

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

RS101 The Psychology of C.G. Jung and the Spiritual Life This course is designed to explore the relationship between Jung's psychological theory and the spiritual dimension of human growth and development. Jung will be in a historical context with other psychological models. The students will also examine a map of the spiritual journey to transformation and its inter-relationship with psychological processes.

RS102 Women of the Bible. The goals of this course are: to present the stories of women in the bible as a liberating, hopeful message of women's empowerment; to affirm women as images of the Holy One; to explore woman as role models for contemporary women and men in living fully and spiritually; to present recent scholarship of feminist theologians on the background and context of women of the bible.

RS103 Holy Women In the Early Celtic Christian Tradition The goals of this course are: to reflect on the myths and miracles of Celtic holy women whose strength and wisdom have been transmitted through the ages; to discover that springs and holy wells were associated with birthing and healing and the powerful Celtic feminine; to present women as equals and leaders in the Celtic tradition from the fifth through the eighth centuries; to reflect on Celtic holy women as mentors for spiritual seekers in the twenty-first century.

RS104 Eastern Orthodoxy This is a general introductory overview of Eastern Orthodoxy. Through close study of specific texts and visitation of Eastern liturgical settings, students will gain an appreciation and understanding of the Eastern spirit and its liturgical consciousness.

RS105 Eastern Religions This course is a preliminary inquiry into four major eastern religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, and Taoism. The students are introduced to the historical development of these religions, their vital sacred texts, central beliefs, and practices.

RS106 Christian and Muslim Perspectives on Science and Religion This course will examine the various models of interaction between religion and science as developed by Ian G. Barbour: conflict, independence, dialogue and integration. It will encourage greater familiarity with the science and religion dialogue that has occurred over the centuries within the Islamic and Christian traditions including the theorists who have been prominent within the past century.

RS108 The Ministry of Women in the Christian Tradition Students will be able to outline the main stages of development in women's involvement in Christian ministry. They will gain a professional grasp of the correct rules for assessing what is and is not genuine Christian tradition.

RS109 History of Christianity The student will study the faith as practiced in Britain and Europe, North and South America, Africa, India, and the Far-East. Questions of contemporary Christian theology, conscience and belief, and new concepts of Christian community will be explored.

RS110 History of the Reformation This course has students studying the Protestant Reformation and its impact on Christianity and the modern world. The course will also review the modern ecumenical movement within Christianity and the impact of non-Christian religions upon the Christian faith.

RS112 Hebrew Scriptures This course presents the latest archeological research to understand the historical and cultural setting of the various books of the Hebrew Scripture so that the student can understand the writing of the Old Testament authors within the context of their original environment.

RS115 New Testament Studies A survey of the historical and exegetical background to the New Testament Canon. The text of this course provides the best scholarly introduction to the New Testament with special attention given to the figure of Jesus as Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith.

RS120 Ecumenical Theology This course covers the theological and historical aspects of ecumenism. After sufficient study of the Eastern Orthodox churches and Oriental Orthodox churches, the Roman Catholic church and Protestant churches are dealt with elaborately. Finally, modern-day problems in the realm are studied and the process of healing past wounds is stressed, paving the way to unity.

RS121 World Religions – A Story Approach This course is a general introduction to the major living religious traditions of the world and covers the various approaches commonly used in studying world religion, specifically how they differ, how they are alike, and how they are complementary on questions such as faith and salvation.

RS125 Visionary Women in the Christian Tradition This course presents the spiritual legacy of women mystics and leaders through the ages: Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Joan of Arc, Teresa of Avila, Kateri Tekakwitha, Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz, Thea Bowman and many more.

RS222 Global Sociology and Religion A synthesis of the core concepts of sociological theory expended from traditional perspectives to provide a global presentation of contemporary issues for critical analysis.

RS290 Field Experience A student must complete 120 hours working in a specified field related to her/his degree major. The responsibilities of the student must be summarized and verified by a supervisor. A five-page paper is required describing the student's observations and responsibilities held during the time of study.

RS299 Thesis The thesis project is an extensive and disciplined study on a specific topic related to one's degree major. The thesis should be approximately 25 pages in length and must include all works cited and references used. A one-page synopsis must be submitted prior to beginning the research for approval.

PH101 Introduction to Philosophy The text for this course is a leading, logically-organized anthology that provides a superb balance of historical selections and recent material. Students cover reason and religious belief; human knowledge; mind and its place in nature.

PH110 Logic and Critical Thinking This course carefully and clearly details eight concepts for evaluating arguments: truth, falsehood, soundness, unsoundness, validity, invalidity, strength, and weakness. The students are shown how to use Venn Diagrams and the rules method to assess arguments. Induction, deduction, the definition of arguments, premises, and conclusions are also covered.

PH112 Christianity and Capitalism The origins of capitalism in later Middle Ages and challenges it posed to Christianity beginning in the 16th century.

TH112 Ethics in Pastoral Ministry A theological and ethical framework for reflecting on the moral demands that arise from the professional exercise of the pastoral ministry.

TH113 Feminist Ethics and Moral Theology This course will introduce the basic concepts of post-modern social ethics and its historical development, exposing the students to both the main currents of ethical thought today and its major contributors. The course will encompass an analysis of the interchange between Catholic and feminist theologians and the effects on the formulation of specific issues such as medical, sexual, ecological, and socioeconomic.

TH114 Sexuality and Spirituality This course covers attitudes related to sexuality and spirituality in an historical-critical approach to development of principles, feminist ethics of "friendship;" and bringing spirituality into a sexual relationship and a sense of self.

TH115 Spirituality for the 21st Century Student reads articles/books by visionary, spiritual leaders of the 20th and 21st century and designs a project or writes a reflection paper based on research and experience.

TH116 Reshaping the Ministry as a Discipleship of Equals Students are given the opportunity to express their vision of prophetic, visionary priesthood and examine the impact women priests/pastors will have in this journey to the Discipleship of Equals.

TH118 Feminist Liberation Theologies Women-directed theological projects around the world will be surveyed in light of their similarities and differences. Issues including language and imagery about the divine, ethical priorities, models of ministry and religious community and interreligious implications will be explored.

TH120 Homosexuality and the Bible A contemporary view using scriptural scholarship and personal experience, this course is based on facilitator's book, *Sex as God Intended*, in which he comes to the conclusion that, contrary to traditional interpretations of the Bible, God intended sex as a source of pleasure, joy, and love.

TH253 LGBTIQ Theologies and Feminism The roots of many LGBTIQ theologies are in feminist theoretical and practical work although they remain largely unacknowledged. This course will explore and expand these roots with a primary focus on the Christian tradition. Particular attention will be paid to the contributions of women scholars to the development of queer studies in religion and the practice of inclusive religious leadership.

TH130 Dynamics of Community This course will cover the dynamics experienced within a faith community.

TH201 Searching Scriptures, a Feminist Perspective This course presents a feminist introduction to understanding the Scriptures that is inclusive, ecumenical and multicultural.

TH204 The Identity of Jesus Explored Australian theologian Michael Morwood explores some of the fundamental issues of Christian faith in the context of today's understanding of the beginnings of the universe, the formation of the planets, the emergence of life and the development of culture.

TH205 Reading the Gospels with Jewish Eyes This course will center on J. S. Spong's compelling view of the Gospels as thoroughly Jewish texts, a collection of Jewish midrashic stories written to fill needs in the Jewish Calendar and Jewish Liturgical Year by early Christians. It provides the student with the most recent and reliable scholarly research on the Gospels.

TH206 Spirituality of the Psalms This course will explore the theological content found in the Psalms but also how the Psalms have functioned as the heart of the Jewish and Christian devotional life over the centuries.

TH208 Feminist Theology Beginning with social anthropological roots of women's religious experiences, this course seeks first to reinterpret such experience and give voice to the hitherto silenced female voices, and ultimately to define the meaning of feminist theology. It will explore the works of late 20th century feminist scholars in religion and theology around the world.

TH212 Everyone's Mystical Call In this course the students are introduced to the poetic record of a contemporary woman's faith-walk into a deeper understanding of God as the in-dwelling Presence. The students are asked to reflect on this in the context of the recorded reflections of other everyday mystics, and to respond in one of the several suggested ways, producing a personal creative product that will reflect the student's own growth into God.

TH220 Religious Services This course is designed to teach ministers how to write and perform prayers, ceremonies, and rituals, to serve interfaith or multi-faith communities during times of transition and celebration.

TH221 Wedding Ceremonies and Rites of Passage This course will provide training to perform weddings and other rites of passage as is relevant to student's denomination/faith.

TH222 Liturgies for Women's Rites of Passage This course invites participants to reflect and design new liturgies that celebrate women's physical, spiritual and emotional rites of passage and bless women in life-changing times.

TH224 Homiletics and Preaching Tutorial Contemporary theory and application of how to create a homily and implement an effective delivery.

TH225 Feminist Sacramental Theology This course provides insight into gender, sacrament and priesthood. It invites participants to reflect how gender exclusivity obscures the vitally important ways in which the sacraments enact how God is immanent within daily life.

TH226 Sacramental Worship This course will provide training for creating and performing liturgies in the catholic tradition.

RS230 A Contemporary Historical Perspective of Christianity This course presents a compelling view of the way the Gospels of the New Testament were written, when they were written and why they were written, based on the most recent and reliable scholarly research on the Gospels.

TH232 Progressive Christianity-Part I (DVD) This innovative course is Part I of a three-part series that is completely on DVD entitled '*Living the Questions.*' The content of the series focuses on Christianity in today's world, featuring many prominent theologians and ministers who offer their insights into sensitive questions related to our faith. Part I, *An Invitation to Journey*, contains seven thought-provoking sessions, three of which are entitled *Taking the Bible Seriously, Stories of Creation, Lives of Jesus.* (It is recommended that student also take all three courses, Part I, Part II, and Part III consecutively but it is not mandatory to do so.)

TH233 Progressive Christianity-Part II (DVD) This innovative course is Part II of a three-part series that is completely on DVD entitled '*Living the Questions.*' The content of the series focuses on Christianity in today's world, featuring many prominent theologians and ministers who offer their insights into sensitive questions related to our faith. Part II, *Reclaiming the World,* contains seven thought-provoking sessions, three of which are entitled *Evil, Suffering and a God of Love, Practicing Resurrection, and Reclaiming the World.* (It is recommended that student also take all three courses, Part I, Part II, and Part III consecutively but it is not mandatory to do so.)

TH234 Progressive Christianity-Part III (DVD) This innovative course is Part III of a three-part series that is completely on DVD entitled 'Living the Questions.' The content of the series focuses on Christianity in today's world, featuring many prominent theologians and ministers who offer their insights into sensitive questions related to our faith. Part III, 'Call to Covenant' contains seven thought-provoking sessions, three of which are entitled *A Kingdom Without Walls, Incarnation: Divinely Human, and Compassion: The Heart of Jesus' Ministry*. (It is recommended that student also take all three courses, Part I, Part II, and Part III consecutively but it is not mandatory to do so.)

TH230 Principles of Moral Theology This course covers the basic principles for Christian living, presenting the meaning and history of moral theology, the moral person, moral law in Scripture, natural law, traditional moral maxims and the theology of human law.

TH240 Introduction to Systematic Christian Theology Student will do a directed study of a selected theologian pending approval of the Global Ministries University Curriculum Council. A major paper is required once reading is completed.

TH242 Ecological Theology This course encourages the awareness of the global ecological crises. Student will examine various approaches to ecological concerns and their theological implications. The readings will provide scientific, feminist, and cross-cultural perspectives. Students are expected to establish their own ecological ethic and theologize it within their own context/project.

TH246 Evolutionary Spirituality This course includes the viewing of the DVD *Thank God for Evolution*, featuring Michael Dowd. Drawing on cutting edge science, the history of the universe is an epic drama in which religion provides meaning and purpose. By seeing the global, collaborative scientific endeavor as God's native tongue, this course invites people to imagine God as truly immanent, omnipresent and revealed in the unfolding creativity of matter itself, a *Thou* deserving our reverence and awe. The evolutionary perspective restores Nature's honor and restores God to every nook and cranny of this vast Universe.

TH248 Creation Spirituality The basics in living the theology of Creation Centered Spirituality will be given in this course and a clear differentiation from Fall-Redemption theology will be made. The student will study the four paths -- the Via Positiva, the Via Negativa, the Via Creativa, and the Via Transformativa -- with an emphasis on the experiential as well as the intellectual content.

TH250 Islam Religion and Culture An introductory course in Islam religion and its effect on Muslim culture.

TH260 Theology of Interfaith Dialogue Using the dialogical odyssey of the course text, the student will write five papers examining a globally responsible model for dialogue, common cause and ground, eco-human justice as a criterion for religious truth, and examples of globally responsible dialogue.

TH270 Early Church History This course covers the period from the Pauline letters to the establishment of Christianity as the approved religion of the Roman Empire in the 4th century and includes the career of St. Augustine (354-430).

TH272 Medieval Church History This course has the students studying the history of monasticism and its impact on the growth of Christianity during the barbarian invasions, the growth of the papacy after Gregory the Great and the use of Roman law to solidify Church order. Students will also study the writings of at least one medieval mystic or one medieval theologian.

TH274 Modern Church History This course has students studying the Protestant Reformation and its impact on Christianity and the modern world. The course will review the modern ecumenical movement within Christianity and the impact of non-Christian religions upon the Christian faith.

TH295 Specialized Certificate Project This is a supervised project mutually agreed upon with instructor to fulfill the requirement for the Specialized Certificate in Ministry.

IPE123 Alcoholism/Drug Addictions and Spirituality This course focuses on the dynamics of substance abuse and addiction; spirituality and the impact of substance abuse and addiction on the individual, family and society.