

SUMMER @ CTU

Sowing the Seeds of
Ministerial Excellence

Course Descriptions - Summer 2025

(All times are listed in CDT)

In June, you are invited to choose from a variety of courses and workshops presented by CTU's renowned faculty and visiting professors, available for credit or audit. You do not need to be a current student to participate. These courses will explore current issues in theology and ministry, fostering theological renewal.

Week I: June 9 - 13

B4406 The Book of Genesis

James Chukwuma Okoye, CSSp, D.Phil

Bi-Modal 1.5 or 3 credit option

9:00 AM to Noon

A reading of the Book of Genesis using a narrative and theological approach. Attention is given to cultural, biblical and contemporary contexts.

MP4023b/5023b Family Life Today: Ministry with Families in Life's Later Stages

Christina Zaker, D.Min

Bi-Modal, 1.5 credits

1:00 to 4:00 PM

Pastoral ministry with families involves sensitivity to the diverse make up of today's families while being able to minister effectively in moments of joy as well as in response to the many complex challenges families face. Part A (which is offered in the May Term) will cover issues in life's early stages of accompanying families with children and youth, and will consider complex issues such as immigration, LGBTQ identity, poverty, and domestic abuse. Part B (which is offered in the Summer) will cover issues in life's later stages of accompanying families of older children, no children, or aging parents as well as complex issues such as mental and physical health, aging, and addictions.

Week II June 16 - 20

C4300S/5300S Synergies of Compassion: Women in Intercultural Theologies and Ministry

Joanne Jaruko Doi, MM, Ph.D.

Zoom only, 1.5 or 3 credit option

9:30 AM to Noon

This course explores the connection between the Hebrew words for womb (rehem) and mercy or compassion (rahamin), highlighting synergies of compassion and healing through stories like Guadalupe, Kuan Yin, and Our Lady of La Vang. Students will examine historical contexts, intercultural women's spirituality, and scriptural interpretations, addressing justice, reconciliation, and solidarity in ministry.

DE4005S/a The Urgent Call of Synodality Today: Communion, Participation, Mission

Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

June 16-20

9:00 AM to noon

The importance of this time 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 Synod documents, and actively engage the implications for this in our local and universal Church. In this ongoing period calling for implementation, students will create resources for implementing "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, Mission."

A methodology taught and used will be Conversation in the Spirit.

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

B4408S Parables in the Gospel of Luke

Barbara Reid, OP, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

9:30 AM to Noon

An exploration of the parables in the Gospel of Luke as stories that challenge the hearer to conversion. Attention will be given to the historical, literary, and cultural realities reflected in the Gospel, to Lucan theological themes, and to insights for preaching and teaching parabolically.

B4418S Spirituality and Suffering in Paul's Prison Letter

Ferdinand Okorie, CMF, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

1:00 to 4:00 PM

This course involves a close reading and interpretation of Paul's Prison Letters. We shall pay close attention to the issues Paul addresses in these letters and how he weaves his experience of imprisonment into his conviction about God, Jesus Christ and the Christian life. We will draw comparison when necessary between Paul's prison letters with the prison letters of modern figures like Martin Luther King Jr, etc. Students will gain insights into these letters; students will become familiar with the arguments of Paul in the letters; and of course, students will be able to proclaim and teach the messages in these letters particularly in the context of human suffering and racial/ethnic divide.

Week III June 23 - 27

W4410/W4410a Delixit Nos: The Sacred Heart of Jesus – Theology, Devotion and Love

Richard Fragomeni, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

1:00 to 4:00 PM

In his October 2025 encyclical, DELIXIT NOS, Pope Francis offers a vision of the heart of Christ as indeed a symbol of humanity at its best. Explore this document and its implications for liturgy, devotion, life, and justice during this Holy Year of hope. Meditate on the Sacred Heart as a gift of compassion and empathy during these troubled times.

B4049S The Book of Ruth

Kate Oxsen, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

1:00 to 4:00 PM

This course will examine the Book of Ruth in its biblical, historical, and literary contexts. It will also explore its theological concepts delving into topics such as migration, the presentation of women and their relationships, and how the story Ruth can speak to us today.

Month Long

MP5103 Pastoral Ministry in Healthcare

Mark Bradley, BCC, CE-ACPE, DMin

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

Mondays 6/2; 6/9; 6/16; 6/23; 6/30; Wednesdays 6/4; 6/11; 6/18; 6/25

6:30 to 9:30 PM

This course will seek to better understand health and pastoral healthcare in a holistic way, and to encourage advocacy on a variety of health-related issues. This course will explore pastoral ministry as an experience of accompaniment in a variety of healthcare settings that seeks to foster good health. Promoting wellness means functioning on all dimensions of health—mentally, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. Attention will be given to means and resources for cultivating effective pastoral ministry to issues of aging, chronic illness, hospitals, hospice and mental health settings among others. This course will focus on effective pastoral care responses to those persons and families dealing with the healthcare system. We will explore theological understandings that are necessary for effective pastoral responses.

C5111S/C4111S Us versus Them: The Neuroscience and Theology of Conflict

Scott C. Alexander, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

Tuesdays 6/3; 6/10; 6/17; 6/24

6:30 to 9:30 PM

Healing unhealthy divisions in the human family and meeting the many challenges that come with the demonization of entire groups of human beings have been part of God's mission and the history of the Church. Until very recently, however, there has been little understanding about the origins and mechanics of why and how various groups of human beings are so easily set at odds with one another. The principal goal of this course is to provide theologians and ministers with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with some of the latest scientific research into the biology of "Us-Theming" and integrate elements of this research into their own praxes of faith-based servant leadership.

Asynchronous Courses

P2680 Philosophical Ethics

Herman E. Stark, Ph.D

Asynchronous, 1.5 or 3 credit option

June 1-30

A study of major philosophical theories of ethics (including Utilitarianism, Kant's Ethics, Virtue, and Egoism) and their application to concrete cases.

P2680 Philosophy, Science, and Religion

Herman E. Stark, Ph.D

Asynchronous, 1.5 or 3 credit option

June 1-30

A study of major moments in the history of empirical science and their implications for worldviews and our understanding of how humans have in fact pursued knowledge. Philosophers include Popper and Kuhn, and topics include scientific literacy, scientific method, and scientific modification of religion or philosophy.

DMP4026S The Theology and Practice of Nonviolence

Jeffrey D. Meyers, Ph.D

Asynchronous, 1.5 credit option

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. 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.