

Vanderbilt Divinity School: Concentrations

Black Religion and Culture Studies (BRCS)

This concentration offers opportunity for study and research in the religions of the African diaspora, their spiritual, intellectual, moral, and cultural contributions towards transforming the world through institutions, social movements, and cultural politics of race, gender, sexuality, and class. Black Religion is an umbrella term for historically understanding the Black Church and other African derived religions in the Americas from their development during the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to the present and explores their creative, sacred powers of survival, resistance, and flourishing. Drawing on a wide range of resources in black biblical hermeneutics, African American religious history, Black philosophy and theology, African American religious Studies, womanist ethics, sociology and psychology, and cultural studies, the concentration is methodologically interdisciplinary.

Learning Goals:

- Historical understanding of the development of Black religion and culture formations from African roots and beginnings in the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade to the present.
- Explore creative and transformative cultural practices and institutions that empower the spiritual and moral universes of Black religion and culture.
- Critique social forces of oppression and transformative sources of liberation through interdisciplinary analyses.

Current Steering Committee: Victor Anderson and Forrest Harris (Co-Conveners), Herbert Marbury, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Stacey Floyd-Thomas, Emilie Townes, Phillis Shepard

Required Courses:

None

Praxis Fulfillment:

One of the designated courses:

DIV 5221 Social Action in the City

DIV 5224 Liberation and Spirituality

DIV 5226 Theology, Liberation and Ministry

DIV 5236 Mobilizing for Justice: Advocacy among Children and Youth

DIV 5248 Faith and Politics in Collective Violence and Globalization

DIV 5250 Models and Practice of Justice

DIV 7145 African American Social Ethics

OR in consultation with Field Education faculty, a related placement and completion of a course in Supervised Ministry and/or Field Education.

Two Year Course Projections:

Spring 2019

NEW	Sheppard	Spirituality and Social Activism
5226	Harris	Theology, Liberation, & Ministry*
6514	Marbury	Exodus in African American Popular Biblical Interpretation (Riverbend)

6768	JFT	Critical Readings in African American Religion: WEB DuBois
6773	JFT	Reel Black Faith
6845	Armour	Feminist/Womanist Theology

Summer 2019

5236	<i>TBD</i>	Mobilizing for Justice: Advocacy Ministry with Children and Youth*
5250	Reside	Models and Practices of Justice*
5251	Townes	Public Theology and Racial Justice (Maymester)
6528	Marbury	Eight Century Prophecy
7027	Sheppard	Womanist Thought in Religion and Psychology (Maymester)

Fall 2019

5224	Harris	Liberation and Spirituality*
6571	Marbury	African American Biblical Hermeneutics
7057	Sheppard	Franz Fanon Psychology: Race, Gender and Religion
7133	SFT	Womanist Literature as a Resource for Ethics

Spring 2020

NEW	Sheppard	Ritual Process, Interiority, and Sociality
NEW	JFT	Black Churches and the Quest for Economic Justice
5221	Joranko	Social Action in the City*
6573	Marbury	African American Biblical Interpretation II
7129	SFT/JFT	Moral Philosophy of Black Popular Culture

Summer 2020

5236	<i>TBD</i>	Mobilizing for Justice: Advocacy Ministry with Children and Youth*
6766	SFT	Black Religion in Context: The Black South
7030	Sheppard	Latin@/x Pastoral Care and Theology (Maymester)
7137	Townes	Political Economy of Misery

Fall 2020

6571	Marbury	African American Biblical Hermeneutics
6748	JHB	History of the American South—Religion and Race
6755	Anderson	Black Religion and Culture Studies II
6769	JFT	The Religious Thought of Howard Thurman
6772	JFT	Race, Religion, and Protest Music
7127	SFT	Liberation Ethics

Chaplaincy (Chap: MDiv Only)

Chaplaincy is a particular type of ministry focusing on holistic, integrative, embodied, emotional and spiritual care in a variety of contexts beyond the local congregation. The Chaplaincy Concentration provides students theoretical and practical knowledge to prepare for vocations in variety of contexts (healthcare, campus, social justice, street ministries, prison, military, corporate) and with diverse populations.

LEARNING GOALS:

- Reflect theologically and pastorally on the practice of chaplaincy
- Cultivate competence in theory and facility in the practice of pastoral counseling with attention to diversity and differences, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and religious affiliation.
- Develop facility in practicing ritual and prayer in interpersonal, communal, and public contexts appropriate to diverse settings and needs
- Reflect critically on institutional and societal cultures and systems in order to engage issues of justice and fairness in ways that integrate the pastoral and prophetic into holistic practice.

Praxis Options:

Encourage and advise an additional Field Education option (beyond 7900 Supervised Ministry and Seminar) as one of the four courses; but open to adding a theory-praxis component to designated classes upon prior agreement of the professor and Concentration Convener.

Required Courses:

Minimum one course in Pastoral Care (See below list of approved courses by semester.)
Steering Committee: Trudy Hawkins Stringer (Convener), Bruce Morrill, Herbert Marbury, Phillis Sheppard, Bonnie Miller-McLemore, Jaco Hamman

About CPE [CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION]

ACPE is...Department of Education recognized organization that provides the highest quality CPE programs for spiritual care professionals of any faith and in any setting. We do this through a rigorous accreditation and certification process for centers and educators that provide CPE. The depth of our training enables students to realize their full potential to strengthen the spiritual health of people in their care as well as themselves.¹

You may enroll in 7904 Clinical Pastoral Education for academic credit. [See page 61 in The Divinity Catalogue.]

Note that that the Association of Professional Chaplains Board Certification requires four Units of CPE for Board Certification, often fulfilled through enrolling in a year-long Residency after attaining the MDiv degree. MTS students are eligible for Affiliate Certification requiring two Units of CPE.

¹ Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. <https://www.acpe.edu> Accessed January 12, 2020

At this time chaplaincy in healthcare settings increasingly requires certification. In other chaplaincy settings (i.e., campus, correctional facilities, organizing, etc.,) requirements for Board or Affiliate Certification varies.

RESOURCES:

- Spiritual Care Association at www.spiritualcareassociation.org
- Association of Certified Christian Chaplains at www.certifiedchaplains.org
- Association of Professional Chaplains at www.professionalchaplains.org
- National Association of Catholic Chaplains at www.nacc.org
- National Association of Jewish Chaplains at www.jewishchaplain.net

Attaining Board Certified or Affiliate Certified status with the Association of Professional Chaplains requires specialized CPE education. See information below:

Association of Professional Chaplains
<http://www.professionalchaplains.org>

Board of Chaplaincy Certification, affiliate of Association of Professional Chaplains
<http://033012b.membershipsoftware.org/content.asp?pl=25&sl=26&contentid=26>

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education
https://www.acpe.edu/ACPE/About_ACPE/ACPE/About_ACPE/About_ACPE.aspx?hkey=8bda1439-a609-475c-83ba-d86c9ca8e7e4

Course Projections:

Spring 2019

6812	Morrill	Theologies of Salvation
6901	McClure	Fundamentals of Preaching
6925	McClure	Theology and Preaching
7021	BMM	Women, Psychology, and Religion
7022	Rogers-Vaughn	Men, Psychology, and Religion
7040	Flesberg	Pastoral Theology for Transitions and Crises
7041	Flesberg	Pastoral Care with Persons with Mental Health Disorders and Addiction
7053	Rogers-Vaughn	Contemporary Psychotherapy and Pastoral Counseling
7079	BMM	Faith, Film, and Pastoral Care
7081	Hamman	Young Adult Faith, Spirituality, and Leadership
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Summer 2019

7027	Sheppard	Womanist Thought in Religion and Psychology (Maymester)
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Fall 2019

Course projections are not exhaustive and are subject to change

5235	Caldwell	Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Children and Families
6701	Budwey	Intro to Christian Worship
6809	Morrill	Eucharistic Theology
6926	McClure	Collaborative Preaching
7023	BMM	Bodies and Theological Knowledge
7042	Rogers-Vaughn	Seminar in Death and Dying
7222	Meador	Ethics in Health Care: Critical Theological and Philosophical Perspectives
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Spring 2020

Need#	BMM	Practicing Theology in the Everyday
5242	Forrester	Ministry in Higher Education
6805	Morrill	Christian Praxis: Liturgy and Ethics
6810	Morrill	Participation: Ritual Theory and Theology
6901	McClure	Fundamentals of Preaching
7003	Rogers-Vaughn	Hope and Despair
7022	Rogers-Vaughn	Men, Psychology, and Religion
7023	BMM	Bodies and Theological Knowledge
7064	Hamman	Humanity and Technology (?)
7079	BMM	Faith, Film, and Pastoral Care
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Summer 2020

7030	Sheppard	Latin@/x Pastoral Care and Theology (Maymester)
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Fall 2020

6739	McClure	New Perspectives in Preaching
6904	McClure	Ethical Approaches to Preaching
7000	Sheppard	Pastoral Theology and Care
7004	BMM	Theories of Personality
7031	Rogers-Vaughn	Race and Class: Cultivating Radical Care
7042	Rogers-Vaughn	Seminar in Death and Dying
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education

Global Christianities and Interreligious Encounter (GCIE)

True and transformative knowledge of Christianity cannot exist without the study of other religions, their influence upon Christianity and its portrayals of these religious movements. “Global Christianities and Interreligious Encounters” engages the inexorably intercultural and interreligious nature of the various versions of Christianity from its very first days, whether Second Temple Judaism or religions of Rome in the first century, CE.; whether Islam from its birth or Hinduism, Buddhism and other religions as mercenaries, merchants and missionaries encountered them; and whether various new religious movements in the recent past. This Concentration offers a panoply of courses that are designed to introduce VDS students to the variety of encounters between various religious traditions and Christianity, and the mutual gaze that has influenced both sides. The *telos* of this Concentration is to help the larger VDS community – students, alumni, and friends – to become better equipped to understand the complexities and nuances of the historical contingencies of their version and vision of Christianity vis-à-vis other versions of Christianity as well as other religions.

Learning Goals:

- Students will understand how religions emerge out of contact with one another.
- Students will recognize their traditions as contingent, thus open to interpretation, with an awareness of accompanying historical harms and benefits of their tradition. Further, they will value difference and become aware of the dynamics of Christian privilege, with a concomitant commitment towards transformative solidarity not guilt.
- Students will develop the capacity for deep listening and civil discourse across religious difference, thereby becoming more adroit in assessing religious traditions, building constructive alliances, and cultivating respect interreligiously.

Current Steering Committee:

Paul Lim (Convener), Annalisa Azzoni, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Jay Geller, Amy Jill Levine, Dave Michelson, Graham Reside, Leong Seow, Melissa Snarr

Required Courses:

None

Additional Requirements:

None

Praxis Options:

Strongly encourage a field education placement. Designated courses that emphasize the theory-praxis connection may also satisfy this requirement.

Course Projections:

Spring 2019

5466	Lim/McGregor	Encountering the Other: Islam and Christianity in Conversation
5277	Caldwell/Neely	Social Transformation as Depicted in Children and Young Adult Literature: Refugees and Immigrants
6503	Azzoni	History of Ancient Israel
6526	Azzoni	Jewish Life in Persian Egypt

6711	Michelson	History of Syriac Christianity
7081	Hamman	Young Adult Faith, Spirituality, and Leadership

Fall 2019

5443	Geller	The Holocaust: Its Meanings and Implications
6608	Levine/Lim	Jewish-Christian Relations: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Concerns
6723	Michelson	History of Early Christian Poetry

Spring 2020

NEW	Michelson	Books and Readings in Early Christianity
5242	Forrester	Ministry in Higher Education
5434	Geller	Religious Narrative and the Self
5440	Geller	Anti-Semitism and Jewish Identity
5480	Schneider	Native American Religious Traditions
6166	Levine	Gospel of Matthew
6525	Azzoni	Ancient Goddesses
6600	Levine	New Testament (if not taken as a core course)
6706	Michelson	Desert Spirituality in Early Christianity
6713	Lim	Theodicy: God and Human Suffering in Historical Perspectives
6745	Lim	Evangelicalism, Pentecostalism, and the Shaping of Global Christianity
6723	Michaelson	History of Early Christian Poetry

Fall 2020

NEW	Schneider	Native American Philosophies
5443	Geller	The Holocaust: Its Meanings and Implications
6614	Levine	Parables of Jesus
6617	Levine	Gospel of Luke

Mediterranean and Near Eastern Studies (MANES)

The cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East have exerted a formative influence on identity and practice in a number of religious traditions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Students in this concentration are invited to learn a variety of disciplinary approaches to the study of religion as part of the cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East. Although there are no chronological limits to the focus of this concentration, the course offerings focus primarily on ancient and medieval cultures and languages. The subjects studied through a variety sources including textual, linguistic, material, geographic, and visual evidence. The courses offer a variety of approaches drawn from the disciplines of history, philology, visual arts, literary analysis, gender analysis, biblical studies, post-colonial studies, and the social sciences. Students are particularly encouraged to diachronically examine the reception and intersection of cultural and social forms and institutions.

Learning Goals:

1. Students will become familiar with the cultural and social history the Mediterranean and Near East as a context for the development of religious traditions.
2. Students will become familiar with textual, philological, and material approaches to the study of the religions of the ancient and medieval Mediterranean and Near East.
3. Students will gain facility in the teaching and research practices use to study the cultures of the Mediterranean and Near East.

Current Steering Committee:

David Michelson (Convener), Annalisa Azzoni, Fernando Segovia, Leong Seow,

Required Courses:

None.

Additional Requirements:

None

Praxis Options:

This could be satisfied by archeological work (Maymester courses such as DIV 6531 Jezreel Expedition), field education as an undergraduate teaching assistant (at Belmont or Vanderbilt), working as a faculty research assistant (for example on grant funded research in the digital humanities), or immersion courses in the Mediterranean or Middle East.

Course Projections:

The courses may not include the core courses in Hebrew Bible, New Testament, or Histories of Global Christianities (if taken as Core).

Spring 2019

5102	Seow	Elementary Biblical Hebrew II
5104	Staff	Beginning Greek II
5109	Staff	Elementary Arabic II
6503	Azzoni	History of Ancient Israel
6514	Marbury	Exodus in African American Popular Biblical Interpretation

6526	Azzoni	Jewish Life in Persian Egypt
6711	Michelson	History of Syriac Christianity
9500	Segovia	Readings in the New Testament

Summer 2019

NEW	Marbury	Bible in Western Visual Media (?)
6528	Marbury	Eight Century Prophecy
6531	Staff	Jezreel Expedition*

Fall 2019

5101	Seow	Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
5103	Staff	Beginning Greek I
6608	Levine/Lim	Jewish-Christian Relations: Historical Perspectives and Contemporary Concerns
6643	Segovia	Economic Biblical Criticism
6648	Segovia	Imperial Biblical Criticism
6723	Michelson	History of Early Christian Poetry

Spring 2020

NEW	Michelson	Books and Reading in Early Christianity
Need#	Segovia	Minority Biblical Criticism
5102	Staff	Elementary Biblical Hebrew II
5104	Staff	Beginning Greek II
5109	Staff	Elementary Arabic II
6525	Azzoni	Ancient Goddesses
6511	Seow	Genesis 1-11
6507	Seow	Religion and Cultures of the Ancient Near Eastern
6550	Azzoni	Akkadian I
6573	Marbury	African American Biblical Interpretation I (?)
6616	Levine	Gospel of Matthew
6706	Michelson	Desert Spirituality in Early Christianity
6723	Michelson	History of Early Christian Poetry

Summer 2020

6531	Staff	Jezreel Expedition*
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Fall 2020

5101	Staff	Elementary Biblical Hebrew I
5103	Staff	Beginning Greek I
5108	Staff	Elementary Arabic I
6510	Marbury	Empire and Canon
6534	Seow	Job, Literature and Visual Arts
6551	Azzoni	Akkadian II
6571	Marbury	African American Biblical Hermeneutics

6614	Levine	Parables of Jesus
6617	Levine	Gospel of Luke
6645	Segovia	Political Biblical Criticism
6646	Segovia	Postcolonial Biblical Criticism

Pastoral and Prophetic Congregational Leadership (PPCL: MDiv Only)

This concentration is designed for individuals intending upon careers in congregational ministry. It provides an opportunity to delve more deeply into the literature, problems, practices of ministry. Students in particular denominational traditions may be able to fulfil some of their ordination requirements in this concentration, but all students are challenged to think deeply about the intersectional dimensions of life in congregational community in twenty-first century North America.

Students take designated courses from the school's offerings in three areas— Perspectives on Contemporary Ministry, Leadership, and a contextual requirement in the area of Field Education or Clinical Pastoral Education. **No course applied to the concentration may also be applied to the requirement in Ministerial Arts (i.e. no double counting).**

Learning Goals:

- Students will develop perspectives on contemporary ministry such that graduates will proceed into the further practice of ministry as thoughtful and engaged leaders.
- Students will attain skills in the practice of ministry applicable to the practice of congregational leadership.
- Students will engage in an additional unit of congregationally based field education in order to grow under supervision in the capacity for leadership and self-awareness of their own gifts.

Current Steering Committee: Jim Hudnut-Beumler (Convener), James Byrd, Stephanie Budwey, Forrest Harris, Viki Matson, John McClure, Mark Miller-McLemore, Joe Pennell

Praxis Options:

An additional semester (or equivalent) experience in supervised ministry beyond field education is required of each MDiv. student in this concentration. This is to be negotiated with Ms. Matson or Ms. Stringer, as per the needs and vocational plans of the students and may include CPE, Advanced Field Education or Independent Study and Practicum in Field Education. (DIV 7902, 7903, 7904)

Required Courses and Course Projections:

Perspectives on Contemporary Ministry (3 or 6 hours) Courses in this grouping offer perspectives especially applicable to the understanding of practice of congregational ministry. These include the history of religious bodies and biblical interpretation used in congregations, the theology of particular traditions, the theory of approaches to ministry, pastoral lives, and worship.

Spring 2019

5226	Harris	Theology, Liberation, & Ministry
5252	JHB	The Reformed Traditions and Practices of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
5355	MMM	History and Theology of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
6791	Byrd	The History of the United Methodist Tradition (2 hours)

6843	Rieger	Theology in the United Methodist Tradition (2 hours)
6812	Morrill	Theologies of Salvation

Summer 2019

5251	Townes	Public Theology and Racial Justice (Maymester)
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Fall 2019

5245	Joranko	Prisons, Poverty, and Congregations (?)
5351	Pennel	Evangelism in the Wesleyan Tradition
6809	Morrill	Eucharistic Theology

Spring 2020

NEW	Budwey	Key Readings in Liturgics
Need#	BMM	Practicing Theology in the Everyday
5008	JHB	Readings in Reformed Theology
5230	MMM	Seminar in Ministry: Pastoral Lives
6791	Byrd	The History of the United Methodist Tradition
6805	Morrill	Christian Praxis: Liturgy and Ethics
7079	BMM	Faith, Film, and Pastoral Care

Summer 2020

7137	Townes	Political Economy of Misery (?)
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Fall 2020

6733	Byrd	America's Revivals
6825	Morrill	Rahner, Schillebeeckx, Metz
7068	BMM	Vocation: Composing a Life

Leadership in Contemporary Ministry (3 or 6 hours) Courses in this grouping offer both a grounding in their subject matter and leadership skills and development opportunities for pastoral leaders in the sources themselves.

Spring 2019

5350	Pennel	United Methodist Church Polity & Practice (2 hours)
6901	McClure	Fundamentals of Preaching
6925	McClure	Theology and Preaching
7081	Hamman	Young Adult Faith, Spirituality, and Leadership
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Summer 2019

7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*
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Fall 2019

5232	MMM	Seminar in Leadership: Prophetic Ministry in Mainline Congregations
5235	Caldwell	Nurturing the Spiritual Life of Children and Families
6701	Budwey	Intro to Christian Worship
6926	McClure	Collaborative Preaching
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Spring 2020

NEW	Budwey	Episcopal Polity
5215	Harris	Religious Leadership and Liberation Praxis
5350	Pennel	United Methodist Church Polity and Practice (2 hours)
6901	McClure	Fundamentals of Preaching
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Summer 2020

5240	Godwin	Sacred and Sexual: Effective Informed Sexuality Education for Faith Settings
5354	Lammers	UCC Polity
7904	Matson/Stringer	Clinical Pastoral Education*

Fall 2020

5232	MMM	Seminar in Leadership: Prophetic Ministry in Mainline Congregations
5246	Pennel	Leading the Congregation
6904	McClure	Ethical Approaches to Preaching
6927	McClure	New Perspectives on Preaching
7000	Sheppard	Pastoral Theology and Care

Additional Requirements:**The Congregational Ministry Practice Festivals**

In addition to the other requirements of the concentration, students participate in the annual day long congregational ministry practice festival offered for returning 2nd and 3rd year students by the concentration in areas of preparation for exercising leadership in a congregational setting. Morning and afternoon workshops are offered just before the formal opening of the fall term in such areas as: Reading Scripture in public worship; Leading effective meetings; How to read budgets and exercise financial management; Managing staff, evaluating personnel, hiring, firing; Protecting the vulnerable—safe congregational practices; Entering and reading congregational culture; The vocation of the pastor: Finding mentors and building a colleague group. The Concentration faculty team brings in other faculty and ministry practitioners to lead these workshops and a communal meal is held at mid-day.

Senior Project Emphasis

Students choosing this concentration are encouraged to pursue Senior Project topics related to some aspect of congregational leadership.

Prison and Carceral Studies (PCS)

This concentration provides VDS students with the opportunity to take up issues of incarceration from a theological perspective. Students will explore biblical, theological and historical documents as well as sociological data to deepen understanding of the current reality of punishment in the United States. We will explore what religious traditions have to contribute to critiquing the injustices of our justice system. Students will engage prisoners and formerly incarcerated citizens through our Riverbend Program as well as appropriate field education opportunities. We will pay particular attention to issues of race, class, gender and sexuality in the application of punishment in the United States and beyond, taking up the relationship of discipline and punishment in society. And we will develop theological and ethical reflection in relationship to these issues. What, for example, is the relationship of punishment and mercy? How are reconciliation and justice possible? The concentration draws on a broad range of disciplines and combines learning from those whose lives have been most affected by incarceration – the incarcerated and their communities-- as well as scholars whose research and teaching focus on the development and analysis of the prison industrial complex.

Learning Goals:

- To develop an understanding of the realities of mass incarceration in the United States.
- To explore the causes and consequences of prison, paying particular attention to issues of race, class, gender and sexuality.
- To mine religious/theological traditions for resources for disrupting the prison industrial complex, and the cradle to prison pipeline.

Current Steering Committee:

Graham Reside (Covener), Ellen Armour, AJ Levine, Paul Lim, Herbert Marbury, Dan Joranko

Required Courses:

None

Additional Requirements:

None

Praxis Options:

DIV 5350 Reside Models and Practices of Justice*

DIV 5213 Reside Restorative Practices*

OR in consultation with Field Education faculty, a related placement and completion of a course in Supervised Ministry and/or Field Education.

Course Projections:

Spring 2019

5212	Joranko	Life on Death Row: Peace and Reconciliation [Riverbend]
6812	Morrill	Theologies of Salvation

Summer 2019

5250	Reside	Models and Practices of Justice* (Maymester)
7027	Sheppard	Womanist Thought in Religion and Psychology (Maymester)

Fall 2019

5212	Reside	Life on Death Row [Riverbend]
5245	Joranko	Prisons, Poverty, and Congregations [Riverbend]
7057	Sheppard	Franz Fanon Psychology: Race, Gender and Religion

Spring 2020

UNIV 5150	Reside/Rubin	Justice, Mercy, and Mass Incarceration
5212	Reside	Life on Death Row [Riverbend]
6713	Lim	Theodicy: God and Human Suffering in Historical Perspectives [Riverbend]

Summer 2020

5213	Reside	Restorative Practices (Maymester)*
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Fall 2020

5212	Reside	Life on Death Row
6848	Rieger	Theology, Economics, and Labor [Riverbend]

Religion and Economic Justice (REJ)

Economic realities and faith traditions are closely related. Economic realities shape religious experiences, images, and practices at their core, even though this is often overlooked. Likewise, religion influences economics, providing both support and critique. The concentration on religion and economic justice is designed to investigate these interrelations and to address both the problems and the potential emerging at the intersection of religion and economics. Aspects include growing inequality as well as alternatives such as participatory economies and economic democracy, keeping in mind the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class.

Learning Goals:

- Understand and investigate how economics, theology, and religion shape and influence each other.
- Engage economic thought and practice in relation to the history of Christian and other faith traditions in terms of similarities and differences.
- Analyze situations of economic injustice and develop viable alternatives informed by faith traditions in the context of the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class.

Current Steering Committee:

Stacey Floyd-Thomas (Convener F18), Joerg Rieger (Convener S19-), Juan Floyd-Thomas, Bruce Rogers-Vaughn, Fernando Segovia, Melissa Snarr,

Required Courses:

None.

Additional Requirements:

None

Praxis Options:

Encourage student to pursue a field education internship. Students may also satisfy this requirement with a designated theory-praxis course.

*Course Projections:*Spring 2019

6768	JFT	Critical Readings in African American Religion: WEB DuBois
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Fall 2019

6643	Segovia	Economic Biblical Criticism
7002	Rogers-Vaughn	Pastoral Care and Global Capitalism

Spring 2020

NEW	Rieger	Ecology and Economics (Spring Break Immersion Trip)
NEW	JFT	Black Churches and the Quest for Economic Justice
5221	Joranko	Social Action in the City

Summer 2020

7137	Townes	Political Economy of Misery
7908	Matson	Traversing Our National Wound: U.S. Mexico Border (Maymester immersion trip)

Fall 2020

6825	Morrill	Rahner, Schillebeeckz, Metz (?)
6848	Rieger	Theology, Economics, and Labor (Riverbend)

Religion, Arts and Culture (RAC)

This concentration serves the student with interests in the mutually formative relationship of religion and the arts. Areas of inquiry include theological aesthetics, the role of art in fulfilling the societal mission of congregations and communities, the role of religion in literature, art’s generative role in personal devotion, spiritual practice, and congregational life and identity. Practical courses in writing (creative, non-fiction, and song) are offered regularly and are an important component in the curriculum.

Learning Goals:

- Student will demonstrate creative imagination in at least one of two streams of activity: A) The translation of theological concepts into images, sounds, movements, novels, plays, or poetry. B) In scholarship, preaching, worship design, and other modes of expressive theological reflection.
- Student will put her or his engagement with the arts into conversation with the broader components of her or his theological education.
- Student will build a greater recognition of the interconnections between religion and the arts and be able to articulate points of affinity between the two.

Current Steering Committee:

Stephanie Budwey (Co-Convener), John McClure (Co-Convener), Lib Caldwell, Juan Floyd-Thomas, Victor Judge, Dave Perkins

Required Courses:

Beauty & Belief: Issues in Theological Aesthetics (Perkins)

Or,

Writing Creatively About Religion (Judge)

Additional Requirements:

None.

Praxis Options:

1. By working with the Field Education faculty to identify a learning context.
2. By fulfilling the praxis requirement in one of the following courses: Creativity (Perkins), Writing Creatively about Religion (Judge), Songwriting from a Theological Perspective (Perkins)

Course Projections:

Spring 2019

5227	Caldwell/Neely	Social Transformation as Depicted in Children and Young Adult Literature: Refugees and Immigrants
5404	Judge	Religious Themes in the work of Albert Camus
5412	Budwey	Survey of Christian Congregational Song
5413	Perkins	Music and Spiritual Formation
6715	Budwey	Mary in Christian Thought and Practice
6773	JFT	Reel Black Faith

7079	BMM	Faith, Film, and Pastoral Care
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Summer 2019

NEW	Marbury	Bible in Western Visual Media
5403	Judge	Religious Themes in William Faulkner

Fall 2019

5410	Judge	Writing Creatively About Religion*
5421	Perkins	Creativity: A Theological Engagement*
5433	Geller	Religion and Film
6701	Budwey	Intro to Christian Worship
6738	JHB	Jesus in Modern America
6928	McClure	Popular Music and Religion Identity
7133	SFT	Womanist Literature as a Resource for Ethics

Spring 2020

5401	Judge	Religious Questions in the Poetry of Emily Dickinson and Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J.
5411	Perkins	Songwriting from a Theological Perspective*
5434	Geller	Religious Narrative and the Self
6507	Seow	Religion and Cultures of the Ancient Near Eastern
6723	Michelson	History of Early Christian Poetry
6928	McClure	Popular Music and Religious Identity
7064	Hamman	Humanity and Technology (?)
7129	SFT/JFT	Moral Philosophy of Black Popular Culture

Summer 2020

5310	Caldwell	God, Faith, and Art
5405	Judge	Religious Themes in Albert Camus

Fall 2020

5402	Judge	The Incarnational Art of Flannery O'Connor
5420	Perkins	Beauty & Belief
5433	Geller	Religion and Film
6534	Seow	Job, Literature and Visual Arts
6730	JHB	Jesus and Modern America
6772	JFT	Race, Religion, and Protest Music
6859	Armour	Theology, Visual Culture, and Media

Religion, Gender, and Sexuality (RGS)

This concentration allows students to explore the complex intellectual, historical, and practical interactions between religion, gender, and sexuality.

Learning Goals:

- To prepare students with the intellectual and practical tools to work effectively on these issues with communities of faith.

Current Steering Committee:

Ellen Armour, Stephanie Budwey, Phillis Sheppard, Annalisa Azzoni

Required Courses:

None. However, we do anticipate requiring students to take one course in textual study (typically biblical studies) or historical studies, one course in theology or ethics and society, and one course in religion, psychology and culture. We will designate each semester specific courses that would count toward the concentration.

Additional Requirements:

Praxis Options:

For MDiv students, typically by field ed. For MTS students, field ed would be one option, but other options could include other kinds of practice (an art exhibit or musical performance based on religion, gender, sexuality, a curated archive of historical or contemporary resources, etc.) that are integrated in to one of the designated courses. These should be approved both by the Concentration Convener and the course professor.

Course Projections:

Spring 2019

6715	Budwey	Mary in Christian Thought and Practice
6845	Armour	Feminist/Womanist Theology
7021	BMM	Women, Psychology, and Religion
7022	Rogers-Vaughn	Men, Psychology, and Religion

Fall 2019

6701	Budwey	Intro to Christian Worship
6840	Armour	Seminar in Systematic Theology (Anthropology)
6846	Armour	Queer Theology
7023	BMM	Bodies and Theological Knowledge
7133	SFT	Womanist Literature as a Resource for Ethics

Spring 2020

6525	Azzoni	Ancient Goddesses
6846	Armour	Queer Theology
7023	BMM	Bodies and Theological Knowledge
7079	BMM	Faith, Film, and Pastoral Care

Summer 2020

5240	Godwin	Sacred and Sexual: Effective Informed Sexuality Education for Faith Settings
7137	Townes	Political Economy of Misery

Fall 2020

6859	Armour	Theology, Visual Culture, and Media
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Courses that treat these topics are typically offered every semester and updated on the Carpenter website. Examples include but are not limited to
 Feminist/Womanist Theology (Armour or Schneider),
 Queer Theology (Armour or Schneider),
 Feminist/Womanist Ethics (S. Floyd-Thomas),
 Black women's Literature and Ethics (S. Floyd-Thomas),
 Women's Bodies, Politics, and Policy Making (S. Floyd-Thomas),
 Butch, Femme, and Queer Ethnographies and Narratives (Sheppard),
 Womanist Thought in Religion and Psychology (Sheppard),
 Ancient Goddesses (Azzoni),
 Marriage at the Beginning (Azzoni),
 Sexuality in the Bible and the Ancient Near East (Azzoni),
 Seminar in Shame and Guilt (Flesberg),
 Sexuality: Ethics, Theology and Pastoral Practice (Flesberg).

In keeping with longstanding practice for the Certificate, we anticipate allowing students to take one course that is not designated for the Concentration and, with the instructor's and convener's permission, focusing their graded work on religion, gender, and sexuality as they pertain to the course's subject matter.

Spirituality and Social Activism (SSA)

The Spirituality and Social Activism concentration gives students interdisciplinary knowledge for integrating spirituality with vocations of activism. Students will be exposed to the historical and contemporary contexts in which spirituality and activism have helped generate movements for justice in the academy, religious communities, and society.

Learning Goals:

- Reflect ethically, biblically, and pastorally on the practice of activism in light of spirituality
- Understanding and practice? of spirituality as an integral aspect for sustained commitment to social activism
- Developing capacity in creating public spaces for the integration of spirituality in activism

Current Steering Committee:

Phillis Sheppard (Convener), emilie townes, Herbert Marbury, Forrest Harris

Required Courses:

At least one of the following:

- Warrior Chants and Unquiet Spirits (Townes)
- Vexations: Religion and Politics in the Black Community (Townes)
- Spirituality and Activism (Sheppard)
- Liberation and Spirituality (Harris)

Additional Requirements:

None.

Praxis Options:

Students may:

- Choose an additional Field Education option.
- Develop VDS specific Forums on Spirituality and Social Activism as part of the assignment/work of a course. Prior approval by the Convener and professor required.
- Develop an independent course whereby their final assignment is a public activism project that includes a spirituality component.

Course Projections:

Spring 2019

5413	Perkins	Music and Spiritual Formation
5212	Joranko	Life on Death Row: Peace and Reconciliation
6514	Marbury	Exodus in African American Popular Biblical Interpretation (?)
7080	Sheppard	Spirituality and Social Activism*
7081	Hamman	Young Adult Faith, Spirituality, and Leadership

Summer 2019

5251	Townes	Public Theology and Racial Justice (Maymester)
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6528	Marbury	Eighth Century Prophecy
7027	Sheppard	Womanist Thought in Religion and Psychology (Maymester)

Fall 2019

5224	Harris	Liberation and Spirituality
6571	Marbury	African American Biblical Hermeneutics I

Spring 2020

NEW	Sheppard	Ritual Process, Interiority, and Sociality
5215	Harris	Religious Leadership and Liberation Praxis
5221	Joranko	Social Action in the City
5480	Schneider	Native American Religious Traditions (?)
6706	Michelson	Desert Spirituality in Early Christianity

Summer 2020

5310	Caldwell	God, Faith, and Art
7030	Sheppard	Latin@/x Pastoral Care and Theology (Maymester)