

## **New Courses for Summer and Fall 2020**

### **TH 3943 Communities of Earth and Spirit: Ecology and Religious Traditions (Summer 2020)**

Instructor: Chris Elwood

This course gives you an opportunity to explore the growing field of religion and ecology, an area of study and advocacy that (1) seeks to understand how various religious traditions and worldviews have made sense of the natural world, of life and of land, and (2) works to engage these traditions for the purpose of responding to an ever-deepening environmental crisis.

Among the premises of this work are two fundamental convictions. First, approaches to understanding and influencing the dynamics of humans' impact on our earth-home must aspire to a holistic vision of the relation of nature and culture, and so this study has to be multidisciplinary: it must engage religion, theology, ethics, the arts, history, social science, natural science. Second, to effectively reckon with the reality of how human schemes of vision, value, and practice relate to our environment, we need to aspire to a global scope. It is not enough to look at one religious or confessional tradition, or one theological paradigm, to find a key to solve the puzzle of effective response to what ails our world. We need, instead, to encounter the diversity of human traditions of value and meaning-making, both the traditions that have had global reach and those that have been formative locally.

In this course, you will have a chance to examine the intersections of religion and the disciplines that help us interpret the ecological crisis and explore a range of religious traditions from the point of view of their ways of making sense of the relation of earth and spirit.

Prerequisite: Introductory theology course (Systematic Theology or Introduction to Theology and Ethics). This course fulfills the Ministry in Religious Diversity requirement (MDiv and MAMFT) or serves as a WW Elective.

### **NT 1323 Epistles and Revelation (Fall 2020)**

Instructor: Susan R. Garrett

The New Testament is a central and generative document of Christian faith and of western culture, but it poses significant interpretive challenges because the world and worldview presumed by its authors and first readers were vastly different from our own. This course will offer students a broad orientation to historical, literary, and theological issues raised by critical interpretation of the New Testament (focusing on the Epistles and Revelation), and nurture skills for using it as a source for understanding early Christianity and for theological reflection.

Prerequisites: None. This course is required for MDiv and MA(R) students who have not done Scripture II. For those who began in Fall 2019, the course completes the sequence of NT introduction begun with the course on Gospels and Acts.

### **OT 2063 Exegesis of Judges (Fall 2020)**

Instructor: Tyler Mayfield

This biblical exegesis course provides an in-depth examination of the book of Judges in English translation. This biblical book presents students with an excellent opportunity to sharpen historical-critical interpretive skills, to develop better literary approaches to biblical narrative, and to deepen our theological imaginations regarding war, violence, sexuality and gender. Students will gain a toolbox of

hermeneutical methods for contemporary ministry and will respond to this biblical book with an appropriate and creative project.

Prerequisites: Torah and Former Prophets, Scripture I, or equivalent Hebrew Bible/Old Testament coursework. This course fulfills the pre-2018 Advanced Exegesis requirement and is an Exegesis Course in the new MDiv curriculum.

### **OT 4253 The Bible in a Religiously Pluralistic World (Fall 2020)**

Instructor: Tyler Mayfield

This course focuses on the authority, relevance, and interpretation of Christian Scripture (Old and New Testament) in light of the contemporary context of religious pluralism. Part I explores religious pluralism as both a theological commitment regarding the acceptance of other religious traditions and a course of engagement with the world's religious diversity. Part II examines Christian theologies of Scripture in light of the opportunity of religious pluralism. Part III engages in reading the Bible comparatively using sacred texts in other religious traditions to help interpret Christian sacred literature. Part IV provides a case study for our course topic by attending to the development of a Post-Shoah Christian Biblical Hermeneutics.

Prerequisites: at least one IP/Bible course. This course fulfills the Ministry in Religious Diversity requirement (MDiv and MAMFT) or serves as an IP Elective.

### **SM 1311 Theological Reflection Groups for Third-Year MDiv Students (Fall 2020)**

Instructor: Susan R. Garrett

The third-year reflection group (a two-semester sequence) will provide a structured context for students to (a) engage in summative theological reflection on their entire seminary experience, and (b) discover how their vocational commitment and focus have evolved during their time at LPTS. Students will expand and refine the portfolio of seminary work begun in the second-year reflection group. Topics for additional reading, writing, and discussion will include integration of life and reflective leadership; interpersonal and teamwork skills; constructive handling of conflict and criticism; and resilience in times of challenge and change.

### **TH 2443 Religious Diversity in the African Diaspora (Fall 2020)**

Instructor: Douglas Clark

This course being offered by Dr. Douglas Clark, Visiting Assistant Professor. More details on the course are available from him (dclark@lpts.edu). It will be offered using videoconferencing technology.

Prerequisite: Introductory theology course (Systematic Theology or Introduction to Theology and Ethics). This course counts as a Black Church Studies course and is a WW Elective.