Progressive Leadership Seminar (PLS) & Contextual Education (1.5 credit hours)

Students admitted Spring 2021 and later were admitted into the revised MDIV program. Contextual Education requirements include two summer PLS courses. This summer, PLS101 and PLS104 (listed below) will be offered. Either this summer or next, you will need to enroll in PLS101. It is your choice. Next summer, we will offer PLS101 Racism and Intersecting Oppressions and PLS103 Interfaith Collegiality. Questions regarding this PLS/Contextual Education requirement can be sent to Dr. Wise Baker at dwisebaker@eden.edu.

PLS101 Racism and Intersecting Oppressions (OS) - Wise Baker
May 31 - 9:00am - 4:00pm CST
June 7, 14, 21, 28; 6:00p - 8:00p CST

In partnership with The Gamaliel Race and Power Institute. The Progressive Leadership Seminar on Racism and Intersecting Oppressions will examine the historical and contemporary forms of oppression in its institutional, interpersonal, and internalized forms, infuse a theological witness for students to act in community via a group project in social transformation in their contextual setting.

PLS104 Faith-Based Non Profit Management (OS) - Lawler
May 31 - 9:00am - 4:00pm CST
June 7, 14, 21, 28; 6:00p - 8:00p CST

For students imagining a future leading faith-based nonprofits, this course covers the essential tools of leadership and management and their particular application in mission-driven organizations. Four core dynamics frame this course: 1) leadership, and management, 2) accounting and finance, 3) marketing and communication, and 4) human resources and volunteer management. Alongside course readings and case studies, guest speakers will provide the foundation for developing foundational knowledge. Students in this class will serve in mission-driven organizations as the context for developing their practice of leadership and management.

PLS as an IFL (1 credit hour)

Students who are not required to complete the new PLS courses are welcome to take either PLS101 or PLS104 as an IFL. You will be required to attend all stated sessions.

IFL296 Racism and Intersecting Oppressions (OS) - Wise Baker
May 31 - 9:00am - 4:00pm CST
June 7, 14, 21, 28; 6:00p - 8:00p CST

IFL299 Faith-Based Non Profit Management (OS) - Lawler
May 31 - 9:00am - 4:00pm CST
June 7, 14, 21, 28; 6:00p - 8:00p CST
In light of current questions about climate change and species extinction, this course considers if and how the Bible relates to questions we may have about nature and animals. To do so, we will pay attention not only to biblical studies and religious ethics but also to ecological and animal studies that have been developed across various disciplines in recent years. In addition to reading and thinking about the Bible with the help of biblical scholars, we will spend time learning and discussing influential ideas about the natural and animal world from a diversity of scholars in other fields, including Carol J. Adams, John Maxwell Coetzee, Jacques Derrida, Pope Francis, Donna Haraway, Emmanuel Levinas, Bill McKibben, and Anna Tsing.

This course explores the powerful legacies of two historical figures Pauli Murray and Bayard Rustin. Both were radical revolutionaries, politically astute, peace activists, moral cosmopolitans, and strategic organizers whose influence extended far beyond the Civil Rights Movement. With close examination, much of their lives intersected one another. Both were born and died two years apart from one another. Both were raised by their (grand)parents/aunts. Both were part of a religious institution (Murray an Episcopalian and Rustin a Quaker). Both were queer and exiled to the margins because of their sexuality. We will examine the convergences and confluences of these two figures’ political and social ideologies—and the worlds that shaped them. We will explore their queerness, international and foreign connections, public and social policies, spirituality, and activism that shaped the moral conscious of America. We will pay special attention to the individuals’ body of work (both primary and secondary sources) as a window into contemporary debates about intersubjectivity as experienced in African American culture that gives rise to the notion of a collective self (or a collective we), the hallmark of the African American experience.

What is a biblical family? This course examines the understandings of family revealed through socio-historical study of the Bible and how these perspectives can inform the practices of ministry. We will turn our attention to the contrasts between ancient and modern social and economic structures, including marriage, reproduction, and extended family, exploring how they play out in the interpretation of biblical texts. Students will be encouraged to explore what this ancient witness can teach us toward a more global awareness and the vitality of the church into the future.
TR2016 Contemporary Paganism (OS) - Mueller
(3 credit hours - satisfies HT elective at Eden)
Please note: United’s Summer Term runs May 16 - August 19, 2022. This is a 13 week course.
Thursdays; 1:30p - 4:45p CST
This course surveys the history, practices, and denominations of the contemporary Pagan (Neo-Pagan) movement in the US. The course aims to support students venturing into interreligious work, Pagan ministries or Pagan academic studies, and ministries incorporating contemporary Paganism into other ecumenical settings (Unitarian Universalist or other inclusive traditions), as well as students who simply want to learn about Paganism as a world religion. The course encourages critical thinking regarding defining "Paganism" and invites challenges to the academic field of contemporary Pagan studies, such as regarding the "contemporary Pagan" versus "Neo-Pagan" debates.