

# 2023-24 Course Catalog

## Spring 2024

### **B102 Old Testament Survey**

This course will provide a survey of the Old Testament, beginning with the Torah (Pentateuch), followed by the Former and Latter Prophets, and finally the Writings. It will give students an opportunity to practice the variety of interpretive tools that they learned in the first required biblical studies course. By suggesting that the Old Testament portrays the God of Israel as one who graciously and unfailingly loves the world and wills comprehensive well-being (shalom) for all people and all creation, the course will also model what the instructor considers to be an ethical way of interpreting the Bible.

### **B201 Greek Grammar**

This course is an intensive introduction to Hellenistic/Koine Greek grammar. Its primary goal is for students to understand the form and function of the Greek language so that they can translate and interpret Scripture. This course is designed with the assumption that students will continue on into Greek Exegesis in the spring semester.

### **B314 The Book of Revelation / Greek Exegesis**

This course will examine The Book of Revelation, its images, and interpretive history, and place these alongside our own contexts of interpretation. We will focus on readings and interpretations of Revelation, with goals of familiarizing students with the text and its contents, introducing and engaging various interpretive strategies (e.g., historical-critical, narrative, cultural, liberation, feminist, post-colonial), and suggesting and exploring ways to encounter Revelations as relevant and meaningful for and in faith communities. The semester will include readings and discussions around the history of interpretation of Revelation as well as ways in which it is currently read in various settings today. The course will seek to challenge students to engage and interpret The Book of Revelation contextually as an expression of Christology, proclamation, and invitation. For students needing to fulfill a Greek Exegesis requirement, this course will include specific assignments and activities to meet those requirements.

### **Houses of Study**

*Eden's Houses of Study are a place to be in community with students who share similar interests. Each House discusses current topics and supports students with individual guidance toward their ordination or authorization. Most Houses earn .5 credit per semester. Students may enroll in more than one House of Study if their schedule allows.*

### **HOS 001 UCC/DOC House of Study**

The United Church of Christ/ Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) House of Study discusses resources and current issues within both denominations. This is an opportunity to network with others following the same path to ordination. Students will also lead one worship service and attend one House-hosted campus event each semester. Each course is worth .5 credit per semester. Students may take the course more than once, as content changes every semester.

### **HOS 007 Holy Conversations (Asynchronous House of Study)**

This House of study is for students taking asynchronous courses. It provides a space to interact weekly with others through topical discussion boards. The course meets during the first 8-weeks of the asynchronous semester. This course earns .5 credits. Students may take the course more than once, as content changes every semester.

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## **HOS 008 DMin House of Study**

This House of Study is for Doctor of Ministry students. DMin students will discuss their common classes, as well as bring examples from their ministry settings. This course does not earn academic credit. Students may take the course more than once, as content changes every semester.

## **HT102 Church History**

This class explores the history of Christianity through a global lens. Instead of a traditional chronological approach, we will engage a different region of the world and its history of Christianity each week. The purpose of the course is to survey the different ways in which Christianity has been understood, expressed, and embodied in different contexts at different times. In doing so, we will challenge the normativity of our own embedded theological assumptions and worldviews in order to expand our theological imagination.

## **HT208 Jesus Around the World**

Since the end of the 1960's and beginning of the 1970's a large number of Christological sketches have been coming to light in the countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America through individual theologians and theological movements. This class will look at some of them and how they shape the discussion of Christology and theological construction. *Satisfies Racial Equity and Intersection Oppressions focused elective requirement.*

## **HT345 Christian Theology for an Interfaith World**

***pre-requisite: HT103***

This class will explore the theological reasons for Christians to participate in interfaith conversations. All too often we participate in such a conversation because it is the "right" thing to do, or we wish to put to end hostility with our neighbors of other faiths. This class will ask what is the theological grounding that compels us to interfaith conversation because it is our *raison d'être* as Christians. In other words to study Christian theology doctrine in a manner that allows us to take pluralism seriously. *Satisfies Interfaith Collegiality focused elective requirement.*

## **IFL249 Leading a Missional Organization**

In this course we will look at scripture, lessons in leadership from history, academic theory, examples from current missional organizations, and hands-on practical methods for leading organizations that are mission focused. The course covers vision, mission and values as well financial, human resource, technology, governance, and volunteer management practices for leading the mission driven organization. Each student will produce a mission plan for an organization that they are involved in or one they would like to create.

## **IFL271 Managing a Missional Organization**

Often described as separate from leadership, management focuses on the organization's administration, as accomplished by a clear strategy and consistent methods to achieve the organization's goals. Primary topics are: 1) Finance and Accounting (including income & expense, budget building, cash flow vs. accrual accounting, capital budgeting, and special accounting categories for congregations.), 2) Operations, (including service provision, resource allocations, metrics, workflow, and accountability. Often neglected in congregational assessment, this area has the potential to contribute the most to organizational effectiveness and budget management), and 3) Crisis and conflict (covers frameworks for

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responding to crisis as well as identifying conflict using current research and practices to develop a healthy organization.)

## **IFL298 The Awe and Aesthetics of Nature**

The Awe and Aesthetics of Nature course aims to center the experience and emotion of awe and engage and explore beyond the boundaries that separate humanity from the beautiful and profane expressions of God in the world. **This will be an immersive and experiential opportunity to practice openness, curiosity, awareness, and theological wondering, involving camping on the quad overnight.**

Theological aesthetics in its broadest sense is speaking about God. If Christian theology is faith seeking understanding--an understanding about God, ourselves, and the world in which we live--then theological aesthetics is an attempt to communicate and experience God's AWE through human thought, words, art and actions, revealing God's revelation attested by lived experience, cultural wisdom, and our various sacred texts. Aesthetics—or more simply put: finding God in both beauty and the profane—intentionally creating a space of openness to engage the Creator as liberator.

## **M102 Christian Public Worship**

The Worship of God is the source from which the life of faith and the church's mission flow. In this survey course, students will be introduced to a wide variety of topics that contribute to the planning and leadership of Christian public worship. Those topics will include theologies and purposes of worship, history, culture, technology, embodied leadership, and more. Students will begin to develop the skills needed to plan, organize, lead, and reflect upon the weekly worship of the church with pastoral sensitivity, theological vision, creativity, and shared leadership.

## **M104 Educational Ministry**

This course explores the purposes, contexts, contents, and processes of Christian Religious Education for communities of faith, and the vital work of pastors/ministers as teachers for religious formation, religious knowing and learning. The course invites reflections on matters of faith and formation, on individual and communal meaning-making processes, on languages of spiritual yearnings and social action that organize civic life. Through these explorations, we ask what it takes to create ecologies of learning that foster continuous, intentional examination and discovery of what it means to be "Christian," to be spiritual and religious, to be faithful and transformational in a pluri-cultural, pluri-religious world.

## **M202 Evangelism**

An examination of theological foundations for the practice of evangelism in the contemporary church, the course will look at scriptural foundations and historical evangelistic practices in the church, critique contemporary expressions of evangelism.

## **M216/217 Proctor Conference**

The challenges confronting this nation are many and of epic proportion. They include ever-present adverse impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic, political disarray, Christian nationalism, xenophobia, police brutality, extreme climate disasters, trans-violence, gun violence and economic instability. The Coronavirus pandemic rattled the fragmented foundation upon which this country stands. Further, the growing intimacy between Evangelical Christianity and white nationalism, and the inscribed passivity of white liberals, have become looming barriers to the democratic process in this country. We have witnessed the ideals of equal rights and equal protection for all threatened at every end, while self-

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interest and individualism drill a deeper wedge between the privileged and the poor, access and equity, rendering thousands of and Black and Brown lives disposable.

This course honors our sacred memory and will cultivate space for our shared African roots and traditions to help us envision a greater way. These divinely ancient ways of knowing and being will journey with students in this course as they collectively take to task the emergent challenges facing this country, to massage out the new that is on the brink of breaking through.

## **M269 Pastoral Care Theology and Care in the Public Arena**

Pastoral and spiritual care have long been understood as functions of faith communities and the Academy. In these “publics” we have explored the pastoral and spiritual functions of healing, sustaining, guiding, and reconciling. Christians and Jews have understood pastoral and spiritual care to be the conscious acting out toward one another of the love of God. Within Christian contexts, the love of God and neighbor and bearing witness to Christ’s love has had a clear focus. Even when Christians take into account their differences, they claim a central connection to God and Christ. When Christians move pastoral and spiritual care outside a sectarian context and into the public arenas of hospitals, schools, militaries, and public debates, the mandate to follow Christ, bear witness and love the stranger as neighbor becomes more complex, particularly when we must take into account those who are not, need not, and should not become Christian. When pastoral and spiritual care moves into the public arenas of society, Christian pastoral caregivers must take seriously the theological tensions generated and the demands created by attending to the new sources of accountability. In this course we will explore theoretical, theological and practical implications of the work of public pastoral care.

## **M289 Trauma-Informed Pastoral Care**

In this course we will explore theories and practical skills important to working with individuals and communities of faith in the aftermath of trauma. The course integrates the work of social scientists and theologians with firsthand narratives of individuals who have experienced or born witness to traumatic events. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to think about the challenges trauma poses to faith leaders in various contexts.

## **M297 In the Footsteps of Romero: A Study/Travel Seminar in El Salvador**

While drawing on the life and work of Oscar Romero, this course is designed more broadly to educate US citizens about the role of the United States in El Salvador (and other Central American countries) as well as about the emergence and significance of Latin American (Liberation) theology in response to the pervasive poverty and widespread oppression in the region. Preparatory readings and sessions at Eden and via Zoom will be followed by a week in El Salvador, a visit facilitated by IPM (International Partners in Mission). We will visit several historical sites -- Romero's crypt in the lower level of the National Cathedral, the Chapel of Divine Providence (where Romero was saying mass when he was assassinated), The Romero Center on the campus of the University of Central America (where the six Jesuits were murdered and where Jon Sobrino currently resides), and more. We'll also visit several of IPM's project partners, which will demonstrate the living conditions of the average Salvadoran, historically and currently. The daily schedule in El Salvador will include evening reflection sessions, and a final session of the course will take place after our return to the US. In addition to Professor McCann, leadership will be provided by Joe Cistone, the CEO of IPM (who is an Eden D. Min. graduate and a UCC Pastor), and by Adela Zayas, a resident of El Salvador, who is IPM's Director of International Partnerships and Programs as well as the Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## **M298 Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Communities of Faith**

This course will explore the intersections of faith, no faith, justice, and DEIB (diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging). We will examine the ways these concepts can inform our work towards a more just and equitable world. The course will begin by introducing foundational concepts such as social justice, DEIB, and critical self-reflection. Throughout the course, we will also discuss the practical implications of our learning for our work and lives.

## **M307 United Methodist Polity**

This course will explore the structure and polity of The United Methodist Church – and how that structure and polity is both a strength and a challenge. This course will also examine connections with the United Methodist Social Principles and with the life of the local church.

## **M348 Consider the Lilies: Preaching from the Book of Nature**

**pre-req: M103**

How does preaching need to change for an era of ecological crisis? Here's a hint: in one of his sermons, St. Augustine said, "Some people, in order to discover God, read books. But there is a great book: the very appearance of created things." In this course, students will learn to incorporate the book of nature into their preaching. Students will read authors who pay close attention to the natural world, do their own study of creation, and write (and preach) sermons that draw upon the book of nature as an authoritative source of wisdom, even revelation about the Divine.

## **MAPS100 MAPS/MCL Seminar I**

MAPS/MCL Seminar I is designed to bring MAPS and MCL students together to share their work, develop ideas and begin preparation for the writing of a final capstone project. In this semester, both MAPS and MCL Students will begin to explore the area in which they might wish to write their final project. Sessions will focus on reaching a clearly defined area of thesis – narrowing further the identified general area and settling on a means to go about this research.

## **MTS151 MTS Seminar I**

MTS students from all fields of study meet to study theological method and approaches to research, and to present to one another aspects of their work done in courses, or work done in preparation for a thesis. The Seminar functions to move students toward a thesis proposal.

## **PCL102 Progressive Christian Leadership – First Year/Spring**

The 21st Century Church needs leaders who are committed to social transformation and grounded in practices that nurture vocational resilience. Contextual Education is central to the MDiv curriculum at Eden, providing an important location for students to learn, reflect upon, and practice innovative and transformational religious leadership. In Contextual Education, ministry experiences and classroom learning come together in support of the MDiv program goals (Theological Imagination, Spiritual and Vocational Formation, and Social Transformation).

Contextual Education provides ministry settings for MDiv students, or, in certain instances, supports them in ministry settings where they are already working or volunteering. On-site ministry, weekly supervision, and bi-weekly Seminars will help students develop skills for ministry in a variety of settings.

## **PCL104 Progressive Christian Leadership – Second Year/Spring**

This course asks students to extend their practical theological insight into the realm of contextual

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analysis, studying the macro and micro contexts of their Contextual Educational (CE) settings. Our reflection in the seminar will focus on how religious leaders can study their communities, discerning and proclaiming the saving work of God at work in those contexts. Where and how do we see ways that God has been at work, and is still at work, in our contextual settings? How is that work resourced theologically? How can we use our study of those contexts to lead, both in the larger community and the church/organization itself?

Students will also attend to the formation of networks of social power in ministerial leadership, observing and analyzing practices of collaboration in the practice of ministry. What models of ecumenical, interfaith, and non-faith collegiality are evident among the leaders observed by students in their CE settings? How might those observations inform the students' learning about ministerial leadership for social transformation? What kind of spiritual formation is needed for such relationships?

## Network Model Course Sharing Collective

### **XM-B292 The Wisdom Literature**

**Pre-Req: B102**

*Memphis Theological Seminary*

This course will study the books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes and the Apocryphal books of Ecclesiasticus (Ben Sirach), and the Wisdom of Solomon with an eye toward their literary forms as well as their theological and anthropological statements.

### **XM-HT498 Special Topics in Theology: Ecclesiology**

*Memphis Theological Seminary*

This course introduces students to the historical legacy and theological diversity of the entity, institution, and body known as the "church." Through dialogue with theologians and practitioners from a diversity of backgrounds, contexts, and social locations, students will examine how people throughout the history of Christianity have answered the question, "what is the church" and consider how these ideas shape their own theological understanding of the institution and their role in its future.

### **XU-HT1001 History of Arts and Theology**

*United Theological Seminary*

This course is a survey of Christian art from its precedents and genesis to today. Our approach to this material will be through the lens of the Second Commandment, which states that "you shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything..." Images seem to have been prohibited, but early Christians made images of God almost immediately. How do we reconcile this apparent contradiction? Our course will not only plot the various debates and creative solutions around this tension, but will also track the development of major iconographic themes in Christian art. The objective is to familiarize students with the art historical continuity and change of 2,000 years of the Christian movement, but even more so to train students to see theologically. That is, this course is especially concerned with Christianity as a visual and visionary religion in which believing is inextricably tied to seeing.

### **XC-M600 The Calling and Work of Pastoral Ministry**

*Christian Theological Seminary*

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This course focuses on the work and calling of the pastor, how personality traits enhance or undermine pastoral fulfillment and effectiveness, and opportunities to serve as pastor.