

SUMMER @ CTU

Sowing the Seeds of
Ministerial Excellence

Course Descriptions - Summer 2026

(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 8 - 12

SMP4010S Holistic Approaches to Pastoral Care for Contemporary Ministry

Sr. Chioma Ahanihu, SLW, DMin.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits

9:00 AM to Noon

This course weaves together insights from spirituality, mental healthcare, and ministry in order to equip students for holistic pastoral care, ethical reflection, and boundary setting. Through interdisciplinary reflection, case studies, and personal integration, students will examine how spiritual and emotional well-being support effective and compassionate ministry in diverse and global contexts.

C4030S/C4030Sa Jewish Theologies of Christianity

Ranana Dine, Ph.D.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

9:00 AM to Noon

Judaism and Christianity have a long and intertwined history full of conflict, tragedy, and, at times, friendship. But over the millennia Judaism has also wrestled with how to make sense of Christianity in relation to its own theology: what is Christianity's place within a Jewish understanding of covenant? Choseness? Commandedness? In this one-week course we will look at how Jewish thinkers have understood Christianity in relation to Judaism's own theology. Although we will spend some time on older historical sources, much of the week will focus on writings from the last 50 years that depict Christianity as having an ambivalent or positive position within Jewish theology.

W4411S/W441Sa Dilexi Te: The Opening of the New Pontificate of Leo XIV

Rev. Richard Fragomeni, Ph.D.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Shortly after his election on 8 May 2025, Pope Leo XIV issued his first Apostolic Exhortation, *Dilexi Te*. Pope Francis started the text, and Leo completed it for publication. This summer session will offer a close reading of the text, examining the theology of justice and Pope Leo's commitment to the Church's social involvement with the poor and related justice issues. The seminar-style format of the course will enable informed discussion.

B4301S Biblical Reflections and Pastoral Responses for Healing and Whole-making

Laurie Brink, O.P., Ph. D, and Jay Fostner, O. Praem. Ph.D.

Bi-modal 1.5 credits (NOTE: A 3.0 credit option will not be available for this course)

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus is depicted as a healer, restoring persons to health and well-being. This course explores the healing stories through three lenses: exegetical, psychological, and therapeutic in order to provide students with a biblically grounded and pastoral sensitive approach to ministering to those in need. In addition to lectures, the course will include discussion and practice of practical spiritual and therapeutic interventions to support healing and whole-making.

Week II June 15 - 19

DE 4006S/DE4006Sa Pathways for the Implementation of the Synod: Exploring Theological and Pastoral Ways to Walk Forward Together

Sr Maria Cimperman, RSCJ

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

9:00 AM to Noon

The Final Document of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops (Synod on Synodality), *For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission*, makes clear that what is needed next is both reflection on the document and implementation of recommendations. To encourage and facilitate this, some months afterwards Pope Francis gave his approval to the General Secretariat of the Synod for an implementation plan. After Pope Francis' death, the newly elected Pope Leo XIV met with the Secretariat and then approved *Pathways for the Implementation Phase of the Synod (2025-2028)*. In this course we will examine the Final Document and Pathways document through various contexts (e.g., parish, diocese, academic) to ascertain the theological dimensions to be addressed and the pastoral plans needed to live more fully synodality as a "constitutive dimension of the Church." Through their contexts, students will engage "pathways to follow, practices to implement and horizons to explore."

B4428S/B4428Sa The Righteousness of God & Faithfulness of Believers in Galatians & Romans

Fr. Ferdinand Okorie, CMF, Ph.D.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

This course involves a close reading and interpretation of Romans and Galatians. We will pay close attention to the arguments that Paul is making in Galatians and Romans about his conviction on God, Jesus Christ and the Christian life. Our discussion of the issues Paul is dealing with in Galatians and Romans will engage the cultural world of the churches in Galatia and Rome. In our study of Romans, we will examine Paul's theology of the righteousness of God, and we will do the same with Galatian by examining Paul's teaching on the faithfulness of believers. Students will gain insights into these letters becoming familiar with the arguments on the righteousness of God and the fidelity of believers, and students will gain competence in interpreting, proclaiming and teaching the messages in these letters.

Week III June 22 - 26

DE4325/DE4325a Public Theology

Steve Millies, Ph. D.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

9:00 AM to Noon

Public theology attempts to identify the criteria by which theology can guide public behavior, influence public policy, and shape public discourse. This course will focus on the Catholic tradition of public theology from the New Testament down to the twenty-first century with a particular emphasis on the practical dilemmas these choices raise in ministry.

MP4035S Grief, Loss, and Bereavement

Mark Bradley BCC, CE-ACPE, DMin

Bi-modal 1.5 credits

9:00 Am to Noon

This course will explore the complex experiences of grief, loss, and bereavement from theological, psychological, and pastoral perspectives. Key topics include the “stages” and expressions of grief, cultural and spiritual dimensions of mourning, and the role of ritual and community in healing. The course also addresses pastoral care strategies for supporting the bereaved, including counseling skills, liturgical practices, and ethical considerations. By the end of the course, participants will be equipped to offer informed, sensitive, and theologically grounded care to those navigating the journey of loss and bereavement in diverse ministry contexts.

E4015S Including the Faithful with Disabilities

Nancy Romer, Ph.D.

B-Modal 1.5 Credits

9:00 AM to Noon

The Roman Catholic Church has promulgated documents supporting the pastoral care of those who are alternately abled. In *Dignitas Infinita* (2024) Pope Francis addressed the marginalization of those with disabilities and called for greater inclusion. The USCCB has also produced documents in support of inclusion for those with disabilities. Despite these formal positions, on the parish level there is often misunderstanding regarding the disabled and lack of inclusion. Parents are often left as sole advocates for their children’s participation in catechesis, liturgy and sacraments. This class attempts to address these issues with theology, Scripture and a review of pastoral programs to prepare pastoral ministers and priests in their service to the disabled.

B4023/B4023a Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the New Testament and Contemporary Perspectives

Sr. Barbara Reid, OP, Ph.D.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

A study of the New Testament depictions of Mary and subsequent Church teachings about her, with a view to what these offer for spirituality and pastoral practice in today's multicultural church. Topics Include: (1) Mary in the Gospel of Mark: Ruptures and Transformations; (2) Mary in the Gospel of Matthew: at the Crossroads of Life; (3) Mary in the Gospel of Luke: Prophet of New Life; (4) Mary in the Gospel of John: Birther and Midwife of New Life; (5) Cultural images of Mary and Post-New Testament developments in Mariology.

Month Long

C4318S/C4318Sa Methods in Decolonizing Interreligious Dialogue

Syed Atif Rizwan, Ph.D.

Bi-Modal 1.5 credits with a 3.0 credit option

Mondays (6/8; 6/15; 6/22) and Wednesdays (6/10; 6/17)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

How has colonialism shaped the frameworks, categories, and language of interreligious studies and dialogue? What have been the consequences? Why is it necessary, especially now, to decolonize these fields? In this course, we will critically engage a range of decolonial and interdisciplinary scholarship that addresses these questions while exposing the historical, theological, and ethical limitations of inherited models of interreligious engagement. Beyond critique, together we will explore and develop cutting-edge methodologies for reimagining interreligious studies and dialogue in ways that foster deeper awareness, intellectual accountability, and ethical responsibility. The goal is to cultivate the analytical tools and practical approaches necessary for substantive, transformative, and mutually grounded interreligious experiences. This course will be of particular interest to those engaged in theology, ethics, religious studies, interreligious leadership, education, and community-based dialogue.

MP5103 Pastoral Ministry in Healthcare

Mark Bradley, BCC, CE-ACPE, DMin

Bi-Modal, 3 credits

Mondays 6/1; 6/8; 6/15; 6/22; 6/29 and Wednesdays 6/3; 6/10; 6/17; 6/24)

6:30 PM 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.

C4411S/C4411Sa/C5411S/C5411Sa Us versus Them: The Neuroscience and Theology of Conflict

Scott C. Alexander, Ph.D

Bi-Modal, 1.5 or 3 credit option

Tuesdays 6/2; 6/9; 6/16; 6/23

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Us versus Them: The Neuroscience and Theology of Conflict: 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.

HD4000 Spiritual and Vocational Discernment in the Thought of St. Augustine

Fr. Robert Dodaro, OSA

Bi-Modal, 3 credits

Tuesday and Thursdays 6/25; 6/30; 7/2; 7/7; 7/9; 7/14; 7/16; 7/21; 7/22; and 7/23

1:00 – 3:00 PM

The course will explore three significant elements in Augustine's method for discerning a religious and/or clerical vocation, consisting in prayer, friendship, and self-knowledge. These elements constitute a unified discernment process. They do not exist in Augustine's thought as disparate dynamics. Hence, none of them stands alone without the other two elements. Moreover, it is the thesis of this course that, understood in this way, prayer, friendship and self-knowledge are aspects of spiritual discernment in a more general sense, even apart from the process of vocational discernment. The course may therefore be regarded as treating some of the key fundamentals of Augustine's ascetical theology. Augustine's theology in this respect will be illustrated principally through the account of his own spiritual discernment available in his writings, especially in his *Confessions*. Discussion will be based on an essay written by the instructor which draws exclusively from primary source material, principally from Augustine's *Confessions*.

Asynchronous Courses

P2680 Philosophical Ethics

Herman E. Stark, Ph.D

Asynchronous, 3 credits

June 1-30

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

P2640 Philosophy, Science, and Religion

Herman E. Stark, Ph.D

Asynchronous, 3 credits

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.