



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLICAL STUDIES

*Richard P. Carlson, Mark Vitalis Hoffman,
Brooks Schramm, Marty Stevens*

The educational goals of the Biblical Studies disciplines grow directly from the Seminary's Vision Statement, which declares that this school "proclaims Jesus Christ to a restless world" and seeks to "listen to God's Word in community."

Biblical studies endeavor to prepare each student for the role of the public theologian as proclaimer of God's Word. This goal is achieved through a critical and disciplined study of the Bible as the normative tradition of the church and the authentic source of the gospel to which this Seminary bears witness. Courses offered in Biblical studies aim at helping students to interpret biblical material responsibly, so that they are able to discern and communicate what biblical texts once intended in their original historical and canonical contexts; to experience the claim of such texts on their own lives; and to address the message of these texts to the church and to the world.

Mastery of these goals, as appropriate to their degree, will enable students to:

- Describe the basic content, theological perspectives, and key theological themes of the Bible.
- Utilize skills in grammar, syntax, and vocabulary of a biblical language (normally Greek) as a basis for the interpretation of biblical texts.
- Recount the movement of history depicted in the Bible for Israel and the early church, particularly as related to the relevant history of the ancient Near East and the Mediterranean world.
- Articulate and employ critical methodologies in the exegesis of biblical passages.
- Formulate a conceptual framework of the canon that takes account of its unity and diversity.
- Analyze how key theological themes are presented in the various books and literary complexes within the Bible.
- Interpret the Bible faithfully and thoughtfully through preaching, teaching, and writing.

- Express a vision of faithful mission appropriate to the cultural context of ministry informed by an understanding of leadership models and qualities evidenced in the Bible.
- Participate in global, multicultural, and ecumenical hermeneutical conversations about the Bible.

The Old Testament

Introduction to the Old Testament (1.103) or equivalent, is prerequisite for all other Old Testament course, except Biblical Hebrew.

1.100L Old Testament Foundation Online (3 credits)

This course is designed to provide Diaconal Ministry concentration students with a foundation for understanding the Old Testament and to integrate its proclamation with their particular calls to ministry. This foundational introduction to the entire Old Testament surveys the contents of the Old Testament, Israelite history, and modern interpretive methodologies. M.A.R. students may take the course with approval of the instructor. This course is offered biennially in an on-line format only.
Marty Stevens

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.
Marty Stevens

1.107 Prophets Seminar: Jeremiah (3 credits)

A study of selected texts from Jeremiah, with special attention to exegetical method. Rigorous seminar format. Prerequisite: Hebrew or Greek.
Brooks Schramm

1.111 Biblical Hebrew (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

1.114 Exodus: Shaping a Community

(3 credits)

An exegetical seminar of the book of Exodus exploring how the interweaving of narrative, ritual, and covenant shaped the ancient community of Israel and shapes faith communities today. Interpretation of texts will include historical, literary, and social scientific criticism, as well as various theological perspectives.

Prerequisite: Hebrew or Greek.

Marty Stevens

1.158 Dead Sea Scrolls

(3 credits)

The literary documents known as the Dead Sea Scrolls have revolutionized our understanding of Second Temple Judaism and of primitive Christianity. This course is designed as both a general orientation to the Scrolls and their significance as well as careful examination of selected key texts in the corpus.

Brooks Schramm

1.162 Song of Songs

(1.5 credits)

An overview of the history of interpretation of the Song of Songs in Judaism and Christianity.

Brooks Schramm

1.163 Job

(3 credits)

The most enigmatic, haunting, and elusive of all biblical books is the subject matter of this course. While not ignoring various attempts to reconstruct the "original" story, the course's focus will be on canonical Job. Special attention will be given to significant paraphrases and reinterpretations engaged in by the Septuagint version(s) of the book. Students may work with the Hebrew text, the Greek text, or various English translations.

Brooks Schramm

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."

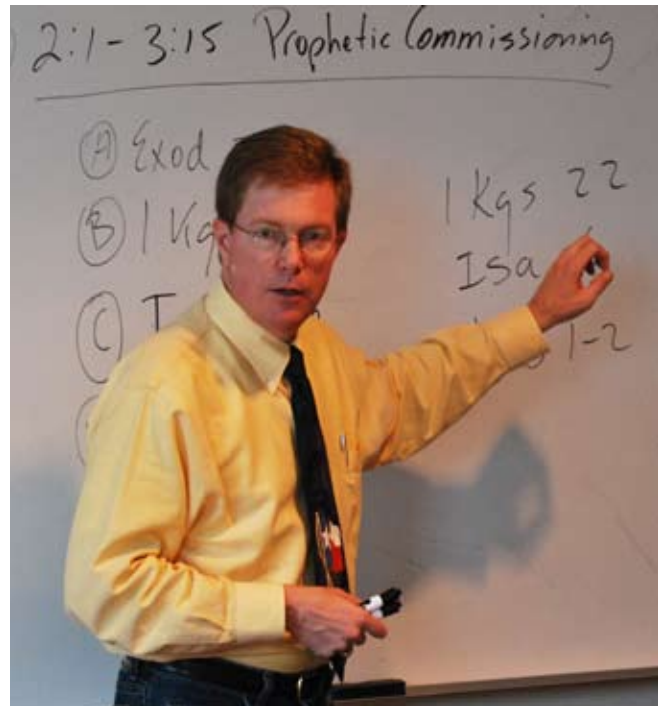
Brooks Schramm

1.173 Ezekiel

(3 credits)

This course invites students into the strange and fascinating world of the book of Ezekiel, a book which both anticipates and responds to the catastrophe of 587 BCE. We will explore the peculiar idiom of the book (vis-à-vis other prophetic texts), as well as its rhetoric and theological claims. Prerequisite: Hebrew or Greek.

Brooks Schramm

**1.174 Daniel & Apocalyptic**

(1.5 credits)

A general study of the latest book in the Hebrew Bible and an examination of the religious, political, and social factors at stake in the Maccabean Revolt. The course is also designed as a basic introduction to apocalyptic thinking and writing in the Greco-Roman world.

Brooks Schramm

1.175 Qohelet

(1.5 credits)

From a theological perspective, the book of Qohelet/Ecclesiastes is clearly one of the most peculiar books in the Bible, yet it has continued to intrigue and entice readers of every generation, and for good reason. The primary guide for our encounter with Qohelet will be the superb study by Michael V. Fox, *A Time to Tear Down and A Time to Build Up: A Rereading of Ecclesiastes*.

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.

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

1.206 Studies in the Epistles of the New Testament

(4 credits)

This course is designed to enable the student to become a skilled interpreter of apostolic literature through historical and exegetical studies in the epistles. Course meets in plenary session and in small sections. Prerequisite: Knowledge of Greek.

Richard Carlson

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/Richard Carlson

1.217 Technological Tools in Biblical Studies

(1.5 credits)

This course will: a) explore and evaluate a variety of technologies that are useful in biblical studies including Internet resources and Bible software and then b) practice application of these resources. In particular, we will learn the best ways for conducting original language research (including Hebrew for those who do not know it) and for creating personal resources to help in preaching and teaching.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

1.235 The Book of Acts, the Early Church, and the Church Today

(1.5 credits)

The book of Acts provides a remarkable picture of the issues the early Church faced as it grew in its understanding of Jesus Christ and in its self-understanding as a community engaged in the mission of declaring and living the Gospel. This survey course of Acts will provide both an opportunity to discover the history of the early Church and to reflect on how it might inform our understanding of the Church today. Prerequisite: 1.205 or 1.200L.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

1.256 Studies in the Book of Revelation

(1.5 credits)

An investigation of the structure of the Apocalypse, followed by an exegesis of major texts and an interpretation of the great themes of the last book of the Bible.

Prerequisite: Knowledge of Greek.

Richard Carlson

HISTORICAL-THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

Maria E. Erling, Kristin Johnston Lergen, Robin J. Steinke and Kirsi Stjerna

As the Christian tradition is received from the past and creatively imagined for the future, the present global, human, experiential context is the dynamic location where God's action and presence in the world is interpreted and shared. Students will engage the disciplines of history, theology and ethics so that they will be equipped to address, with considered mutual reflection and action, the challenges facing the church and the world.

Mastery of these goals, as appropriate to their degree, will enable students to:

- Make sound theological judgments based on engagement with a wide range of historical evidence, and articulate, in writing and discussion, cogent reasons for their hopes, planning, and action as church leaders.
- Recognize the important and enduring aspects of experiences of women and men in the Christian tradition, and systematically relate these aspects to contemporary issues and global concerns.
- Analyze and interpret texts in their historical, literary, multicultural, ecumenical, inter-religious and socio-political contexts.
- Assess moral issues that affect communities with considered ethical analysis, common reflection, and faithful judgment.
- Understand and evaluate the plural forms of Christian identity, particularly diversity in the Lutheran tradition, and relate that tradition to other ecumenical and religious perspectives.
- Demonstrate proficiency in working with a theological tradition so as to be able to continue to engage new questions and developments in contemporary theological and ethical arenas.

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.

Robin Steinke/Kristin Johnston Largen

2.304 Introduction to Theological Ethics

(3 credits)

This course offers a theological framework, rooted in the biblical and confessional witness of the Church, within which we seek to live the responsible life of faith. Major methodologies in moral discernment will be examined including deontology, situationism, teleology, character ethics and consequentialism. Theological themes to be addressed in the light of the social teachings of the ELCA include: justification, church and state, gospel and law, sin, creation and eschatology.

Robin Steinke/ Kristin Johnston Largen

2.306 Theology and Public Life

(3 credits)

The purpose of this course is to prepare Church leaders to respond theologically in the public arena while still being attentive to the nuances required to steer a course through the public and private arenas. The course includes an Action/Reflection component, which is the opportunity to integrate academic rigor with the practice of ministry. Alongside the traditional classroom, the action/reflection component of the course provides an opportunity to test ideas against the actual events of ministry in the public square. Fulfills Theology and Public Life concentration requirement.

Robin Steinke

2.321 Comparative Soteriologies

(3 credits)

In this course students will re-examine the Christian understanding of what it means to be saved in light of a comparative study of how salvation is described and envisioned in other religious traditions. We will look at both the present-day and the end-of-life ramifications of salvation; and explore how a Christian articulation of salvation is both challenged and transformed through engaging non-Christian religious traditions. Prerequisite: 2.301

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-9 Theological Thematics: Theologies of the Cross

(3 credits)

This course will explore different articulations of a theology of the cross, including feminist and global theological perspectives. We will examine how both the symbol of the cross and the theological insights it represents have been interpreted in the larger context of the relationships between God, humanity, and the world. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-22 Theological Thematics: Sin & the Human Condition: The 7 Deadly Sins

(3 credits)

Using the seven deadly sins as a basic structure, this course surveys a variety of ways in which the concept of human sinfulness has been articulated in the course of Christian history. Students will reflect critically on how the different doctrines of sin have influenced our understanding of both the person and work of Jesus Christ, as well as the relationships between God, humanity and creation. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-25 Theological Thematics: Twentieth Century Theologies of Liberation

(3 credits)

This course introduces the 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. We will also examine the influence these theologies have had on traditional Western European theological doctrines and language. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-28 Theological Thematics: Ecclesiology

(3 credits)

This course uses the traditional theological locus of ecclesiology to explore what it means to be church in the 21st century world. We will explore traditional theological marks of the church by examining how they function both in the current ecumenical context of the United States, as well as the broader global Christian context. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Also fulfills the Theology in Public Life requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.

Maria Erling/Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-29 Theological Thematics: They Might be Giants: Barth & Tillich in a Postmodern Age

(3 credits)

This course focuses on the theologies of Karl Barth and Paul Tillich, arguably the two most prominent and formative Protestant theological voices of the 20th

century. In addition, however, we also will examine more contemporary interpretations of their work, looking at both strengths and weaknesses, and seeing how they can help interpret the theological context in which we live today. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.
Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-31 Theological Thematics: The Doctrine of Creation: Science, Beauty, and Faith
(3 credits)

In this course students will use a variety of theologians to explore traditional and contemporary theological assertions concerning the doctrine of creation—including what those assertions also claim about God and humanity. Aspects of the dialogue between science and religion will be considered, as well issues directly related to the contemporary ecological crisis. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.
Kristin Johnston Largen

2.362-32 Theological Thematics: Sacraments: Lutheran and Contemporary Conversations
(3 credits)

How tangible is grace? Are there limits to grace? What can we say about the “means of grace” and their use in the church? Are there unexplored possibilities for

contemporary experience and outlooks on grace and sacraments? With a close look at Luther’s teaching on the sacraments and grace, in light of medieval sacramental theology, and in conversation with post-reformation and modern theologians, we will interpret sacramental theology and its promise with contemporary concerns in mind and with attention to ecumenical and interfaith conversations and relations. Fulfills Theological Thematics requirement. Prerequisite: 2.301.
Kirsi Stjerna

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: Early Church History
Kirsi Stjerna

2.402 Religion in America
(3 credits)

This course will introduce students to the diversity of religious expression and practice in the United States. Through a study of major figures and communities in American religious history, students will learn to place these individuals and groups in their time and place—the basic discipline of historical study—and gain skills in discerning and recognizing the choices and constraints faced by historical actors. Fulfills Modern Church History requirement.
Maria Erling

2.403 History of Lutheranism
(3 credits)

This course will examine the diverse communities and traditions that have contributed to the present shape of the Evangelical Lutheran church in America and its partner churches in the Lutheran World Federation. Both in Europe and in America since the 1600’s diverse social, cultural, and theological challenges have pushed Lutherans in these various churches to adapt to nationalism, industrialism, migration, economic exploitation, and globalization. Students will examine the various strategies and forms of ministry that leaders have used to shape a Lutheran identity. Fulfills Modern Church History requirement.
Maria Erling



2.406 Luther and the Lutheran Confessions

(3 credits)

This course explores the Lutheran confessional texts included in the Book of Concord as a witness to the gospel and guidance for faith and life. Through a first-hand reading of the documents, and learning about their history, context, and content, students will gain an appreciation of the historical foundations of Lutheran theology and reflect critically on the relevance of the Confessions for public ministry today. Recommended: 2.401.

Kristin Johnston Largen/Maria Erling/Kirsi Stjerna

2.406OL-03 Luther and the Lutheran Confessions Online

(3 credits)

This course explores the Lutheran confessional texts included in the Book of Concord and the fundamentals of Luther's theology. Through first-hand reading of the documents, and learning about their context and content, the historical foundations and the distinctiveness of Lutheran theology are examined, with constructive critical reflection on its contemporary relevance and promise for ministry, teaching, and spirituality today in different contexts and in light of ecumenical conversations. Limited enrollment, with instructor's approval. 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

2.425 Christianity in Ancient and Medieval Worlds

(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 16th century European Reformations, we will follow the footsteps and visions of those committed to "imitatio Christi" and 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 2.401 and 2.406.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.454-09 Luther Seminar: Theology in Song and Image

(3 credits)

Reformation theologies emphasize the centrality and the effectiveness of the Word, and the authority of sola scriptura. Christian theologies before and after the Reformations have centered on the mystery of Christ's incarnation and the embodiment of God's grace, with endless efforts to articulate that with appropriate and convincing theological language. At the same time, Christian faith has lived in arts and music, and efficiently so. This course explores how Lutheran theology in particular has been proclaimed, expressed, and experienced through song and image, and other visual manifestations of faith, in the sixteenth century and beyond. Sources include, but are not limited to, works of Reformation artists (e.g., the Cranachs) and hymn writers (e.g., Katharina S. Zell, Martin Luther). Evidence is gathered broadly and analyzed for its theological content and effect.

Kirsi Stjerna

2.481 Religion, The Civil War and Pilgrimage to Gettysburg's Battlefields: A Practical Theology (1.5 credits)

In this practical theological endeavor we will examine the past, present, and possible future of Gettysburg—a place that has been called “the most American place in America” and the “most beautiful place in the world.” We will explore the religious dimensions of the battle itself, as revealed in the experience of soldiers, clergy and partisans of both sides of the conflict. We will then investigate how modern Americans visit the battlefield and how they through their visiting of pilgrimages, make the history of the battle a part of their own lives. We will examine how visitors “use” the various monuments and locations on the battlefield to explore the meaning of patriotism, gender, religion, honor, peace, sacrifice, holiness, death and eternity. Area clergy will be consulted to discuss the nature of their ministry in this most commonplace and most unusual place on God’s earth. Throughout we will struggle to define and propose what a practical theology of Gettysburg means for ministry to Gettysburg, America and the world.

Maria Erling

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

Michael L. Cooper-White, Stephen P. Folkemer, Susan K. Hedahl, Leonard M. Hummel, Mark W. Oldenburg, Marty Stevens, Nelson T. Strobert, Gilson A.C. Waldkoenig

Practical theology prepares students for faithful discipleship and the proclamation of Jesus Christ to a restless world through studies in the theology and practice of ministry.

Mastery of these goals, as appropriate to their degree, will enable students to:

- Articulate a theology and embody a praxis (reflective practice) of ministry that integrates both pastoral identity and the practice of collaborative leadership within the context of a pluralized and diverse social world.
- Demonstrate engagement in the spiritual formation inherent in the study and practice of the arts of ministry.
- Engage a faith community in administration, stewardship, evangelism, and mission.

- Provide pastoral care and counseling that is rooted in the Christian tradition, informed by the sciences, sensitive both to individual particularity and social/cultural diversity, and ethically sound.
- Develop, prepare and demonstrate teaching models for the interpretation of the Christian tradition across the human lifespan and among various religious/ethnic/cultural groups.
- Proclaim the gospel through sermons that are accountable to sound exegetical, pastoral and rhetorical criteria within the context of the historical homiletical tradition.
- Think empirically and holistically about religion and issues facing the church and its ministry, and utilize methods of congregational and community analysis.
- Prepare and lead services in which the Word is proclaimed faithfully and responded to appropriately, taking into account the rich traditions of the church, the context of the congregation, and the needs and abilities of its members and neighbors.
- Assess, support and modify congregational music practices to serve worship and other congregational ministries.
- Identify, evaluate and use appropriate information resources in addressing the problems and issues that arise in theological research and ministry.

3.103 Stewardship & Ecology

(3 credits)

This course examines the church’s response and obligation to God’s creation. From biblical and theological foundations to the current ecological ministries of the church, students will have an opportunity to develop their own positions. Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement.

Gilson Waldkoenig

3.106 Portraits of Mission Strategies

(3 credits)

This course focuses on the mission of Christian congregations who may be losing members or be on the brink of closing. It will develop a theology of mission that can help bring renewal and even resurrection to congregations in decline or dying. The heart of this course will be studying actual congregations that have made renewal of mission of foundation for renewal and rebirth. Prerequisites: Completion of at least 24 credits and Teaching Parish. Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement.

William Avery



3.114 Exodus and Stewardship

(3 credits)

An exegetical seminar of the book of Exodus exploring how the interweaving of narrative, ritual, and covenant shaped the ancient community of Israel and shapes faith communities today. Particular attention will be given to economic and stewardship issues in the text. Fulfills Stewardship and Parish Ministry requirement.
Marty Stevens

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.
Marty Stevens

3.400 Church Administration, Leadership and Polity

(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. When offered online enrollment is limited to 18 students.
Michael Cooper-White

3.510-05 Pastoral Care: Consolation for Suffering

(3 credits)

Where is God when one suffers? How may one be consoled for suffering? What is the ministry of consolation for suffering? In this core course for pastoral theology, we will address these and other questions as we examine the theology of consolation for suffering in the early Lutheran tradition and as practiced by some contemporary Lutherans. Situated in the pastoral concern for what helps/what hurts in the messiness of lived religion, we will investigate how the theology of consolation in Lutheranism may inform the beliefs and practices of those who suffer and also may be reformed in response to them. In doing so, we will address the central issues of pastoral care for the church and

the world. Students will examine numerous cases of communal and individual suffering, and construct pastoral responses for those cases. Case studies also will be derived from the pastoral care provided by students during their supervised clinical ministries and/or internships, and from their own surveys of the contemporary church and world. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement.

Leonard Hummel

3.511-06 Pastoral Counseling

(3 credits)

This course is an introduction to theory and practice of pastoral counseling as a congregational ministry, with attention to theological perspectives which shape pastoral assessment and to psychological resources which foster understanding of the dynamics of the pastoral counseling process and of those who seek help. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement.

Leonard Hummel

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

3.522 Religious Vocation, Ministry and the Movies

(3 credits)

Movies have been and remain a powerful source for moral development, intellectual formation, and pastoral care. The goal of this course is to assist students in their vocational development through a critical assessment of ministry/religious vocation as depicted in the cinema. Through this practical theological endeavor, students will develop their abilities to identify in films themes relevant to religious vocation/ministry, and also to reflect on the meaning of those themes for their own vocation and pastoral ministry. Particular focal-themes include "Minister as Saint/Sinner," "Minister as Prophet/Clueless," "Minister as Mad-Person/Fool for Christ," "Minister as Savior/Spoiler of Church and the World."

Leonard Hummel

3.530 A Thing That Cannot and Can Be Changed: A Pastoral Theology of Cancer

(3 credits)

The goals of this course are to enable students to (1) demonstrate an understanding the fundamental principles and practices of pastoral care refracted through the "case-study" of the phenomenon of cancer; (2) evidence comprehension of the intra-personal, inter-personal, political, social, and economic dimensions of pastoral care of cancer; and (3) indicate an understanding of how to bring a pastoral theological perspective to bear on particular issues in the cancer care. Fulfills Pastoral Theology requirement.

Leonard Hummel

3.600 History and Theory of Christian Education

(3 credits)

This course examines the historical-theological development of Christian education from the early church to the contemporary church period. Special attention is given to Christian education as it has evolved in the Lutheran Church on American soil. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.601 Foundations for the Teaching Ministry

(1.5 credits)

This is an initial seminar for MAMS-Christian Education students. This course introduces students to the field of Religious Education. Students will examine the biblical, theological, and historical foundations for the teaching ministry as they discern their call to this area of the church's work. This course is required for M.A.M.S.-Christian Education and is open to other degree students as an elective.

Nelson Strobert

3.605 Religious Education Project Seminar

(1.5 credits)

This course will assist students to integrate field, clinical, and classroom experiences in a written educational project of interest to those preparing for educational leadership within the church. This seminar is conducted the last semester the student is in attendance. This course is required for MAMS-Christian Education and is open to other degree students as an elective.

Nelson Strobert

3.606 Introduction to Christian Religious Education

(3 credits)

This course provides students with an overview of education in the church. The historical, theological, social, and developmental foundations of religious education are examined in relationship to contemporary congregational life within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its ecumenical partners. This course is particularly helpful for those students who



have limited or no background in educational ministry. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement. Nelson Strobert

3.614 Special Topics in Religious Education: Sharing Our Lives (3 credits)

This course utilizes the theory and practice of educational biography and religious education to examine the lives of religious educators and their contributions to Christian religious education. In addition, students will compare and contrast these lives with their own educational biographies and theologies of religious education.

Nelson Strobert

3.625 Multicultural Religious Education (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the theological, historical, and sociological foundations in multicultural education in the church and their implications for ministry. Particular attention will focus on official church statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and its full-communion partners. The course includes selected field experiences.

Nelson Strobert

3.635 Children in the Church (3 credits)

This course offers a developmental study of the individual from early childhood to pre-adolescence. Emphasis on the significance of development processes for the educational ministry of the parish. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.637 Current Trends in Adult Christian Education (3 credits)

The course is a study of Christian education of adults with special reference to the theory which undergirds it as well as program, curriculum, methods, and current models in various congregational settings. Fulfills the Christian/Religious Education requirement.

Nelson Strobert

3.639 Christian Initiation and Confirmation (3 credits)

This course examines education in the church with attention to the pre-adolescent or transescent and adolescent person in the community of faith. Topics to be considered are baptism, first communion, confirmation, and catechetics. Fulfills the Christian/Religious

Education requirement. Fulfills a requirement in Youth and Young Adult Ministry concentration.
Nelson Strobert

3.645 Development and Evaluation of Curriculum

(1.5 credits)

This course examines the historical-theological, psychological and sociological components in the religious education curriculum. Attention is given to curriculum development in and outside the Sunday church school model.

Nelson Strobert

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.

Susan Hedahl

3.720 Preaching Occasional Sermons

(3 credits)

Participants will preach sermons for such occasions as baptism, confirmation, installations, selected commemorations, community services, national holidays, ordination, and other significant occasions. The course consists of preaching, critique, theological and homiletical discussions within a workshop setting.

Susan Hedahl

3.720A Funeral Proclamation

(1.5 credits)

This course examines the theological, biblical and cultural influences that bear on funeral sermons. Design and presentation of funeral sermons are performed in a workshop context of proclamation, critique and creative discussion.

Susan Hedahl

3.720B Wedding Proclamation

(1.5 credits)

Students will study the theological, pastoral, and practical and cultural realities influencing wedding sermons. Design and presentation of such sermons is done in a workshop setting of proclamation, critique and creative discussion.

Susan Hedahl

3.730 Preaching Doctrine

(3 credits)

Using selected texts from the current year of the Revised Common Lectionary, students will use biblical, homiletical and doctrinal materials to discuss, con-

struct and proclaim sermons which will explore in-depth some of the major doctrines of the Christian faith such as incarnation, atonement, sin, Christology, God's providence and eschatology.

Susan Hedahl

3.747 Preaching and Technology: Shaping the Sermon through the Internet

(1.5 credits)

Today's preachers have the same goal in mind as the preachers of a hundred years ago: to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Yet, today's homileticians have a different set of advantages and challenges, and Internet culture is a key to both. In this course, we will engage various means for using the Internet culture to invent, refine, and review sermons in the parish setting. We will utilize Facebook and weblogs, among other applications. A laptop is helpful for enrolling in this course, as we will spend significant class time in the online environment.

Angela Zimmann

3.753 Preaching Shaped by the Gospel of Matthew

(1.5 credits)

By exploring the unique features of Matthew's gospel students will explore how preaching can be shaped by a biblical text and the text's place within a single biblical book. Students will work cooperatively with the instructor and other students to prepare and preach sermons that are faithful to Matthew's distinctive witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Susah Hedahl

3.760 Preaching Paul

(3 credits)

This course will utilize Pauline scripture from the current year of the Revised Common Lectionary to discuss, construct and proclaim sermons which reflect knowledge of the options in Pauline studies related to such topics as justification, law and gospel, sin, freedom, community and the use of Hebrew scriptures and classical rhetoric.

Susan Hedahl

3.754 Preaching the Lectionary Year (Variously: Matthew, Mark or Luke)

(3 credits)

Participants will preach sermons based on various texts in the current lectionary year's designated Gospel, which are drawn from the Revised Common Lectionary (A – C). The course schedule consists of alternating weeks of theological, linguistic and homiletical discussions of the texts to be preached and preaching in class on such texts.

Susan Hedahl

3.803 Rural and Small Church Ministry

(3 credits)

A course in the culture, place and issues of ministry in rural, small town and small church settings. Building upon congregational and community studies, the course provides an opportunity to gain exposure to the distinctive features of rural ministry, to consider the effects of social change upon traditional church life, and to explore one's own reaction and possible sense of call to rural ministry. Students have options for field research or other creative projects, while readings, presentations and discussions form the backbone of the course. Fulfills Church in Society requirement. Gilson Waldkoenig

3.843 Congregational Ministry, Leadership and the Emerging Church

(3 credits)

This course is designed to examine the theological basis for ministry and reflect upon current issues of leadership and authority for pastors in congregations. There will be an action-reflection component to the course where students will serve a minimum of three hours each week in a congregational setting. Does not fulfill the Church in Society requirement. Fulfills a requirement in Town and Country Church Ministry concentration, and is open to others. Warren Eshbach

3.848 Youth and Young Adults Ministry

(3 credits)

An introduction to contemporary mission with youth and young adults, providing a practicum for assessing and adapting particular aspects of ministries, ministry strategies and pastoral identity, in light of social-scientific and practical-theological perspectives on youth and young adults in the church and the world. In the process, we will look at the broad ecology of relationships, human dynamics and traditions that influence ministry by and among youth and young adults. Does not fulfill the Church in Society requirement. Fulfills a requirement in Youth and Young Adult Ministry concentration, and is open to others. Nelson Strobert

3.870 Ecology and Religion in Global and Interfaith Perspective

(3 credits)

A seminar in which students will explore (a) a wide range of religious perspectives on ecology, and (b) the public and political implications of religious commitments for global ecological issues. Students will gain a basic comprehensive framework for understanding religion in public life, and the church in society, while exploring the role of religious traditions and especially the Christian church in global ecological concerns. The relationship of religious perspectives with secular environmental ethics, and the longer development of



ecological consciousness in American society, will also be in focus. Fulfills Church in Society Requirement. Gilson Waldkoenig

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

3.922 Piety of Parish Pastors

(3 credits)

Those who serve congregations as ministers of Word and Sacrament labor with particular spiritual advantages and vulnerabilities, and they nurture their life of faith in very different ways. This course will explore some of the disciplines and practices which grow out of the central tasks of that office, and which link its many responsibilities. It will include practice and reflection, learnings from fiction and films, memoirs and studies, and interviews with practitioners. It will also address the development and nourishment of

one's style of worship leadership, as a resource and outgrowth of piety.

Mark Oldenburg

3.923 Worship Preparation for Lay Leaders

(1.5 credits)

More and more, lay leaders are being invited to plan a community's worship. Some are rostered and called - AIM's deaconesses, and diaconal ministers. Some do this preparation as part of their professional responsibilities - church musicians and synodically authorized worship committees. In any case, they could all be well served by knowing about the basic structure of the service and how it might be creatively adorned, the church year, some history of Christian worship, the "choreography" of liturgical leadership, and the flood of resources available from hymnody to occasional services. Fulfills worship requirement normally satisfied by 4.105a for students enrolled in the M.A.M.S. degree program.

Mark Oldenburg

3.925 The Church Year

(3 credits)

A historical and pastoral survey of the annual, weekly, and daily cycles of the church's worship. The course will emphasize the Pasch as the heart of Christian celebration, the richness of the church year as a tool for proclamation and edification, and the resources of a number of traditions for congregational use. Prerequisite: 4.105a or 3.923.

Mark Oldenburg

4.105a (fall) and 4.105b (spring)

The Church's Worship

(1.5 credits each semester)

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 courses.

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 (fall) and 4.201b (spring)

Integrative Seminar I

(1.5 credits each semester)

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.

Maria Erling/Robin Steinke

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

Leonard Hummel/Peter Kuhn

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.

Faculty

4.204 Diaconal Ministry Formation Event

(3 credits)

Every candidate for consecration as a diaconal minister in the ELCA must take part in a Formation Event, which provides a diaconal perspective for shaping a course of study and field experience. Participants will study the Biblical and historical roots and contemporary expressions of diaconal ministry, examine current models for ministry, and develop spiritual insights and disciplines for active ministry through worship, prayer, and group processes. Participation in the DMFE requires a positive entrance decision and a participation fee in addition to tuition.

Mark Oldenburg

4.205 Diaconal Ministry Independent Study Project

(6 credits)

The purpose of this project is for the candidate to develop a vision for a particular “ministry of the baptized in the world” based on a field experience and in consultation with a project director. See the Student Handbook for more details.

4.301 Multicultural Studies

(1.5 credits)

The Seminary coordinates a network of study opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the life and culture of an ethnic/cultural group other than their own. Normally, this requirement is fulfilled during a January term.

Nelson Strobert

4.301-06 The Socio-Cultural Roots of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: The Civil Rights Movement in Context (January 11-16, 2011)

The objective of the trip is to examine the socio-cultural roots of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This travel seminar will examine the Civil Rights Movement in the context of Dr. King and the Black community of Atlanta, Georgia. Students will visit selected sites including Morehouse and Spelman Colleges (historically Black Colleges-HBC), the Interdenominational Theological Center, The King Home and Museum and Ebenezer Baptist Church. In addition, this seminar includes a field experience at the Civil Rights Institute in Birmingham, Alabama.

Nelson Strobert

4.314 Biblical Studies Trip: In the Steps of Paul and Revelation

(1.5 credits)

January-Term Trip

This two week experience will allow students to learn and explore one of the most significant areas in the early church, the Aegean rim. In this area we find the churches of Revelation, the main churches begun by the Apostle Paul, major sites linked to the book of Acts, and the capital of the Byzantine Empire. The trip will begin in Turkey and move on to Greece and will include tours at such places as Ephesus, Pergamum, Istanbul, Philippi, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. The experience will include some prior reading and a reflection paper following the trip. The trip is eligible for multicultural credit with extra readings and work in conjunction with Dr. Strobert’s approval.

Richard Carlson/ Mark Vitalis Hoffman

S.T.M. COURSES

Master of Sacred Theology Courses

(Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Ministerial Studies, and Master of Arts in Religion students need permission from the instructor to enroll.)

6.101 STM The Joseph Story

(3 credits)

The story of Joseph has been called the most perfect novella ever written. Students will explore the motifs of the story, examine the context of the time period in which it is set, its ancillary themes, its time of composition, and its socio-literary ramifications. Because Biblical stories and their literary expressions continue to influence Western culture and religious thought, we will also examine a modern version and any contemporary resonances of Genesis 37-50.

Briant Bohleke

6.105 STM Second Temple Judaism

(3 credits)

An introduction to the Palestinian Jewish context in which Jesus lived and out of which Christianity arose. Selected readings of primary texts (in English). Topics and literary corpora include: The Maccabean Revolt, the Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, Josephus, and the Jewish War against the Romans.

Brooks Schramm

6.107 STM The Old Testament in the New Testament

(3 credits)

The earliest Christian reflection on Jesus was centered on their reading and interpretation of Scripture. This course will investigate the use of the Old Testament in the New and focus on some of the key texts that shaped the early Christian understanding of Jesus.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

6.108 STM Gnosticism & Early Christianity

(3 credits)

An introduction to Gnosticism(s), which emerged around the time of Christianity and Neoplatonism, and developed and intertwined with the two until being excluded by both as a heresy. Selected readings of primary texts (in English). Topics and literary corpora include: The Nag Hammadi Library, the Ante-Nicene Fathers, anti-Gnostic early Christian writers, and the Gospel of John.

Briant Bohleke

6.109 STM Law in the Ancient Near Eastern

(3 credits)

The laws and codes for a range of human conduct set down in Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy reso-

nate the rights and obligations of citizens of neighboring societies such as the Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Hittites, Egyptians, and the people of Ugarit. Selected readings of primary and some secondary texts (in English). The thrust of the course is to discover to what extent Hebrew laws parallel regulations in other cultures and how and why they have been adapted to a unique, monotheistic culture.
Briant Bohleke

6.110 STM The Book of Acts, the Early Church, and the Church Today

(3 credits)

The book of Acts provides a remarkable picture of the issues the early Church faced as it grew in its understanding of Jesus Christ and in its self-understanding as a community engaged in the mission of declaring and living the Gospel. This survey course of Acts will provide both an opportunity to discover the history of the early Church and to reflect on how it might inform our understanding of the Church today.

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

6.206 STM Postcolonial Issues in Mission

(3 credits)

Now that Tanzania is the second largest Lutheran Church in the world, it is time for pastors and leaders in the United States to take stock of their understanding of world Christianity. This course will provide a framework for pastors and advanced students to understand the rapidly changing and growing significance of Christianity as a world religion, especially the accelerating growth of churches in the global south and the importance of the Pentecostal and other spirit driven movements, as well as the development of various liberation and indigenous theologies including their challenge to 'western' and 'traditional' theological traditions.

Maria Erling

6.207 STM Liberation Theologies

(3 credits)

This course allows students the opportunity to study and observe both the praxis and teaching of Latin American liberation theology in Mexico. Students will



see how Latin American liberation theology affects the role of the Lutheran Church in Mexico – its teaching and preaching – and the impact it has on the faith lives of the people. The students will also engage in critical reflection on how Latin American liberation theology both challenges and informs traditional Lutheran theology taught and practiced in the U.S.

Kristin Johnston Largen

6.208 STM Augustine and Rome

(3 credits)

This course takes us to Rome to experience the world Augustine of Hippo writes about in his “City of God” – the main text for the study. We will learn about the early horizons of Christian experience and the roots of Christian theology with both Augustine and the “eternal city” that for centuries has symbolized Christianity. We will witness different layers of Christian experience and expression through guided visits to ancient Roman sites and Christian pilgrimage sites, with excursions (e.g., Ostia Antica). With Augustine, we wish to appreciate what is involved in being a citizen in the “city of God” in this world and beyond, and how we might experience and express that today. The seminar takes place in Rome, with online communications before and after.

Kirsi Stjerna/ Brooks Schramm

6.209 STM Reformation Studies: New Methods and Hermeneutics

(3 credits)

This course enters the international world of Reformation and Luther studies. The newest of sources and approaches are explored, as well as selected classics are perused, to facilitate cutting-edge study and interpretation of the reformers and their theologies, Renaissance/Reformation history and materials, and other pertinent themes, such as gender and women in the early modern world. Special attention will be given to the present direction of Luther studies and the global discussions around Finnish Luther research, with its ramifications in the areas of spirituality and ecumenical work. The course is recommended for all students in the STM program and particularly those considering further work in history or theology. (Interested qualified students may be invited to the annual conference of the Sixteenth Century Society.)

Kirsi Stjerna

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

(3 credits)

Using the seven deadly sins as a basic structure, this course surveys a variety of ways in which the concept of human sinfulness has been articulated in the course of Christian history. Students will reflect critically on how the different doctrines of sin have influenced 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)

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 also against 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

6.308 STM Education as Mission

(3 credits)

This course examines the connection between education and evangelism in the 21st century. Through the various venues for education within the church, participants will critically examine the questions, possibilities, and challenges for equipping people to share the Good News to the neighbor.

Nelson Strobert

6.309 STM Religious Vocation, Ministry and the Movies

(3 credits)

Movies have been and remain a powerful source for moral development, intellectual formation, and pastoral care. The goal of this course is to assist students in their vocational development through a critical assessment of ministry/religious vocation as depicted in the cinema. Through this practical theological endeavor, students will develop their abilities to identify in films themes relevant to religious vocation/ministry, and also to reflect on the meaning of those themes for their own vocation and pastoral ministry. Particular focal-themes include “Minister as Saint/Sinner,” “Minister as Prophet/Clueless,” “Minister as Mad-Person/Fool for Christ,” “Minister as Savior/Spoiler of Church and the World.”

Leonard Hummel

6.310 STM Environmental History of Christianity

(3 credits)

Landscapes and nature have been a part of the history of Christianity, but many written accounts emphasized “great men,” and treated theology as if it did not arise from daily living in local places. Today, creation receives special attention among theologians and biblical scholars, and ecological spirituality emerges in the contemplative arts. Environmental History is an



establish method among secular historians, and Eco-criticism shapes studies of literature. This course will re-read the history of Christianity using the methods of Environmental History and Ecocriticism, and survey the history of ecological spirituality from ancient to modern Christianity.

Gilson Waldkoenig

6.311 STM Health and Salvation

(3 credits)

In this course, we will examine the relationship between health and salvation in the Church. Particular attention will be paid to similarities and variations of this relationship among cultures, ethnic groups, and in the experiences of men and women. We will explore various pastoral responses to this relationship: for example, healing services, health-care institutions, health-care ministries, congregational nursing, visitation of the sick, social advocacy for health care. We will study these pastoral responses from theological, historical, psychological, and ethical perspectives.

Leonard Hummel

6.312 STM Sittler Seminar on Ministry, Ecology and Society

(3 credits)

A great preacher and beloved teacher, Joseph Sittler was a visionary theologian and insightful mentor for

ministry. His clear conception of the gospel of Jesus Christ rings true in a changing world, and his expansive view of grace brims with confidence. Sittler's voice is foundational for Lutheran ecological theology. This seminar will utilize audio and video recordings of sermons, lectures and interviews by Sittler, as well as his published theological essays, to learn Sittler's thoughtful approach to ministry, society, ecology and the world. Through lectures, discussions and student leadership of seminar sessions, we will seek to gain from Sittler guidance for ministry today.

Gilson Waldkoenig

6.313 STM The Preaching Life and Sermons of St. Augustine

(3 credits)

Based on translated sermons of Augustine, this course will look at the lively pulpit life Augustine exhibited in his preaching as bishop, rhetor and homiletician. We will discuss his corpus of sermons in terms of how they depict Augustine's views on history, doctrine, heresy, church structures and biblical interpretation. Course work includes discussion, rhetorical analysis of a variety of seasonal and occasional sermons and a final paper on the student's choice of a selected topic related to Augustine's sermons.

Susan Hedahl