

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg
Summer 2013 – Course Descriptions

3.875 Ecotheology in Northern Appalachia

(3 credits) June 9-14, 2013 *Limited to 8 students*

Northern Appalachia is home to deeply-rooted local cultures in a beautiful landscape. Conflicts defined by environmental and economic issues are fierce for both communities and churches. This seminar will give students an inside look and an opportunity to strategize for dealing with conflict in and around ministry. The environmental history of the landscape's use and abuse, the shape of human cultures, and the history of tightly held religious traditions, will frame discussions with religious, environmental and industrial leaders from the region. The course meets at Lutherlyn in Butler, PA, and makes day trips in the region. Outdoor physical activity and rustic lodging. *Fulfills church in society requirement.*

Gilson Waldkoenig

4.315 In the Footsteps of the Reformers: A travel seminar to Germany and Prague

(3 credits) May 26-June 7

In the footsteps of Martin and Katharina Luther and other forefathers and foremothers, we will explore the roots and the legacy of the Protestant theology, spirituality, ministry and ethics. We hope to gain a deepened appreciation of the history, challenges and promises of particularly Lutheran faith in terms of the issue of "freedom". Through first-hand experiences and reflections, lectures and conversations, meals and Table Talks, we wish to learn from both the failures and the examples of those gone before us. We will visit the central Lutherland sites (Wittenberg, Eisenach, Erfurt), as well as places important for European and Protestant culture (Leipzig, Weimar, Dresden, Prague, Munich). We will visit the concentration camp where Dietrich Bonhoeffer was held (Buchenwald) and the starting place of the "Peaceful Revolution", as well as celebrate with the musical gift of Johann Sebastian Bach (Eisenach, Leipzig, Munich). Participants taking the trip for credit will need to register for the Summer 2013 term for an Independent Study with Dr. Stjerna, using the Rosa provided, and with the customary LTSG fees. Participants registering for the trip for their Multicultural component will follow the Rosa provided and turn in their work for Dr. Stjerna. The trip dates are: May 26 – June 7, 2013.

Kirsi Stjerna/Brooks Schramm

~~**6.210 STM Sin & the Human Condition: The Seven Deadly Sins**~~

~~(3 credits) May 20-24~~

~~The definition and expression of human sinfulness have been described in a variety of ways throughout the breadth and depth of the Christian tradition. Using the concept of the "seven deadly sins"—first described early in the life of the church, and redefined and re-imagined countless times up to the present day—this course critically examines the concept of "sin," encouraging critical reflection on how the different doctrines of sin influence our understanding of both the person and work of Jesus Christ, as well as the relationships between God, humanity and creation.~~

~~Kristin Johnston Largen~~

~~**6.306 STM The Church Year in the Presence of Christ**~~

~~(3 credits) June 3-7~~

~~All too often, the observance of the church year tries to function as a time machine, taking us back to "when Christ was alive." While often a powerful teaching tool, this effort is in conflict not only with the Resurrection, but with the fundamental evangelical tenet that God always comes to us, when and where~~

~~we are. This course will not only serve as a survey of the history and practice of the Church Year, but will investigate that practice through a concentration on the abiding presence of the Crucified and Resurrected Christ in and through his disciples.~~

~~Mark Oldenburg~~

6.313 STM Prophetic Preaching

(3 credits) May 20-24

Using the preaching of Martin Luther King Jr. as a springboard this course will explore how preaching connects faith communities to social responsibility. Rhetorical analysis of King's sermons will provide a framework for preaching that addresses social issues. The class will explore how language can be used to shape human perception and work to influence social change. The class will then examine other preachers to discover similarities and differences.

Steve Loy