

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
Spring Semester 2014 Course Descriptions
See Course grid for dates and times

1.107 Prophets Seminar: Jeremiah

(3 credits)

A study of selected texts from Jeremiah, with special attention to exegetical method. Rigorous seminar format. Prerequisite: 1.103 Intro to Old Testament, 1.111 Hebrew or 1.210 Greek.

Brooks Schramm

1.113 Hebrew Readings

(1.5 credits)

The Church's proclamation of the Word finds its source and norm in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Proclamation is enhanced when the texts are studied in their original languages. This course is a deeper study of Biblical Hebrew and its use in exegesis. Prerequisite: 1.111 Hebrew.

Briant Bohleke

1.172 The Psalter and the Life of Faith

(3 credits)

A study of the poetic character and theological implications of the Psalms, with reference to their use in corporate and individual prayer. Particular attention is given to the role in the Psalms of the omnipresent "enemy." Prerequisite: 1.103 Intro to Old Testament.

Brooks Schramm

1.177 Biblical Economics and Stewardship

(3 credits)

A seminar focused on biblical texts dealing with stewarding wealth so as to provide God's abundance throughout all levels of society. Special focus will be given to texts in the Torah, the Prophets, and the Gospel of Luke. Attention will be given to ancient and contemporary contexts. Prerequisite: 1.103 Intro to Old Testament if taking this course as an Old Testament elective. [3.177 is the same course as Stewardship course.]

Marty Stevens

1.205 The Witness of the Gospels

(4 credits)

A general introduction to the traditions, the literary structures, the historical settings, and the theological witness of the synoptic Gospels as basis for ministry to the gospel today. Course meets in plenary session and in small sections. Prerequisite: Knowledge of Greek.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

1.224 The Death and Resurrection Narratives

3 credits

A detailed examination of the four Gospel narratives of Jesus' death and resurrection utilizing the Greek text. Contemporary narratives of Jesus' death and resurrection are also examined. Prerequisites: 1.205 Gospels and Knowledge of Greek.

Richard Carlson

2.301 Introduction to Systematic Theology

(3 credits)

This course will deal with the role and significance of systematic theology for the faith and life of the church by reflecting on the sources, nature, purpose and methods of doing systematic theology. The course will also include a discussion of major systematic theologians and schools, particularly as they relate to specific theological loci. Finally, this course stresses the practice of integration, so that students can think and communicate theologically both in the classroom and also in a variety of public ministry settings. Normally, this course is a prerequisite for any theological thematics course.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-20 Theological Thematics: Twenty-First Century Theologies of Liberation

(3 credits)

This course introduces students to the important work of different theologians representing various contemporary theologies of liberation. The theologies we will study include, but are not limited to, the following: Latin American Liberation Theology, Feminist Theology, Black Theology, and Eco-theology. In addition, this course spends significant time discussing Gay/Lesbian theology and Queer theology. We also will examine the influence these theologies have had on traditional Western European theological doctrines and language, specifically on the understanding of the human being, God, and God's relationship to humanity and creation. Prerequisite: 2.301 Intro to Systematic Theology.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-34 Theological Thematics: Theology with my Neighbor: Doing Theology Inter-religiously

(3 credits)

In this course, we will examine three central Christian loci—doctrine of God, doctrine of creation, and theological anthropology—through engagement with specific doctrines and practices from the four major world religions. We will pay special attention to the ways in which traditional Christian theology is both challenged and enhanced by the truth claims and religious life of non-Christians, resulting in Christian theological discourse that speaks to the pluralistic context of the 21st century world. *Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Also fulfills the Theology in Public Life requirement.* Prerequisite: 2.301 Intro to Systematic Theology.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.401 Luther and the Reformations

(3 credits)

We will survey the history and theology of the Reformations in the sixteenth century Europe, with focus on Martin Luther and his theology, in conversation with other voices. The roots and the promise of the “evangelical” faith for men and women are interpreted in light of its building blocks from the early church and the developments in the medieval world. We will seek to understand the heart of the reformation concerns and the changes that occurred in the forming of confessional fronts, and to appreciate both the distinctions in Christian identities and the continuities between different traditions united by scripture and the ancient creeds. Recommended: 2.425.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.405 Religious Movements: Fundamentalism

(3 credits)

This full course will engage participants in study of Fundamentalism in both the American and in wider global contexts, including instances of fundamentalist like movements in other religions. While these movements often use religious zeal to advance other political and social ideals, and have been seen as reactionary and conservative, fundamentalism is a thoroughly modern and contemporary expression that is influential in many arenas. Through investigation of the development and structure of fundamentalism, students will study how religious experiences emerge out of, articulate, and react to social and political contexts. Recommended for Theology and Public Life concentration.

Maria Erling

2.406OL The Lutheran Confessions (Hybrid)

(3 credits)

A study of the central tenets of Lutheran theology as presented in The Book of Concord, examined in light of the historical context and importance of the respective texts, and exploring the applications for today in theology, ministry and spirituality. Additional select texts from Luther included.

HYBRID: Meets three times (at LTSP): Fridays, Feb. 14, Mar 28, and April 25, 10:00 am–6:15 pm; rest of course is online. Recommended: 2.401 and 2.425.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.409 World Christianity

(3 credits)

This course will examine the expansion of Christianity beyond the West during the modern period, focusing on the missionary mobilization of the churches in response to colonialism, and the subsequent rethinking of mission, colonialism, and development. Results of this rethinking include the ecumenical movement and the growing appreciation of world religions, but also the astounding growth of Christianity in the global south, once the former missionizing churches and cultures leave the scene. *Fulfills Modern Church History requirement.*

Maria Erling

2.460 Women and the Reformation

(1.5 credits)

In this class we will explore sixteenth century women's contributions as reformers, theologians and teachers of faith. We will interpret the lives, spiritualities and most of all theologies of women from different Christian traditions (Lutheran, Reformer, Catholic, Anabaptist) with interdisciplinary methods. We will consider the role of gender when reading women's own works and appraising the meaning of faith and Christian living from women's perspectives. Church mothers and mystics of the earlier centuries just as modern feminist thought will serve as important mirrors. Meets the first half of the semester.
Kirsi Stjerna

3.177 Biblical Economics and Stewardship

(3 credits)

A seminar focused on biblical texts dealing with stewarding wealth so as to provide God's abundance throughout all levels of society. Special focus will be given to texts in the Torah, the Prophets, and the Gospel of Luke. Attention will be given to ancient and contemporary contexts. *Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement.* [1.177 is the same course as Old Testament elective.]
Marty Stevens

3.400OL Church Administration Online

(3 credits)

Those called to lead in congregations and other ecclesiastical and public arenas require an in-depth knowledge base, as well as a set of practical skills and administrative abilities. The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop a personal theology of administrative leadership, explore organizational dynamics at play in congregations and other settings, and learn practical approaches to common challenges of planning, budgeting and fiscal stewardship, personnel management, and coping with conflict. To function effectively within a church "system," the leader must also understand its structure and way of being or polity. By means of readings, lectures and class discussions, as well as case studies and presentations, students will grow in confidence as church leaders. Enrollment limited to 18 students.
Michael Cooper-White

3.516 Pastoral Care of Marriage and Families

(3 credits)

This course examines the theology and practices involved in pastoral care for families and marriage. Biblical, Historical and Systematic Theological perspectives on the communities and individuals that comprise couples and families will be analyzed. Pastoral therapies and strategies will be examined for their use in both clinical and congregational settings. Throughout, the question will be: what kinds of pastoral care for families and the communities of which they are a part may assist them in wise and faithful living. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement
Leonard Hummel

3.638 Youth and Young Adult Ministry

(3 credits)

People entering rostered ministry will be involved with youth and young adults; therefore it is vital we provide a forum for discussion and the learning of skills, methods and resources to offer ministry to this important segment of the population and the future of the church. This is a course aimed at giving a general overview of the theory and practice of working with youth and young adults. This will include the study of developmental, theological and social issues, as well as analysis of current methods and resources that are available. The intended outcome for this course is that future rostered leaders will have the necessary background information and be equipped to minister with and to youth and young adults as they journey and transition through this important time in their lives. *Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.*

Michelle Holley Carlson

3.706 Preaching for the 21st Century

(3 credits)

Preaching in the 21st Century is an introduction to the theology, methods, and practice of the oral communication of the gospel. This will include plenary sessions, online content and conversations, preaching (in person and on video), and evaluation of sermons. *We will ask the important questions: What is preaching? How is it done? Why does it matter?* This course provides a general introduction to the task of preaching. Students will distinguish and analyze: 1) the place of preaching in the context of the worshipping assembly; 2) the theological work of preaching as part of the practice of Christian ministry; and 3) the techniques and methodologies that various preachers use in the preparation and delivery of sermons. *Fulfills Introduction to Preaching Requirement.*

Karyn Wiseman

3.718 Preaching the Pascha

(3 credits)

The Great Three Days, together with the seasons of Lent and Easter, are times of particularly intensive preaching, and occasions in which sermons which occur within a community may lead to, depend on, and supplement one another. This course will include an overview of the Paschal season and its dynamics and progression; building understanding of a consistent audience and its context and growth; and the practice of preaching from the readings of the season. Prerequisite: 3.700 Intro to Preaching.

Mark Oldenburg

3.851 Introduction to Urban Ministry

(3 credits)

One of the most exciting and demanding contexts for ministry is the urban setting. Cities offer a unique intersection of life in concentration of people and issues such as poverty, gentrification, homelessness, substandard public education, unemployment, racial inequities and the rising number of young adults living in cities who are unaffiliated with religious institutions. Using the city as our laboratory, we will seek to create a community of learning that together engage each other and God who is already on the road before us. We will consider how to connect the gospel of Jesus Christ to vibrant and relevant urban ministry, led by leaders who are hungry for God. We will consider ways to experiment, evaluate and innovate. The places we engage, Luther Place Memorial Church in DC and Amazing Grace Church in Baltimore, will offer opportunities to dream together what is possible for the ELCA in such a time as this, and for our future ministry as a church. And, each class we will intentionally talk about leadership and leadership development-- especially yours! *Fulfills Church in Society requirement.*

Robin Steinke/Karen Brau

3.901 Music in the Town and Country Parish

(1.5 credits)

Issues, skills and resources related to music in the life in the town and country parish context are explored. Foundational readings in the history of parish music and contemporary concerns provide grounding for class discussions. Students integrate learnings from other theological studies and apply them to visioning for music ministry in rural settings. *Fulfills Music in the Parish requirement.*

Stephen Folkemer

3.919 Practicum in Worship Music

(1.5 credits)

A student who participates in either the Motet or Seminary Choir for a fall and spring semester will receive 1.5 credit hours elective credit. Participation in the choir does not need to be in consecutive semesters, but must include a fall and a spring semester. A student will register both semesters s/he is participating in either choir and will receive an Incomplete at the end of the first semester. At the end of the second semester of participation, the student will receive a Pass or Fail grade. Grading will be based entirely on attendance and participation.

Stephen Folkemer

3.930a (spring) and 3.930b (fall) The Church's Worship

(1.5 credits)

An examination of the origins and meaning of the major acts and forms of Christian worship, with particular attention to baptism and the Lord's Supper. Lectures and practicums. Students must register for both fall and spring.

Mark Oldenburg

3.930b The Church's Worship Tutorial

(1.5 credits)

Second half of the Church's Worship class in tutorial format. Only those students who will not be able to take the second half in Fall 2014 may register for this course. Must have permission of instructor.

Mark Oldenburg

4.110 Practicum in Theological Research

(1.5 credits)

Students preparing to write MAR theses will develop a trial thesis statement, become familiar with research tools and literature in their areas of interest, formulate search strategies for materials and information pertinent to their projects, and draft a preliminary thesis proposal.

Briant Bohleke

4.201a/b Integrative Seminar I

(1.5 credits)

This course is concurrently related to the Teaching Parish field education requirement (M.A.M.S. and M.Div.) and therefore extends over two semesters. Students registering for 4.201a during fall semester must register for 4.201b during the following spring semester to receive credit for the course. This seminar focuses on the congregation and has as its purpose to build an effective pastoral understanding of the congregation as simultaneously social system and people of God. Students may not register for this course without a positive entrance decision from the candidacy committee. Prerequisite: 4.201a.
Maria Erling

4.601 Metaphors of Transformation in Christ from Scripture and the Tradition

(1.5 credits)

This course, designed to embrace and incorporate the various lectures/events of Spring Academy Week, seeks to explore the theme of transformation in light of our contemporary context. Looking at both Scripture and the Lutheran tradition, students will engage various metaphors for transformation in Christ and apply them to the Christian life in the 21st century. We will ask the “so what” question about Christ’s life, death and resurrection: How does Christ transform Christian life, and what difference does this transformation make for us in our contemporary context? This course will involve small group discussion and reflection, lecture/event attendance, and one short reflection paper. Meets during Spring Academy week.

Kristin Largen

6.315 STM Pastoral Formation and the Gettysburg Experience

(3 credits)

In this course, we shall investigate the theological significance of the borough and battlefield of Gettysburg for pastoral formation and for ministry to the church and world. In doing so, we shall develop a practical theology about Gettysburg for faithful understandings about and pastoral responses to war and peace, church and state, slavery and freedom, suffering and consolation for suffering. Particular topics will include: “Formation at the Crossroads of History and Hope: Pastoral Identity and Mission on a Seminary Battlefield,” “Sacred Ground/Cash Cow: A Theology of Gettysburg Economics,” “God and Nation: Varieties of Religious Experience in Gettysburg,” “The Icon and Iconic Significance of Old Dorm: A Structure for Ministry to the World.” We shall make visits to the Seminary Ridge Museum, to the NPS Gettysburg Visitor Center and to other interesting sites throughout the borough and the battlefield. MDiv, MAR, and MAMS students need permission of instructor to register.

Leonard Hummel

6.400 STM Practicum in Theological Research

(1.5 credits)

Students preparing to write STM theses will develop a trial thesis statement, become familiar with research tools and literature in their areas of interest, formulate search strategies for materials and information pertinent to their projects, and draft a preliminary thesis proposal.

Briant Bohleke