



Course Descriptions - Summer 2024

Asynchronous Courses

P2630 Philosophy of Religious Belief

Herman Stark, PhD

Asynchronous

June 1-30

Philosophy of Religious Belief: A survey of basic theories of knowledge and the justification of belief (“epistemology”) with emphasis on whether and how the nature of religious belief is unique. Approaches to “truth” are introduced as are the traditions of Foundationalism, Pragmatism, and Fideism. *Email instructor if alternative dates are needed.* hstark@ctu.edu

Multi-Modal Courses

(All times are listed in CDT)

Week 1 June 3-7

B4431S Radical Advent: Biblical Reflections on the Challenge of Change

Laurie Brink, OP

On Campus and Zoom

June 3-7, 9 am-Noon

Whether starting a job, beginning a new relationship, moving to a new place, retiring from an old job, or wading through the waters of grief, we all experience the challenge of change. The question for us becomes how do we respond? As “the food of the soul, the pure and everlasting source of spiritual life” (Dei Verbum 4.21), our Scripture is a beacon that shines light upon our less than clear path. In a dynamic process that integrates personal experience with biblical study, this course explores our ancestors in the faith as guides for our own experiences of transition. (B4431SA-3 credit option).

W4408S Pope Francis & Blessings: The Implication of Fiducia Supplicans for the Catholic Tradition

Rev. Richard Fragomeni

On Campus and Zoom

June 3-7, 1:00 pm -4:00 pm

On 18 December 2023, the Vatican's doctrinal office published a declaration on “the possibility of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples.”

This document, *Fiducia Supplicans*, (FS), has caused debates and divisions throughout the Catholic Church. It has raised questions about what blessings in the church are anyway. Many have become confused about the implications of this text.

In this session, learn about the history and theology of blessing prayers. Study this recent declaration and discuss the various ways that this text impacts the Catholic tradition. Imagine the possible impact that FS has on the unity and communion among Christians worldwide. (W4408SA-3 credit option).

Week 2 June 10-14

BC5005S Perspectives in Black Biblical Interpretation

Ferdinand Okorie, CMF

On Campus and Zoom

June 10-14, 1:00 pm -4:00 pm

After an introduction into Black cultures in Africa and America, the approaches, themes and texts in current Black biblical interpretation that engage Black cultures are examined. Students are introduced to the question of text and context in interpretation. Students are expected to show in their interpretation of biblical text the relationship between text and context. (BC5005SA-3 credit option).

C4025S Religion and Ecological Flourishing / Ecoflourishing: Interreligious Perspectives

Anthony Le Duc, SVD

Zoom only

June 10-14, 9:00 am-Noon

The lectures will present a number of topics relevant to this theme, and will incorporate insights from the three major traditions: Dhammic, Abrahamic, and Chinese (Confucian). The sub-themes that I have in mind are: The identified sub-themes include: (1) Becoming authentically human; (2) Becoming Intercultural; (3) Becoming Interreligious; and (4) Becoming Inter-creational. Each of these topics will be considered in an interreligious manner and aims to demonstrate its relevance and contribution to ecoflourishing.

Updated: 4/8/2024

DE4004S Contemporary Issues in Catholic Social Thought

Steven Millies, PhD

On Campus and Zoom

June 10-14, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

Every election year confronts Catholics with moral challenges. In 2024, the first presidential election since *Dobbs v. Jackson* has changed the landscape by overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Catholics have an opportunity to re-frame their moral engagement with politics in a new way. Viewing contemporary social issues through the lens of the consistent ethic of life, this course will survey the moral tradition and the social and political landscape in order to offer a faithful way to engage contemporary citizenship. (DE4004SA-3 credit option).

Week 3 June 17-21

DE4005S Todos! Todos! Todos! The Urgent Call of Synodality Today

Maria Cimperman, RSCJ

On Campus and Zoom

June 17-21, 9:00 am-Noon

The importance of this moment cannot be underestimated. Pope Francis is calling the entire Church to synodality, a continuation of the renewal ushered in by the Spirit in Vatican II, particularly the vision of the Church as the People of God (*Lumen Gentium*). Francis is not only reminding us that all the baptized are the Church; he is also trying to enlarge a sense among the baptized that the baptismal call is to participation in the church through the gifts each has received from the Spirit. The equal dignity, participation, and co-responsibility of all the baptized is necessary for the Church. Grounded in scripture and tradition, the call to synodality today is essential to the life and mission of the church. In this course we will delve into the theology of synodality, read (the most recent) synod documents, and actively imagine (as the Synod Office is inviting) the implications for this in our local and universal Church. Together, we will ask, “How can we be a synodal Church in mission?” (“Towards October 2024”). A methodology taught and used will be Conversation in the Spirit. (DE4005SA-3 credit option).

*In order to maximize our in-class sessions, pre-class reading will be expected.

S4035S Health and Wellness for Ministry

C. Vanessa White, DMin

On Campus and Zoom

June 17-21, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm

This course will focus on what is needed for today's ministers to live and thrive in ministry. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on the formative processes that health and wellness has played in the journey of ministry. Students will have the opportunity in collaboration with others to develop their own vision of health for their ministry as well as access significant literature on health and wellness. Special emphasis will be placed on spiritual practices needed to journey in health and wholeness. (S4035SA-3 credit option).