



Pacific School of Religion
BERKELEY, CA



COURSE OFFERINGS

2022-2023

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FALL 2022 COURSE OFFERINGS

First Year Courses

RS-1827 Contextual Thinking (3 credits)

Instructor: Mahsea Evans | Thursdays 6:10 pm - 9:00 pm

One of the foundational education commitments that undergirds this course is the assertion that all knowledge is contextual. In the various settings of ministry and social transformation, context plays an important role in shaping our work, our approaches to that work, our understandings of our own role in that work, and the meaning we make of it. At its core, this course seeks to ground our theological explorations in a deeper understanding of our own social contexts, as we develop facility in translating from one context to another and engaging across difference. Focusing in particular on the case of race, this course is designed as a path for exploring and understanding the ways that race in all of its intersections operates as a social fiction and lived experience in ourselves and in the communities we serve. Making use of historical, theoretical and theological lenses, we will engage in self exploration, deep formation, readings, dialogue, and experiences with artists and activists as we build our capacity to address issues of prejudice, power, and privilege while cultivating cultural humility and cross-cultural competency.

SPFT-1082 Spiritual Formation for Leadership (3 credits)

Instructor: Leonard McMahan | Tuesdays 6:10 pm - 9:00 pm

This course offers an opportunity to deepen spiritual life in personal, interpersonal, communal, and cosmic dimensions. It will focus on engaging contemplative practices from across the interspiritual tradition as well as study the teachings of mystics, privileging those who lived engaged in the pursuit of collective justice. Participants will have a chance to explore the nature of spiritual formation while discerning which practices, resources, and attitudes are appropriate for sustaining vitality, rootedness, and creativity in their personal life, faith, leadership, academic, and social justice work. Intended Audience: MDiv, MTS, MA. *[Auditors with Faculty Permission]*

BS-1200 Rhetorical Use of Text (3 credits)

Instructor: Carmelo Sorita | Mondays 2:10 pm - 5:00 pm



The purpose of this course is to introduce students to different methods used to interpret texts. Students will learn and develop skills of closely reading texts, analyzing historical and contemporary contexts, and thinking critically through issues. This class will introduce students a wide range of sacred and secular texts. Students will learn to apply rhetorical strategies to construct interpretations that promote inclusivity, social consciousness, social justice, and speak to the current social and political contexts. This is an introductory level course and requires no prerequisite.

CE-8109 Introduction to Christian Ethics (3 credits)

Instructor: Dr. Thomas Hermans-Webster /Thursdays 9:40 am – 12:30 pm Hybrid

This course introduces students to theories of ethical discernment, behavior, and formation in Christian traditions. The course prioritizes ecological wellbeing as an ethical demand of Christian living and will use case studies about human relationships with our other-than-human kindred to practice the ethical theories studied. The course is offered in a hybrid, concurrent modality. *[Faculty Consent required; Auditors with faculty permission]*

CSR-3001 CSR Final Project (1.5 credits)

Instructor: Bernard Schlager /TBD

The final component of the CSR program (pre-stackable curriculum), the CSR Final Project is designed by the student with the approval of their CSR advisor/coordinator. Students sign up for CSR 3001 in the semester they are completing the certificate. The general topic of the project is established when you enter the CSR program and is used to direct your course of study throughout the program. The project should include both research and community application components. Students are recommended to consult with at least two CSR-related faculty (either regular or adjunct) concerning their final projects. *[Faculty Consent required]*

Second Year Courses

PSRS-3100 Who Cares? (3 credits)

Instructor: Leonard McMahon / Tuesdays 12:40 pm – 3:30 pm

This course asks key questions about the work of spiritual care and caring—what is care and what does it mean for leaders to care for individuals and organizations. We will explore the character of



care, models of caring, and strategies and skills for offering care in particular contexts. This course presumes that effective leaders and flourishing mission-oriented organizations require tangible skills for providing care. Students will be invited to trace the unique needs embedded in particular dynamics and patterns of contemporary cultures through different contexts of care: personal, communal, systemic and cosmic. This course is suitable for those who are preparing for congregational leadership and those in private, public and non-for-profit service.

NT-1008 Introduction to Christian Scriptures (3 credits)

Instructor: Grace So | Mondays 9:40 am-12:30 pm

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the collection of writings that we come to call the New Testament. In this course, students will become familiar with the historical context, culture, and the politics that lead to the production of this text. In addition to the traditional historical-critical approach to the text, students will be introduced to other methods such as feminist, queer, postmodern, and postcolonial readings that will help us deconstruct these texts and reconstruct interpretations that are socially, ethically, and politically relevant to the world we live. This is an introductory course no prerequisites required. *[Auditors excluded]*

FE-1005 Concurrent Field Education I (3 credits)

Instructor: Joyce del Rosario | Wednesdays 9:10am-12:00pm

Class includes weekly synchronous sessions and 15 hours per week on-site field internship. Weekly sessions include full-group plenary sessions and small-group cohort discussion. Completion of fall and spring Concurrent Field Education courses are REQUIRED to receive a grade. Completion of both fall and spring semester meets PSR MDiv Congregational Track field education requirement.

FE-2000 Clinical Pastoral Education (0-6 credits)

Instructor: Joyce del Rosario

Ministry to persons in pastoral care setting, participation in weekly individual and group reflection upon that ministry with supervisor, study of theoretical material from theology, behavioral sciences, and pastoral care. Integrates theological understanding and knowledge of behavioral science into



pastoral functioning. Programs must provide at least one unit of CPE in order to receive any academic credit. CPE programs can be 4 months, 9 months, full-time summer intensives, or one-year full time residential.

Third Year Courses

BSHM-3000 More Than Words: Preaching Through Art (1.5 credits)

Instructor: Tanisha Sparks | Mondays 12:00pm-1:30 pm

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to preaching through various artistic mediums. Students will read and analyze selected biblical texts in their historical, social, and political contexts and use different artistic mediums to construct interpretations of these particular texts. The use of art will help students construct interpretations from different perspectives and different social locations leading to a deeper reflection and addressing ethical and moral issues relevant to our contemporary context. Various artistic forms will be engaged such as movement, drama, poetry, music, song, painting etc. Preaching using artistic mediums achieves an analogous effect in retelling narratives and bringing to surface the silent and invisible voices that have often been ignored in our written analysis of the texts. This course will seek to expand the genre of text to include other artistic mediums as texts that attempt to decenter the written word where the rules of interpretation are not predetermined for the audience. This is an upper level course and requires Introduction to Hebrew and Christian Scriptures as prerequisites. *[Faculty Consent Required; Auditors with Faculty Permission]*

LS-4112 Worship-Full Life (1.5 credits)

Instructor: Kelly Colwell | Mondays 5:00 pm –6:30 pm

For many faith communities, worship forms the heart of communal life. It is a place where participants learn the behaviors, rhythms, and patterns of discipleship that they hope to embody as faith-filled people in the world. Worship also marks times of transition within the life of individuals and communities. From birth to death, communities ritualize these liminal spaces that are rife with meaning and sacredness. In this course, we will examine the ways in which pastoral liturgies (e.g. dedications, weddings, healing rites, funerals, etc.) and sacraments both shape and are shaped by culture, history, theology, language, and practice. Students will integrate their learning by practicing leading these rituals that make up a worship-full life.



Elective Courses

HRPS-3300 Queering Your Spiritual Leadership (1.5 credits)

Instructor: Bernard Schlager | Thursdays 6:10 pm - 9:00 pm

This course offers an overview and survey of past and present models of spiritual leadership and pastoral care as practiced by LGBTQ spiritual/religious leaders and caregivers. Several key figures, texts, and movements will be considered and analyzed with a view toward understanding and interpreting their impact on contemporary debates. Seminar format; final collaborative creative project; and two (2) in-class presentations are required. NB: This course will run for the first 7 weeks of the semester and conclude the week before Fall Reading Week. *[Faculty Consent required; Interview required]*

FT-2923 Organizational Leadership in Church (3 credits)

Instructor: Dorsey Blake | Tuesdays 2:10 pm -5:00 pm

The course is an excursion into various forms of organizational leadership in church and community. It includes prerequisites for leadership, defining leadership, and embodying leadership. The course lifts up the importance of the self and what leaders brings to leadership. It explores how people become leaders and the dynamics between leaders and the communities (organizations) they serve. Context is critical as well as theology or worldview. The course seeks to engage the soul of students. Why are they involved in leadership? What resolve attends their visions, hopes, paths? The course offers insights and strategies for effective change of systems, structures, and self. It also holds forth alternatives ways of organizing and being. Students will be introduced to ways of analyzing and implementing social change/transformation. Class pedagogy includes lecturers, classroom discussion, small group discussion, and guest speakers from diverse social locations and ministry contexts who model leadership incarnating social change. Essential question: How do we create a beloved community; a world that embraces all and works for all.

HSFT-2001 UMC History, Doctrine & Polity II (3 credits)

Instructor: Thomas Hermans-Webster | Tuesdays 2:10 pm - 5:00 pm



United Methodist History, Doctrine, and Polity II is the second United Methodist Studies course and is intended to provide a broad overview of the theology, history, and governance structures of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor bodies. This course, in particular, focuses on the theological perspectives of the Methodist Movements that emerged in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, which later came to be embodied in the Articles of Religion and the doctrinal standards of a multi-national denomination. This course is designed to fulfill one half of the credits required for United Methodist students seeking ordination in The United Methodist Church. The course will incorporate a mixture of lectures and small group discussions, and students will be evaluated through short papers, a presentation, and a notebook project.

DMin Courses

DM-8600 Cohort Conversation (0.5 credits)

Instructor: Jim Lawrence

This course provides a cohort pedagogy for DMin students to participate regularly throughout the term in a continuous online platform where they share what they are learning and experiencing in their other coursework and in their research, and where they engage the learning journeys and evolving projects of their doctoral colleagues. Regular interactions every month are guided by the rubric provided for the course.

Other Courses

CSR-3001 CSR Final Project (1.5 credits)

Instructor: Bernard Schlager [TBD]

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