual Care  4 credits
This course creates a conversation between process theology and spiritual care. Utilizing an aesthetic approach, we will develop a constructive framework of care from themes found in process theology.
Theology and Religious Practices

Leadership: Vision, Administration and Ethics 4 credits
Leadership is explored as (1) a matter of individual gifts and skills; (2) a community practice shaped by shared or contested needs and expectations; and (3) rooted in a vision lived out in practices of administration and management.

Financial Management 2 credits
A brief examination of various financial management concepts relevant to church leaders, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and various social and community activist positions. The class will explore important debt, equity, and fundraising issues critical to success in these fields and introduce basic financial terms such as forecasting, budgeting, and cash flow.

Ministry Praxis Seminar 1 credit
Ministry Praxis Seminars are one credit hour weekend courses offered quarterly that focus on specific aspects of the practice of ministry with attention given to the integration of theory and practice. Topics will vary and may include issues such as life cycle rituals, budgeting and finance, ministry in particular settings. The course may be repeated for credit.

Ritual Studies 4 credits
By reading some of the most important “classic” and recent theorists of ritual, and by learning to observe and understand ritual behavior, this class will examine the important role of ritual in defining religious groups, creating religious identity, forming religious beliefs, and structuring how we view the world.

Introduction to Christian Religious Education 4 credits
An introduction to Christian religious education, with particular attention to the socio-historical contexts, theological understandings, and characteristic practices of the teaching ministry of the church. (5SQ Core Course)

Multi-Cultural Approaches to Religious Education 4 credits
An introduction to distinctive characteristics, concerns, and theological and educational assumptions of various ethnic, racial and cultural approaches to religious education. Special attention is given to the challenges of education in cross-cultural contexts.
Youth Ministries 4 credits
An exploration of congregational ministries with young people in light of multidisciplinary approaches to the construction of adolescence.

Children in the Community of Faith 4 credits
Participants in the course will strive to articulate a practical theology of childhood that informs their varied ministries with children.

Teaching and Learning in the Faith Community 4 credits
An exploration of the foundational issues in religious education with specific attention to theories and practices of teaching and learning.

Practicum in Religious Educational Ministries 2 credits
Exploration of theories and models of educational ministry with a particular age level or in a specific setting, with the goal of developing an informed, contextual and critical practice of ministry. May be repeated for credit with change of topic.

Teaching the Bible 4 credits
Practice with educational models to assist students in developing professional self-understanding and functional skills as interpreters and teachers. This course is an alternative to Introduction to Christian Religious Education.

Women and Spirituality 4 credits
An examination of the history of Christian religious education through the life, thought and contribution of women who have shaped religious education theory and practice.

Imagination and Spiritual Formation 4 credits
An examination of the role of the imagination in the learning process, the relationship between creativity and the imagination, and the theological significance of human imagination and creativity.

Education and Social Change 4 credits
An investigation of the role of education in maintaining and transforming social structures, identity, and commitments. We will examine how educational practices can contribute towards social change in both religious and public settings.
Preaching in Christian Communities  
4 credits
An exploration of biblical and theological understandings of preaching, enabling students to develop skills in the preparation and delivery of sermons utilizing cross-cultural and interdisciplinary resources. Opportunities for preaching and peer evaluation. Preliminary study in biblical exegesis or theology is strongly encouraged. Normally, this course is a prerequisite for all other courses in the area of preaching. Petitions for exceptions should go to the area faculty before registration.

Introduction to Christian Worship  
4 credits
Designed to help students deepen their theological understanding of Christian worship and broaden their liturgical experiences as a way to communicate faith with individuals and communities. Through lectures, readings, discussions, presentations, and worship exercises, students will be encouraged to become creative spiritual worship leaders who can help their congregations live faithfully in the presence of God in various spheres of life.

Developing Taize-style Worship, Exploring Taize Music, Understanding Taize Ministry  
1 credit
A careful exploration of the worship style developed by the Brothers of Taize in outreach and response to young adults and youth. The course includes experience of worship, as well as an analysis of the practices and theory behind them that make it possible for congregations to start and sustain worship in this style. The “Taize experience” focuses on life in Christ, simplicity of heart, the study of scripture, sung prayer and silence.

Spiritual Preaching: Relationship Between Christian Spirituality & Preaching  
4 credits
The aim of this course is to help students understand the nature and function of preaching in relationship to Christian spirituality and develop their preaching skills for the formation and nurture of the congregation’s spirituality. Preliminary study in biblical exegesis or theology is strongly encouraged. Limited enrollment.

Christian Year in the Parish Life  
4 Credits
This course will explore the Christian liturgical calendar as a formative practice developed over centuries of parish life. Students will explore the historical background, theological themes, and characteristic practices of major seasons and feast days, and reflectively engage in practices of preaching, liturgy, education, and spiritual formation related to the Christian year.
Lectionary Preaching & Christian Doctrines 4 credits
Helping students understand the liturgical seasons of the Christian year, the formation of the lectionary through reading and lectures, and to prepare their sermons by deepening the doctrinal themes based on the lectionary.

History and Practice of Preaching from the Woman’s Perspective 4 credits
Helping students to develop their preaching knowledge and skills by introducing a variety of sermons by women preachers and the evolution of communication theories over the centuries to the present.

Preaching and Social Ethics 4 credits
A blending of methods of ethical analysis and advocacy with homiletical theories about how to deal with people’s resistance to socially challenging issues. Students get to preach on a wide range of moral issues that confront the church and society.

Narrative Preaching 4 credits
A focus on a sub-discipline of homiletics called “narrative preaching.”

Gospel, Culture and Proclamation 4 credits
An exploration of diverse homiletical models for preaching through cross-cultural dialogue.
Spiritual Direction and Spirituality

Benedictine Spiritual Formation Program 8 credits total
Two-year weekly training program leading to certification as a spiritual director. Iliff degree students may earn up to 8 credit hours over the two years. (Iliff is not able to offer credit for the program to non-degree students.) The program broadens and personalizes students’ understanding of Christian beliefs and trains students who discern a call to become spiritual directors in practices of listening and discernment. Students apply directly to BSFP for admission – with Permission of the Dean of the Chapel. Students pay an additional fee to participate in this program, equivalent to the tuition charged by the Benedictine Program.

Praying for Peace and Justice 2 credits
An examination of the relationship of contemplation and action. It will explore the ways people pray for peace and justice-how actions for the sake of peace and justice are prayers in themselves.

Experiencing the Art of Spiritual Direction 2 credits
An introduction to and models of spiritual direction, along with experiencing and practicing the art of spiritual direction. An exploration of the ways we can guide and direct the spiritual journeys of others in the context of our chosen ministries.

The Spiritual Journey 2 credits
An opportunity to examine one’s own spiritual journey: past, present, and future. Obstacles, surprises, and blessings on the journey will be explored. Students will learn to recognize and value the diversity of spiritual paths. Course is experiential.

Spiritual Leadership 2 credits
Experiential learning through guidance where participants to find their grounding in God from which spiritual leadership springs.

Introduction to Sacred Dance 2 credits
The Life of Prayer 2 credits
Attention given to the meaning, value, and practice of prayer in the past and present. Resources and guidance given to help strengthen one’s own devotional life and to provide leadership in the area of prayer.

Praying with Scripture 2 credits
Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament contain prayers, instructions regarding prayer, and material to be taken into depth prayer. Through the traditional form of lectio divina (reading of the sacred books), we will discover a variety of ways that scripture can lead us into ever-deeper prayer.

Denominational History, Polity and Doctrine

United Methodist History 4 credits
English Methodism to the death of John Wesley; the United Methodist tradition in North America; racial and ethnic diversity and the role of women in United Methodism. This course meets the disciplinary requirements for ordination. Offered each year online and residential.

United Methodist Doctrine 4 credits
An exploration of the doctrinal heritage of United Methodism: its sources, distinctive marks, development in the United States, relation to contemporary doctrinal standards and practices of the UMC and role in ecumenical dialogue. This course meets the disciplinary requirements for ordination to elder or permanent deacon or diaconal ministry in the UMC. Offered each year online and residential.

United Methodist Polity For Leadership 4 credits
Organization and methodology of The United Methodist Church. This course meets the disciplinary requirement for diaconal ministry or ordination to elder or permanent deacon in the UMC. Offered each year.

United Methodist General Conference 2 credits
The issues and procedures of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission and Evangelism in Contemporary Context</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biblical, historical, and theological understandings of evangelism are</td>
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<td>examined in light of the church’s understanding of Christian mission and</td>
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<tr>
<td>ministry. Offer each year online only.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christianity in the British Isles &amp; the English Reformation</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>An in-depth view of the history of Christianity in the British Isles from</td>
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<td>the beginning of the Roman occupation to the present that seeks to</td>
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<td>highlight the reforming tendencies both before and after the 16th Century.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrative Colloquium in Anglican Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>A synthetic approach to the study of Holy Scripture, Church history, ethics,</td>
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<td>liturgics and Church music, studies in contemporary society, and the theory</td>
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<td>and practice of ministry from an Anglican theological perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anglican Liturgy</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>A consideration of the theology and historical development Anglican</td>
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<tr>
<td>worship as reflected in <em>The Book of Common Prayer</em>, with attention paid</td>
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<td>to the role of symbol and ritual in worship, the Rites of Initiation and the</td>
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<td>Eucharist, the Daily and Pastoral Offices, the Lectionary, and Proper</td>
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<td>Liturgies for Special Days.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Devotional Life: Historical/Contemporary Perspectives &amp; Practice</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>A multifaceted approach that provides a historical, theological and</td>
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<td>experiential grounding for individual, personal practices of piety,</td>
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<td>pastoral formation and growth, and the exercise of ministries within a</td>
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<td>framework of traditional Anglican spirituality.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Polity of the Episcopal Church &amp; the Anglican Communion</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>A careful examination of the current <em>Constitution and Canons</em> of the</td>
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<tr>
<td>Episcopal Church set against the larger backdrop of the role of authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>in the Anglican Communion. The impact of this broader understanding of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church polity on diocesan conventions and local parish administration is</td>
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<td>also considered.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Polity</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principles and methods of organization used in major Protestant churches</td>
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<tr>
<td>(UCC, Baptist, PCUSA, Disciples, UU, etc.) Designed for non-United</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methodists to prepare them for organizational leadership and to meet</td>
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<tr>
<td>polity requirements of various denominations, according to student need and</td>
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<td>interest.</td>
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</table>
Unitarian Universalist Theology: Selected Topics  
This course will help students to become familiar with historical and contemporary theological trends with an emphasis on Unitarian and Universalist authors, ideas, beliefs, and challenges. It will also encourage students to examine the relationship between this theology and ministry in Unitarian Universalist churches.

Presbyterian Confessions & Creeds  
An exploration of the historical background and general themes of the creeds and confessions used by Presbyterians.

Unitarian Universalist History  
An examination of Unitarian Universalist history from precursors in early Christianity to the present day.

United Church of Christ History  
Historical development of the theology, identity and mission of the United Church of Christ.

Lutheran Theological Identity  
What makes a Lutheran “Lutheran”? This course is an exploration of distinctive theological themes in Lutheranism. Students will be invited to identify the gifts and liabilities which Lutherans bring to the ecumenical mix.

Lutheran Mission Identity  
An introduction to a Lutheran understanding of the nature and mission of the Church. It explores ELCA mission commitments and implications for “leaders in mission.”
### Personal and Professional Formation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vocation and Orientation</strong></td>
<td>2 credits</td>
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<td>This course allows students to explore the ongoing process of vocational discernment, with particular attention to how vocational journeys intersect with the experience of formal theological education.</td>
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| **Identity Power and Difference**         | 2 credits |
| This course focuses on the implications of social location and professional identity formation within the cultural matrices of identity, power, and difference. The class aligns formational work with Iliff’s commitments to diversity across the curriculum. |

| **Internship**                            | 4 credits each quarter |
| During an academic year, students engage in the supervised practice of ministry in a congregational or agency setting for 14 hours per week. In addition they participate in a two one and one half hour weekly reflection seminar on campus or lead online by an adjunct faculty member with ministry experience. Prerequisite: Vocation and Orientation, Identity Power and Difference and Phases I and II of Consultation and Guidance. All three quarters must be successfully completed in sequence within a single academic year. |

| **Clinical Pastoral Education**           | 8 credits |
| CPE is the required form of internship for MAPSC students and an additional experience available to MDIV students under supervision and directed by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Students making this course a part of their Internship requirement must submit a petition to the director of Professional Formation before enrolling. 8 hours (may be spread over two quarters), Pass/Fail |

| **MASC Internship Seminar**               |           |
| MASC students complete their internship over the summer term and concurrently register for this hybrid Internship Seminar, which meets for two-day weekend praxes at both the beginning and end of the summer, and online throughout the summer. Prerequisite: Vocation and Orientation; Identity, Power, and Difference; and Phases I & II of the Consultation and Guidance process. 8 hours, Pass/Fail |

| **Independent Project in Field Education**| 2-4 credits |
| Students who have completed internship and have further community engaged learning goals may arrange for a special project in field education with the approval of the Director of Professional Formation or the Director of the Master of Arts in Social Change. Pass/Fail |
Academic Research and Writing

**Mapping the Terrain of Theological Education** 2 credits
This course offers an introduction to the critical questions, disciplinary perspectives, and skills needed for initial engagement with graduate theological education. It serves not only as an introduction to the Iliff curriculum and faculty, but also to broader issues of theories, methods, and approaches within theological education. Sessions will be led by a variety of members of the Iliff faculty, introducing you to their work and to the key questions and themes that emerge in their particular disciplines, drawing from all five of the Iliff sequence areas. Another faculty member will serve as facilitator of the course as a whole, offering opportunities for reflection on connections and disjunctions between these various areas of study, and helping each student develop a sense of identity and place within Iliff and theological education more broadly.

**Tools for Theological Education** 4 credits
Assists students in developing their skills in research, composition, editing, bibliographic notation and more

**Writing Skills Intensive** 2 credits
Assists students in developing their skills in grammar, organization, and other elements central to effective academic writing.

**Introduction to Theological Research** 1 credit
Students will learn practical skills for finding, evaluating and using numerous theological and religious resources. They will consider ethical issues and theological implications of information use in society and ministry.

**Discovery, Analysis and Management of Theological Resources** 1 credit
Advanced search strategies for electronic databases and internet search engines; principles for analyzing content and structure of scholarly articles; critical reading skills; note-taking systems; software for note-taking and bibliographic management.

**MA Seminar** 4 credits ea qtr Fall/Winter
**MTS Colloquium** 4 credits
**MA/MTS Thesis Proposal Class** 4 credits
**Thesis Project**
**Independent Study** 1-4 credits
Independent studies are available in all areas of the curriculum. Please contact the advising center for more information.