

New Courses for Fall 2012



MIN 790 (ED): Faith, Food Justice, and Local Communities

Professor: Mark Jensen

1 credit hour

Questions of food access have become prevalent in many dimensions of public and communal life. Researchers have discovered ways to “track” food access in communities and neighborhoods. Congregations and not-for-profits are developing varied programmatic responses to issues of food access in their communities. This course explores issues of food access, food justice, and faith using insights and tools both from research sciences and theology. One course goal is to increase student awareness of the questions being posed by research scientists, theological educators, and faith communities. A second course goal is to equip students with practical and reflective tools for effectively leading faith communities to think theologically about and respond effectively to this pressing public issue. The course will be offered in partnership with WFU School of Medicine professor and researcher, Sara Quandt.

The course has two parts:

Nutrition Environment Measures Survey Workshop: Led by Sara Quandt (WFUSM)

This is an intensive weekend workshop that includes Divinity students and community members (possible internship mentors). Participants will be trained in how to utilize the "Nutrition Environment Measures" tool and then will practice using the tool by taking supervised field trips in small groups to grocery stores, restaurants, and other places where persons in this community purchase food. The workshop will include comparing neighborhoods with high access to healthy foods to neighborhoods with low access.

Theological Reflection: Led by School of Divinity Faculty Member

Upon completing the training and fieldwork, participants will continue learning through structured theological conversation with a Divinity School faculty member.

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THS 790 (AD) Agape and Eros

Professor: Kevin Jung

3 credit hours

This course explores the meaning and normative content of Christian love by comparing and contrasting two types of love, viz., eros and agape. Although perhaps no ethical concept has been given more attention than love in Christian ethics, but love remains a difficult ethical problem for many Christians. We will examine various philosophical and theological questions concerning the nature of love, the relationship between desire and value, the rationality of emotion, the moral status of self-love, and the ordering of love. In doing so, we shall try to identify some distinct features of agape and its relation to eros.

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Extended Credit Option and Scheduling for Art of Ministry III: Internship
Professor: John Senior

1. For all students who register for Art III: One Saturday, early in the semester, all registered Art III students will participate in a day-long seminar (7 hours, 9-5, with an hour lunch break) in which we will explore a number of topics related to the Art III internship program, including setting up the internship for the year. A number of follow-up written assignments will emerge from this seminar, due at various times later in the semester. Combined with at least 8, 1-hour mentoring meetings with site mentors, students will earn 1 course credit (15 hours total - 7 hours on the Saturday, 8 hours in mentoring meetings). Students will be required to complete at least 40 hours of internship for each semester.

2. For any student enrolled in Art III that elects to do so, John Senior will convene a weekly reflection seminar during the normal meeting time assigned to Art III. Students will take turns leading the seminar in different roles. Meeting 13-14 weeks at 75 minutes per week, students will earn an additional course credit. Students in this elective seminar will need to complete at least 60 hours of internship work (instead of 40) to receive this extra credit. All the other requirements described in #1 above also apply.

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SPI 790 (AD), (BD), (CD) Spirituality and Ministry in Art, Architecture, and Theater
Professor: Thomas Frank
1 credit hour each, condensed weekend courses

The purpose of this course is to provoke and explore questions of spirituality and ministry that arise from encounter and engagement with a range of visual, built, and performative arts. The course aims to enrich imaginative resources for deepened spirituality so that students are better prepared for creative and transformative leadership in ministry.

The course is offered in three 1-hour modules with students able to register for 1, 2, or 3 hours. Each module is scheduled as a weekend intensive with site visits.

Art

Through site visits to the Reynolda House Museum of Art (WFU) and the Elsewhere Interactive Museum (Greensboro), students will encounter and discuss visual arts and explore the process of creativity.

Architecture

Through site visits to several houses of worship in the Winston-Salem area, students will explore the variety of architecture through which worshipping communities express and practice their faith.

Theater

Through attendance at a stage play and other performances in cooperation with the WFU Theater Department, students will experience the richness of performative arts and probe the significance of drama and performance for ministerial practice.

MIN 790 (CD) Worship Practicum: Project Chapel

Professor: Jill Crainshaw

Two semesters, one credit hour each semester

Project Chapel engages the denominational and liturgical diversity of the School of Divinity and the local community to model worship renewal. Students enrolled in this practicum will spend the fall term planning and designing services for the spring term 2013. Interested students should meet with the professor to discuss requirements for the course. The project team is composed of faculty members, students, and local ministry leaders. The course has a weekly meeting time on the schedule and will include a weekend planning retreat.

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THS 790 (FD) World Religions in the Triad

Professors: Nelly van Doorn-Harder and Michelle Voss Roberts

Variable credit

1 Credit if taken concurrently with REL396/690, "Interreligious Encounters and Engagement"/"Special Topics"

2 Credits if taken separately

This project-based course will allow students to explore the world's religions as practiced in the Piedmont Triad area. The goals of this course are to (1) explore the rationale for interfaith engagement; (2) extend this knowledge about a particular tradition through experiential learning and case studies; and (3) foster connections between Wake Forest University's Department of Religion, Divinity School, and the larger community.

Because the projects will be conducted in the manner of an independent study, the same prerequisites apply. Students must have a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0.

Students will gain admittance into the course by proposing a research or service project that they will undertake with the professors' supervision. Examples of projects include:

- Educating a local school or religious community about a particular issue of religious diversity
- Bringing the findings of a travel seminar to the wider community
- Visiting local religious communities to gain experiential knowledge of particular practices
- Conducting a panel for interfaith dialogue on a particular issue
- Organizing and reflecting upon interfaith service projects
- Preparing an entry (blog, photo journal, short article, reflection, short video) for the Triad interfaith project webpage.

All projects will be designed in consultation with the teachers.

If Divinity students intend to enroll in REL 690, “Interfaith Encounters and Engagements,” in addition to “World Religions in the Triad,” they should see Susan Robinson for the paperwork. Divinity students may receive World Religions credit for REL690.

During this course we will study the why, how, who, and where of interreligious activities. What is their use and who needs them? Do they change mindsets and situations or are they a hobby for those who love to join them? Focusing mostly on the relations between Jews, Christians, and Muslims we will analyze several levels of activities and the theories that guide different types of involvement. We will look at how groups such as youth and women get involved and see if and how their activities differ from conventional approaches.

For part of the course the class will design an actual interfaith project in, or off campus.

THS 790 (CD) Ethics in the Church

Professor: Kevin Jung

3 credit hours

This course seeks to provide students with tools for developing ethical sensibilities and virtues necessary for contemporary clergy in various ministry settings. With a uniquely designed inductive approach, students will themselves identify and attempt to solve ethical questions that often arise in the field of ministry. Using real (historical and contemporary) and hypothetical cases, students will be asked to re-create the narratives, analyze the situations, and offer possible ethical solutions for the problems they identified in the narratives.

THS 790 (ED) Black Theologies in the U.S.

Professor: Derek Hicks

3 credit hours

This seminar will review the historical and cultural development of Black Theology in the United States. Participants will read primary texts of the movement and review the social contexts out of which their distinct theological thinking arose. Seminar participants will be invited to fully engage multiple modes of the black theological tradition, including early Black Liberation Theology, critical theorists of theodicy, Womanist Theology, intersecting feminist theories, and “Third Wave” Womanist thought.

BIB 790 (AD) Myth and Scripture: The Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Myth
Professor Neal Walls
3 credit hours

This seminar explores biblical texts that depict creation, divine conflicts, and the abode of the dead within their ancient Near Eastern and Mediterranean mythological contexts. The focus this year will be on Genesis 1–11 and Babylonian creation myths (*Enuma Elish*, *Atrahasis* and others); descents to the Netherworld (*Nergal and Ereshkigal*, *The Descent of Ishtar*, *Isis and Osiris*, and *Jesus*, among others); and the diabolic figure of Satan and his legions of fallen angels in early Judaism and Christianity.

Prerequisite: BIB 521, BIB 541, or permission of the instructor.

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BIB 790 Old Testament Interpretation I – Readings
Professor Clinton Moyer
1 credit hour

This 1-credit “add-on” course is open to students who a) are concurrently enrolled in Old Testament Interpretation I, and b) have at least one year of training in Biblical Hebrew. We will meet for 50 minutes per week to read and discuss primary texts from the Hebrew Bible relevant to the work we are doing simultaneously in Old Testament Interpretation. Students will be expected to prepare a text (selected ahead of time), to read aloud from it in Hebrew, to translate what they have read, and to engage in discussion of the text, most specifically as our work in the original language elucidates or otherwise relates to the themes and concepts that we are examining in the larger survey course. Successful students will demonstrate adequate preparation for each meeting, sustained interest in working the Hebrew language and texts, and a high level of engagement in the associated discussion.

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SPI 790 Embodying the World’s Religions
Professor: Angela Yarber
3 credit hours

Embodying the World's Religions begins with the foundation that the major religions of the world value embodiment. Whether they are participating in Israeli folk dance, whirling dervishes, Tai Chi, liturgical dance, or bharatanatyam, persons from differing faith traditions can find themselves on common ground when they move their bodies. The course is a fusion of theory and praxis, enabling students to learn about the histories and theories surrounding embodiment through reading, lecture, discussion, and research, while also witnessing embodiment and dancing themselves. We will concentrate on embodiment while learning about the five major world religions (Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity). Utilizing Parker Palmer’s threefold goals of pedagogy, students will engage in the course material by *knowing*, *being*, and *doing*.

MIN 790 The Church's Care for the Sick

Professor: Susan Dunlap

3 credit hours

The church has always cared for the sick, whether through the healing arts, building hospitals, or tending to practical needs. This course focuses on the congregation as the agent of care for the increasing numbers of people in our congregations who live with illness. Through memoir, ethnographic studies, and social scientific perspectives, we will explore the social, emotional, and cultural aspects of illness. In particular, the course will look at congregational practices of care for the sick in African American, Latino, and Euro-American churches. The course includes theological reflection on finitude, morality and illness, and faithful ecclesial practice