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

1.103 Introduction to the Old Testament
(3 credits)
An introduction to the Old Testament with a survey of its structure, contents, and major theological themes. The course includes an introduction to historical-critical methodologies of interpretation. This course, or equivalent, is prerequisite for all other Old Testament courses, except Biblical Hebrew.
Brooks Schramm

1.111 Biblical Hebrew for Exegesis
(3 credits)
A one-semester introduction to the original language of the Old Testament. The course will cover basic grammatical principles and frequent vocabulary found in the Old Testament. Students will use analytical tools (computer Bible programs, analytical lexicons, etc.) to assist in elementary exegesis of texts in Hebrew. Open to all students.
Marty Stevens

1.210 Introduction to New Testament Greek
(3 credits)
An introduction to Greek grammar, syntax, and vocabulary as a basis for the interpretation of the New Testament. This course is required of all M.Div. students entering the seminary without knowledge of Greek. It begins during the last two weeks of August and continues throughout the fall semester.
Mark Vitalis Hoffman

1.275 Survey of the Lands of the Bible
(1.5 credits)
A better understanding of the Bible is enhanced by a better understanding of the larger scope of the history, geography, and other practical realities of the lands in which it was written and its events occurred. This course will provide a survey of the lands of the Bible and consider topics such as biblical geography, topology, culture, climate, flora and fauna, travel routes, archaeology and the like. It will benefit both readers of the text and visitors to the biblical lands by increasing awareness both of the biblical world and of the realities in those lands today. (This course is acceptable for OT elective credit. Persons thinking of going on the January 2015 trip to Turkey are especially encouraged to take the class.)
Mark Vitalis Hoffman

2.304 Introduction to Theological Ethics
(3 credits)
Neighbors in need and the wounded world cry out for justice and help. People of faith and the church respond with understanding, service and advocacy, because God's Word moves them. Theological ethics are the patterns of belief and practices that shape the response and engagement of the church with God's world. Participants in the course will explore and sort the church's robust traditions of ethical thinking and practice; gain orientation for contemporary ethical challenges; and emerge with strengthened voices and strategies to lead the church's public witness.
Gilson Waldkoenig

2.362-35 Theological Thematics: Salvation/Salvations: Interreligious Examination of Life, Death & What Lies Beyond
(3 credits)
In this course, students examine what it means to be "saved" [liberated, enlightened, delivered, etc.] in both Christianity and selected other world religious traditions, and the ramifications such understandings have for life and meaning in the world. The goal is to deepen and enhance one's articulation of salvation in the Christian tradition through the comparative theological process, while learning something about other religious traditions as well. Prerequisite: Introduction to Systematic Theology.
Kristin Johnston Largen

2.406 Luther and the Lutheran Confessions
(3 credits)
A study of the central tenets of Lutheran theology with the Book of Concord, in light of the historical roots of the 16th century texts and their contemporary relevance in theology, spirituality, and ministry and addressing the issues in public life. A critical exploration of distinctively Lutheran hermeneutics and voices that are historically faithful with the confessional texts, forward-looking in conversation with contemporary theologies, and ecumenically respectful in addressing the issues of common good. Recommended Prerequisite: Luther and the Reformations.
Kirsi Stjerna

2.425 Christian Thought and the Ecumenical Creeds
(3 credits)
We will survey the development of Christian thought and practice, in light of central events and documents and from diverse theological voices, to appreciate Christians' balancing act between "believing" and "'knowing". From the "Jesus movement" until the eve of the 16th century European Reformations, we will follow the footsteps and visions of those committed to the radical message of "God becoming flesh." We will examine Christian thought as it was articulated, applied, and lived, through persecutions, creedal conflicts, and identity crises of the Early Church, through the flourishing of Christian theologies and spiritualities and arts in the Middle Ages, with attention to both the establishment of church institutions and authority, and the recurring voices of reform and protest. *Fulfills Early Church history requirement*. Recommended before Luther and the Reformations and Luther and the Lutheran Confessions.
Kirsi Stjerna

3.700 Introduction to Preaching
(1.5 credits)
This course introduces students to homiletical theory and practice. Through readings, sermon analysis, discussion and in-class preaching exercises, students study major theories and preaching practices in historical and contemporary homiletics. *This course or an equivalent is a prerequisite for all other preaching electives in the curriculum.*
Kathy Vitalis Hoffman

3.744a and 3.744b Preaching for Catechesis
(1.5 credits each; total 3 credits)
For millennia, a central part of the Church's ministry of faith formation has been the process called catechesis. From its beginning, preaching has been a central part of that process. This course will be divided into two halves, and students may take either or both. The first half of the semester (3.744a) will focus on catechesis with children, which has usually been called confirmation ministry. Students will study and practice preaching aimed particularly at children, as well as preaching at mileposts in confirmation ministry, such as first communion, the reception of a Bible, and Confirmation itself. The second half of the semester (3.744b) will focus on catechesis with adults, and particularly with adults preparing for baptism or affirmation of baptism. Students will study and practice preaching at enrollment, during Lent, at a service of Baptism, and at several occasions of Affirmation of Baptism and Affirmation of Christian Vocation. Prerequisite: Introduction to Preaching.
Mark Oldenburg

3.820aOL Places of Faith: Ethnography of Religion
(1.5 credits)
Local religious communities identify with major religious traditions but express themselves in peculiar twists of faith, practice and culture. There is an ethos to every religious group that sometimes goes unnoticed until the stresses of change or conflict bring surprises. Environment, economy and context shape patterns of behavior and traditions among participants and neighbors. In this course participants use ethnographic methods and other contextual studies to yield insight into congregations and communities, giving students and practitioners in ministry an organized way to communicate about contextual experiences, vocational development and ethical insight into whose voices define a place. 3.820aOL is offered in fall for 1.5 credits and 3.820bOL is offered in spring for 1.5 credits. Students may take a-b sequence or b-a sequence to compile 3 credits. *Partially fulfills Church in Society requirement OR Integrative Seminar 1a upon permission of the dean.*
Gilson Waldkoenig

3.900 Music in the Parish
(1.5 credits)
Issues, skills and resources related to music in the life of the parish 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 changing settings. *Fulfills the Music in the Parish requirement.*
Stephen Folkemer

3.903 Worship Leadership: Sung and Spoken
(1.5 credits)
This course explores the communication issues involved in the worship leader's speaking and intoning skills and style. Time will be devoted to allowing each student to speak and sing worship leader texts with peer review/critique/advice and individual, one-on-one evaluation with the instructor. *Does not fulfill the 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. Students may only receive a total of 1.5 credits for Practicum in Worship Music.
Stephen Folkemer

3.930a 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

4.110 Practicum in Theological Research
(1.5 credits)
Students preparing to write 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 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.
Richard Geib/Caitlin Glass

4.202 Integrative Seminar II

(1.5 credits)
This course is related to the Supervised Clinical Ministry field education requirement (M.A.M.S. and M.Div.). It builds on Integrative Seminar I and takes place during the fall semester following Supervised Clinical Ministry. This seminar focuses on ministry with persons and has as its purpose to build an effective pastoral understanding of the person as simultaneously creature and child of God. The goals of this course are to: Articulate key notions around the past, present and future elements at work in their formation as minister; Demonstrate a capacity to use literature for reflection on development of the person of the minister; Demonstrate a capacity to employ concepts from the field of practical theology to understand case-studies of ministry
Judy Simonson

4.203 Integrative Seminar III
(1.5 credits)
This course is related to the Internship field education requirement (M.Div.). It builds on Integrative Seminars I and II and takes place in the fall semester following Internship. This seminar focuses on building an effective understanding of professional leadership in ministry. The emphasis is on understanding leadership as simultaneously a systemic, institutional function and as a ministerial calling.
Michael Cooper-White

6.114 STM Prophets Seminar: Isaiah
(3 credits)
In many respects Isaiah is the grandest of all the prophetic books. Its compositional history spans the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian periods, and the complex theological outlook of the book is integrally related to this compositional history. At the heart of the book is 'the Holy One of Israel' whose word continues to address both Jew and Christian with the promise that it shall not return empty. This seminar seeks to aid students in developing greater sophistication in exegetical method. *MDiv and MA students need permission from the instructor to register for the course.*
Brooks Schramm

6.218 STM Luther and the Jews
(3 credits) **Online/residential hybrid course**
This course develops the claim that Protestant Christians, and most especially Lutherans, have an ethical obligation to come to terms with the writings of Martin Luther on 'the Jews and Judaism'. Reading Luther with an eye toward 'the Jewish question' makes clear that, far from being tangential, the Jews are rather a central component of his thought, and that this was the case throughout his career, not just at the end. By probing the logic of Luther's anti-Jewish arguments, the course seeks to ascertain how Luther's attitudes towards the Jews shaped his interpretation of Scripture and his theology in general, as well as what problems this poses for modern readers. The course also gives attention to how Luther was different from and similar to his contemporaries and predecessors in this regard. [On-campus meetings will take place: Friday, Sept 19; Monday, Oct 27; Tuesday, Oct 28; Wednesday, Oct 29; Friday, Dec 5; the remainder of the course is delivered in on-line format]. *MDiv and MA students need permission from the instructor to register for the course.*
Brooks Schramm/Kirsi Stjerna

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