



Course Descriptions - Summer 2023

Asynchronous Course

DMP4026S Theology and Practice of Nonviolence

Jeffrey Meyers, PhD

June 1-30

Nonviolence is a method of struggle with a two-fold goal: to simultaneously resist injustice and oppression and construct a more peaceful and just world. Jesus practiced and proclaimed nonviolence in his opposition to the oppressive and exploitive social, economic, and political conditions of his day. In our own time, the church is called to preach and pursue the peace of God's kingdom, including through supporting or initiating nonviolent campaigns against injustice and oppression. This course explores the Christian call to nonviolence through an examination of the teachings of Jesus and the work of a wide range of theologians and nonviolence theorists. It is designed to provide students with a foundation in both the theology and the practice of nonviolence.

P2680S **Philosophical Ethics**

Herman Stark, PhD

June 1-30

A study of major philosophical theories of ethics and their application to concrete cases.

Multi-Modal Courses

(All times are listed in CST)

Week 1 June 5-9

B4321S **The Book of Exodus**

Leslie Hoppe, OFM

Bi-modal (On Campus and Zoom)

June 5-9, 9:00 am -12:00 pm

This course explores the book of Exodus from historical, literary, and theological perspectives, as well as selected aspects of its history of interpretation and reception in

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various contexts. Emphasis will be placed on the critical study of Exodus and its reception as resources for contemporary theological reflection and pastoral practice.

Week 2 June 12-16

B4419S Reading the Pastoral Letters in a Synodal Church

Ferdinand Okorie, CMF

Bi-modal (On Campus and Zoom)

June 12-16, 1:00 pm -4:00 pm

This week-long course is based on close reading and interpretation of the Pastoral Letters. Our reading and interpretation of the Pastoral Letters will pay close attention to the themes of church and leadership in the letters in the context of a synodal church. Students will be familiar with the message of the letters in the context of the early church, and gain competency in proclaiming the letters in today's church. Students will engage the understanding of church and leadership in these letters in a synodal church seeking communion, participation, and the witness of faith. (3 credit option available).

BS4300S Considering Jesus Anew: The Biblical Roots of the Cosmic Christ

Laurie Brink, OP

Tri-modal (On Campus, Zoom and Asynchronous)

June 12-16, 9:00 am-Noon

The Letter to the Colossians acknowledges that Jesus "is the first-born of all creation; for him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible...He is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Co 1:16-17). Through an evolutionary lens, Teilhard de Chardin argues that this Jesus is the Cosmic Christ, the dynamic presence of Christ in the universe. This course explores how Scripture, science, and theology can serve as a foundation for a contemporary integrative spirituality. (1.5 credits; 3-credit option for CTU students only; also available to auditors)

Week 3 June 20-23

W4407S Liturgical Formation, Spirituality, and Pope Francis

Rev. Richard Fragomeni

Bi-modal (On Campus and Zoom)

June 20-23 9:00 am-12:00 pm

In his 2021 Apostolic Letter, *Desiderio Desideravi*, Pope Francis offers a creative theological perspective on the "LITURGICAL FORMATION OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD." This course explores the implications of this letter for the personal, communal and ecological understanding of the liturgy and its transformational power for the life of the world. The seminar will be conducted in a reading, presentation, and discussion style. (auditors welcome, 3 credit option available).

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WMP4000S Black Preaching and Evangelization

Maurice Nutt, CSSR

Bi-modal (On Campus and Zoom)

June 20-23, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

During the decades of African/African American enslavement, biblical preaching was often used to justify and maintain the institution of slavery. Black preaching is essentially prophetic preaching that evolved from the experiences of enslaved Africans who chose to believe in a God of liberation – A God who loved them for who they were and who created them to be a free people.

Black rhetorical traditions will be delineated and identified through the study of African American preachers and sermons (homilies) from the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries. Unique characteristics such as call and response, celebration in preaching, and black hermeneutics will be explored. Black preaching, while prophetic also has as its purpose the work of evangelization--the work of conversion and witnessing to the goodness of Jesus Christ. Each student will be required to preach one homily using African American preaching traditions as a model. (3 credit option available).

C4300S Synergies of Compassion: Women in Intercultural Theology & Ministry

Joanne Doi, MM

Bi-modal (On Campus and Zoom)

June 20-23 9:00 am-12:00 pm

The Hebrew words for womb (*rehem*) and mercy or compassion (*rahamin*) stem from the same root. Through scripture and the stories of Guadalupe / Kuan Yin / Our Lady of La Vang and more, this course will explore the synergies of compassion and healing reflected in the experiences and symbols of women in intercultural theology and ministry. "Mercy is returning those who are far away to their source, the womb." (Avishai Margalit) (3 credit option available).

Additional Courses

DEC4000S: Women Doing Theology and Ethics Across Cultures

Keren Ross, PhD

Bi-modal (On Campus and Zoom)

Meets on Thursdays, June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

This course explores contemporary Christian theology and ethics from the lens of women's experiences from around the world, particularly those of women of color. Students will investigate scripture, theological anthropology, spirituality, and social justice issues from the perspectives of intersectional feminism, focusing on the intersections of race, class, and gender in theological conversations. Readings include texts written by theologians from the

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West (including the voices of African-American, Asian-American, and Latine Women) as well as the Global South.

G4010S: Us versus Them: Conflict, Theology & the Human Brain

Scott Alexander, PhD

Remote Synchronous (Zoom)

Meets on Tuesdays, June 6, 13, 20, 27, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

In 1971, the great singer songwriter and lyricist John Lennon released his famous utopian hymn. His moving poetry and plaintive melody invite us to “imagine” a world in which there is no conflict—especially of the violent variety. At one point, the lyrics mention two of the systemic instigators of violent conflict which Lennon imagines will have to be eliminated in order for “all the people” to live “life in peace.” They are nation states and “religion.” In this sense, Lennon’s “Imagine” is a lyrical embodiment of the specious albeit understandable claim that ‘religion has been the cause of most of the wars in human history.’

As much as we might admire the spirit of Lennon’s motivation and vision in “Imagine,” those of us committed to faith-based ministries of restorative justice, reconciliation and peacebuilding are deeply invested in the idea that our religious beliefs and practices can be a source of tremendous healing and social change for greater justice. At the same time, however, many of us also find ourselves working with implicit theologies of conflict that are flawed or incomplete. We tend to be mystified by the way in which “religion” continues to fracture the human family, or we are content to participate in creating and enhancing sharp social battle lines based on our own deeply held religious convictions and values, or we do a bit of both.

This course is based on the premise that the long term efficacy of our various ministerial praxes as peacebuilders is at risk as long as we continue to ignore or under appreciate what science has to teach us about the evolutionarily ingrained, and largely unconscious dynamic of “Us/Them-ing.” It is designed to provide theologians and ministers with a foundation for constructing more robust theologies of conflict and conflict transformation by introducing and exploring what certain key discoveries in contemporary neuroscience, group identity formation theory, moral foundations theory, and relevant themes in social psychology teach us about the inevitability but also the plasticity and moral potential of the processes by which we divide ourselves into “Us”es and “Them”s (3 credit option available).

Travel Course

SH4002B: **Origins of Franciscan Spirituality, Part B**

Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM

Travel Study

June 2-13, 2023

This study tour/rimage in Italy provides students with a survey of the spirituality arising from the movement/family begun by Francis and Clare of Assisi in the thirteenth century. We will visit several of the shrines dedicated to the memory of the original members of the three orders of the Franciscan family. The tour/rimage will take place in Rome, Assisi, La Verna and the shrines of the Rieti Valley. Besides reviewing the origins of the Franciscan Way of Life, special attention will be given to the contemporary priorities of Franciscan-Clarian life: Contemplative Vision of Reality; Preferential Option for Poverty; Mission of Eucharistic Communion; Universal Fellowship; On-going Formation in the Sign of the Cross. This tour/rimage is organized by the John Duns Scotus Chair of Franciscan Spirituality. Franciscan men and women are especially encouraged to participate, but it is open to all students and auditors. Prerequisite: SH4002a/SH5002a Origins of Franciscan Spirituality, Part A, (asynchronous). Travel portion of the trip has an additional cost.

The course begins at 3:00 pm on June 2, 2023 and is over after supper on June 13, 2023. You will need to travel on or before June 1, 2023 to arrive on time and depart on or after June 14, 2023. Summer@CTU 2023 Program Cost: \$2400 plus credit tuition or audit tuition; \$400 single room supplement optional. All participants must take SH4002a/SH5002a during the May Term 2023. Price includes shared accommodations, half pension (breakfast plus 1 meal) in Rome, full pension (breakfast plus 2 meals) in Assisi, train/bus fares, museum tickets. Cost does not include airfare. Please see Prof. Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM for information and application.