NYTS Course Listings: Spring 2013

As of 11.19.12  Subject to Revisions

All classes are held at Riverside Church unless otherwise noted (enter through 91 Claremont Ave. at W. 120 & 121 St. (between Broadway & Riverside Dr; take elevators on the left side)

MONDAY COURSES:  Feb. 4 – May 13 (6 pm - 9 pm) unless otherwise noted.

MMA266K: Building Capacity for Ministry 2: (in Korean); 4 Cr.
Prof. Hwain Lee  Rm. 423  1:30 pm-4:45 pm

As future pastors, the success of ministry will, in part, be based upon the success of community ministry; that part of mission that is offered for the “public” as much as it is for the congregation. The course will examine some of the skills beyond theology and education that one must cultivate if one is to build strong and socially engaged congregations.

MRE2324: Developmental Perspectives in Christian Education; 4Cr.  (Elective)
Prof. Kirkpatrick Cohall  Rm. 318

This course involves an examination of developmental theories and their application in religious education. The study will involve an integration of the social science disciplines in human development with particular emphasis on the role of the family, church, and society in helping to shape the behavioral, cultural and faith development of individuals.

MME2214: Human Sexuality & the Church; 4 Cr.  (Elective)
Prof. Mariah Britton  Rm. 317

The course is designed to explore issues of human sexuality particularly as related to those who are preparing for parish ministry. Students will examine biblical texts related to sexuality, study contemporary pastoral concerns, and learn how to use Internet and other resources for information and referral purposes. The overall objective of this course is to help students gain a greater awareness of personal, societal, religious/spiritual and historical sexuality issues that impact pastoral leadership.

MMU004: Communication Skills 2; 4 Cr.  (Elective)
Prof. Esther Owens  Rm. 421

This is a special course in English composition offered to any student and required of those students who, in the faculty's judgment need further development of their writing skills.

MMW2634: Baptist Polity and History; 4 cr. (elective)
Prof. Keith Russell  Rm. 430

The course on Baptist history and Polity will survey developments in Baptist life from the 16th century through the 21st century with an emphasis on contemporary ecclesiological issues and challenges. This course will be assisted by on-line learning resources as well as lectures and discussions. We will work in a seminar style with each student expected to write a significant paper on an issue in either Baptist history or Polity as approved by the instructor.

BBN3534: Justice in the Bible: From the Prophet to Jesus; 4 Cr. (elective)
Prof. Obery Hendricks  Rm. 323

DESCRIPTION TO BE PROVIDED AT A LATER DATE.
TUESDAY COURSES: Feb. 5 – May 14 (6 pm – 9 pm) unless otherwise noted.

**MMU1004: Foundations of Ministry; 4 Cr. (Yr. A, Required)**
Profs. Humberto Alfaro & Keith Russell   Rm. 430

Students will develop a critical analytical perspective on relational life in the context of the local church. Special attention will be given to the role of worship, polity and congregational history.

**HTU2024: Modern Church History 2; 4 Cr. (Yr. B, Required)**
Prof. Dale T. Irvin   Rm. 330

This course introduces students to the history of Christianity in its global context from the dawn of the modern era in the 15th century through what many believe to be the end of the modern era in the 20th century. Attention is paid to the various social, political and cultural contexts in which churches have lived, as well as to the developments of theological ideas in diverse situations across the last five centuries. A significant amount of time in the course is devoted to the life and ministry of churches in North America in diverse cultural contexts. While successful completion of the required Introduction to Church History course is not a prerequisite for this course, it is advised.

**MPW1004: Preaching & Worship (in English) 4 Cr. (Elective)**
Prof. Edward Hunt   Chapel of the Cross; 3rd Floor

This course has two interrelated foci: 1) Preaching and 2) Worship. In the first instance, this is a basic course in homiletics dealing with the nature of Kerygma and its sermonic construction and delivery. Special attention is given to the nature, method, variety, and importance of preaching in the context of public worship. In the second instance, the course provides a basic introduction to the art of Christian worship, paying attention to its variety of forms in diverse cultural contexts. Students will be invited to develop their own gifts and graces as worship leaders as they develop their own understanding of the practice of worship.

**TTU3134: Thomas Aquinas; 4 Cr. (elective)**
Prof. Elaine Padilla   Rm. 421

St. Thomas Aquinas is counted among the most influential Christian theologians of all times. Understanding his work will mean gaining much foundational knowledge of the Christian faith and the philosophical underpinnings of modern theology. But we could not cover all of his work in one semester—as tempting as that might be. His *Contra gentiles* and *Summa theologica* alone would take us years to study in depth! Therefore, in this class we will have a foretaste of his theological, philosophical, and ethical thought on God, world, and humanity to answer questions regarding the “common good.” The historical landscape (including his engagement with medieval Islam and Judaism) that nurtured his insights will be transported to the contemporary scene to discuss current issues such as today’s economy now being driven mostly by the Wall Street mentality. How may he answer today’s questions concerning happiness, wellbeing, self-potential? How may his classical thought inspire us to enjoy the *good life* in ways that are rooted in the life-giving God and thus beneficial for the whole?

**MMW2624: UCC Polity, History, Theology & Practice; 4 Cr. (elective)**
Prof. Paul Bradley   Rm. 416

The purpose of this course is to prepare students for authorized ministry in the United Church of Christ (UCC)—ordination or ministerial standing. The course also assumes that students will have a foundational knowledge of Church History, Theology, and the Bible. We will explore UCC history and theology within the context of American religious history, providing an introduction to the history of the major Protestant church traditions (Congregational, Christian, Evangelical, and Reformed) that came together to form the United Church of Christ in 1957. We will explore the evolution of the UCC—its work and mission—since its founding and the role the denomination plays in the church and the wider world today. Offered in cooperation with the UCC New York Metropolitan Association, this course fulfills the UCC Polity requirement for individuals seeking ordination or standing in the UCC. Note that this course is not intended for seekers primarily interested in learning about the UCC who are not on the ordination track and active membership in a UCC congregation is required.
**WEDNESDAY COURSES:** Feb. 6 – May 15 (6pm – 9pm) unless otherwise noted.

**SSU1004: Church & Community Analysis; 4 Cr.** (Yr. B, Required)
Prof. Moses Biney Rm. 330

The purpose of this course is to study congregations and religious institutions in their urban context. We will explore how institutions interact with urban structures and express and inhabit social processes. We will study the dynamic interaction between religious institutions/congregations and their environment, and the ways in which social dynamics shape, inform and impact their synergistic relationships. We will also learn “how to study” congregations. Through lectures, discussions, and ethnographic research, we will discover how congregations and religious institutions located in the New York metro area, minister to their neighborhoods and how changes in their neighborhoods affect these congregations.

**MPC2754: Crisis Intervention; 4 Cr.** (Required for MAPCC; otherwise an elective)
Prof. In Sook Lee Rm. 421

It is a known fact that the first place a person turns to at a time of conflict or crisis is the church. Persons come to their spiritual leader seeking guidance when facing these crises, looking for spiritual support and a word of wisdom from a spiritual leader who they perceive to have the capacity to understand things the way they are and how to do the “right thing.” (Pruyser 1976) This course will focus on exploring the profound effect of different types of crisis. Participants will delve into four main phases that are essential in responding to crisis: Assessment; Action Plan; Intervention and Follow Up. Class methodology is didactic and experiential.

**BBN3304: Studies in the Book of Revelation; 4 Cr.** (elective)
Prof. Efrain Agosto Rm. 423 **Prerequisite: BBN100; New Testament**

This course, which assumes a basic understanding of the New Testament, will explore the only full New Testament apocalypse, the Book of Revelation. We will do so in the context of understanding ancient Jewish apocalyptic literature, as well as modern attempts to understand these texts in Christian theology, faith and practice. Such popular religious understandings as the “Left Behind” book series will be considered, as well as the political implications of the apocalyptic worldview, both in the ancient imperial context as well as the religious and political climate of today. **Prerequisite: Second Testament Introduction.**

**MMU2044: The Works of Howard Thurman: Ministry for the 21st Century; 4 Cr.** (elective)
Prof. Tommie Jackson Rm. 418

This course is a study of the major writings of the late Dr. Howard Thurman. Generally, he was known as a mystic, philosopher, poet, prophet, and theologian who encouraged faith practices as a form of social responsibility. The contemplative life of meditation and prayer guided the actions of Dr. Thurman. He was a quiet spirit who saw the handiwork of God in all living things. This sense of stewardship caused Dr. Thurman to see, and promote, a global unity with the whole of nature, other humans, himself and most importantly, with God. From the readings of Dr. Thurman, a journey is taken to discover a harmony and centering of self that will enhance spiritual examination(s).

Students should understand that the theology of Dr. Thurman was rooted in Christianity. However, the dialogical imperative used by Dr. Thurman was to engage various faith traditions. This makes examination of the spirituality of Dr. Thurman of particular attention when there is concern for and interest in removing boundaries to discussing, and finding conversation commonalities.

**MRE2504: History & Philosophy of Religious Education;** (Required for MARE; otherwise an elective)
Prof. Tamara Henry Rm. 416

This course utilizes a critical pedagogical approach to explore the historical origins and evolvement of the field of religious education, including the principal movements and individuals from biblical and apostolic periods to the present that have shaped approaches to Christian education. In addition, contemporary philosophies of religious education and their import for the teaching ministries of congregations are explored.
THURSDAY COURSES: Jan. 31 – May 9 (6 pm – 9 pm) unless otherwise noted.

BBN1004: Bible 3: Second Testament; 4 Cr. (Yr. A, Required)
Prof. Obery Hendricks Rm. 430 Prerequisite: BBH101, Exegesis Practicum

This course is an Introduction to the Canon of the Second Testament (New Testament) with particular attention to epistolar and narrative genres. The Bible will serve as primary text for the course. Steven L. Davies, New Testament Fundamentals R/E [Polobridge Press] will be secondary reading; weekly exegesis will be shared in class.

EEU1004: Intro to Christian Ethics; 4 Cr. (Yr. B, Required)
Prof. Davis Rm. 330

This course is an overview of the field of Christian social ethics with some special attention paid to biomedical issues. This survey necessitates a brief examination of Christian doctrine, western religious and social thought. Our task is to discover how people, past and present, engage (d) in ethical reflection, moral reasoning, social critical analysis, and ethical action for the just resolution of social conflict. Of particular interest is an examination of the West's historic understandings of morality, ethical actions, institutions, culture, society, the "poor," the state, and how these other institutions effect modern life. Certain issues of personal morality will not be intentionally addressed in this course, such as the psychodynamic dimensions of "personal" decisionism, individualistic understandings of salvation, sanctification, truth telling, or loyalty to personal codes of morality; these equally important issues are presumed to be covered elsewhere in the curriculum. The readings are designed to challenge participants to rethink their understanding of moral community life, and to rethink the places and ways in which religious teachings, practices, and beliefs affect that life. Participants are encouraged to personally and actively engage in the painful business of ethical reflection and to commit themselves to an active life of moral struggle. In short, this course requires a bit of courage.

MBP2324: Biblical Story Telling; 4 Cr. (Elective)
Prof. Edward Hunt Chapel of the Cross

“Can you tell the story?” It’s a simple, but soul-searching question that is at the very heart of preaching. One of the hallmarks of every great preacher has been the ability to tell a simple Bible story, explain it, and then relate it to the congregation’s spiritual needs. This class will help you retell biblical stories with a new level of enthusiasm and excitement in order to enhance preaching and strengthen your presence in the pulpit. As we journey together through the stories of the Bible we will expect the Holy Spirit to breathe on us afresh with love, power and conviction.

MMW2614: Presbyterian History & Polity; 4 Cr. (Elective)
Prof. William Weisenbach

This course will examine essential elements of Presbyterian polity (the Book of Order) in light of the confessional and theological foundations (the Book of Confessions) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Emphasis will be given to exploring the ways polity can support, guide and enhance the practice of ministry in the parish setting. The course is designed to give students preparing for ordination a thorough knowledge of the polity of the PCUSA as contained in its constitution and of the program of the church at every judicatory level. The course will prepare students for the standard examinations in Polity and Worship required for ordination in the PCUSA.

SSU3024: Psychology of Religion; 4 Cr. (elective)
Prof. In Sook Lee 319

This foundational course in theological psychology introduces students to an emerging field in theological education that focuses on the total healing and liberation of oppressed persons and communities. This interdisciplinary exploration will be embodied, reflective and experiential. We will study the psychoanalytic tradition in dialogue with prophetic theology, considering the ways in which theology and pastoral psychotherapy can learn from each other. The practice of mutual transformation is critical for pastoral formation and community counseling.
SATURDAY COURSES

Supervised Ministry Dates: Feb. 23; Mar. 16; Apr. 20; May 4 (10 am-1 pm)
Prof. Nancy Fields    Rm. 430 (Break-Out Rooms: 416, 419, 318, 319, 321)

SMN1002: Supervised Ministry 1; 2 Cr. (Yr. C, Required)
SMN2002: Supervised Ministry 2; 2 Cr. (Yr. C, Required)
SMN3002: Supervised Ministry 3; 2 Cr. (Yr. D, Required)
SMN4002: Supervised Ministry 4; 2 Cr. (Yr. D, Required)

TUTORIAL COURSES:

TMU5012: CREDO; 2 Cr. (Yr. D, Required; Graduating Seniors only)
Prof. Elaine Padilla & Faculty

On-Line Tutorial; all students must file a Credo Reader form with the Registrar no later than registration for
the Spring Semester.  Credo Submission Deadline:  April 1.  The student will prepare a systematic
presentation of his/her own beliefs developed out of work done in the Practice of Prophetic Ministry.  The
student will seek to analyze, integrate, and evaluate his/her experience of theological education as it relates
to the contemporary practice of Christian ministry.  The work culminates in a major paper of 40 to 50 pages,
which systematically discusses the student's own belief and practice.

MTU200 (2, 3, or 4): Study Trip: Going Home: Civil Rights & Southern Religion; 2-4 Cr. (elective)
Profs. Eleanor Moody-Shepherd, Peter Heltzel & Wanda Lundy
April 1-May 7, 2013

Come and join us on journey into the Deep South, where we walk the freedom trails together and listen to
the wisdom of the land and our ancestors.  When Martin Luther King, Jr. graduated from Boston
University he had opportunities all over the country, but he decided to return home to the South because
of the "remarkable thing that was about to happen", namely the Civil Rights movement.  Through
identifying the tragic violence and oppression of racism, while also tapping into the sources of
redemption, reconciliation, and empowerment, the Civil Rights movement demonstrates the deep
problems and promise of Southern religion.  This class is a journey into the paradoxes of Southern
religion, from the racist violence of the K.K.K. to the prophetic action of African American women like
Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer.  It will include a weeklong field trip to the Deep South, including
visits to Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma, Alabama to Vicksburg, Jackson, and Canton, Mississippi,
and Memphis, Tennessee.

MRE3012: MARE Capstone Project 2; 2 Cr. (Required for MARE; Prerequisite: MRE300)
Prof. Kirkpatrick Cohall  Dates/Times: To be arranged with professor.

This course is continued from fall 2012: integrated conceptual and practical assignment that represents the
student’s theoretical and conceptual knowledge in the field of Religious Education.

MPC3012: MAPCC Capstone Project 2; 2 Cr. (Required for MAPCC; Prerequisite: MPC300)
Prof. In Sook Lee  Dates/Times: To be arranged with professor.

This course is continued from fall 2012: integrated conceptual and practical assignment that represents the
student’s theoretical and conceptual knowledge in the field of Pastoral Care and Counseling.
ON-LINE COURSES:  Jan. 31- May 9, 2013

BBN2504:  Biblical Models of Leadership; 4 Cr. (elective)
Prof. Efrain Agosto
This course mines the gospel stories and the letters of Paul to explore issues of leadership theory and practice in earliest Christianity with a view toward understanding the role of religious leadership in the exercise of ministry today. Jesus and Paul, as the major figures of the early years of the Christian movement, pronounced words, proclaimed teachings and took actions that formed communities of faith. Implicitly and explicitly they exemplified the type of leadership that they considered necessary for ministry in their day. We will pay particular attention to the picture of leadership presented in the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) and leaders and practices which Paul discusses in various ways in his letters. What such historical, literary and theological study yields in terms of leadership and ministry today will occupy a major portion of this course.

TTU2514:  The Holy Spirit; 4 Cr. (elective)
Prof. Elaine Padilla
This class is designed to foster our abilities to speak and listen to the winds of God blowing through our world today. With the spirit comes conversion, through the power of a living word. Speaking and listening, we thus join in the divine conversation taking place all around us. I come to this course assuming that the Spirit is blowing and that we have in the Bible, in various Christian traditions and in our wider cultural heritages resources for hearing and speaking to the Spirit. Since the Spirit and freedom go together, then learning and responding to the Spirit entail the practice of freedom and love. It’s theological midwifery, if you will. Engaging in the reflection on such freedom and love, will we also be drawn into speaking to God; which is our worship and praise.