



Course Catalog

2023-2024

IST 1002 **MTS Colloquium** **Req**

The MTS Colloquium will help students to relate learning from various modes and forms of theological discourse to contemporary issues and questions, particularly those relevant to the student's own professional practices and personal life.

IST 1009 **Biblical Authority & Interpretation** **ID**

Debates over biblical authority within Christianity and in the public square are common place in American society. Such debates have a long history. "Biblical Authority and Interpretation" examines a wide range of perspectives on scriptural authority and interpretation from the history of Christianity and beyond. Engaging with such a variety of attitudes toward the Bible, its translation, and interpretation will help students think critically about their own use of scripture, and begin to articulate thoughtfully their own positions on the uses of Scripture in our contemporary world.

IST 1023 **Food, Faith and the Land** **ID**

In a time where the disordered relationships between humans and their habitat are causing dire and perhaps irreversible changes to climatic patterns, to the biodiversity of the planet, to watersheds and air quality, and to the life and health of forests and oceans, faithful voices are needed to challenge the status quo of treating the earth as an inexhaustible storehouse and to imagine new ways of living upon the earth. This seminar introduces students to a variety of theologians, ethicists, biblical scholars, and other religious communities who are wrestling with deep and abiding questions about human relationships to their sources of food, to their nonhuman creaturely companions, and to the very land which sustains them. Beyond these voices, we will be asking what it means to nurture our own creative power to draw upon ancient wisdoms to cultivate more healing and sustainable narratives, relationships, and communal practices of daily life within our environment. Because this is a first year interdisciplinary seminar, in the midst of this engaging and serious work, we will also be attending to the academic skills necessary to thrive in graduate school, including digital library research skills, writing skills, and understanding the breadth of disciplinary approaches to theological education.

IST 1026 **Religion: Re-envisioning Identity,
Borders, and Belonging** **ID**

The contemporary world offers different deployments of the politics of inclusion/exclusion. What roles do religion and theology play in shaping the identities and actions of Black Lives Matter, Burmese Buddhists, and alt-right white nationalist movements in the U.S.? Through reading classic and contemporary works on religion and identity, students will gain sophisticated theoretical frameworks to help analyze phenomena that increasingly seem to shape events.

IST 1027 Wilding Religion: Religion & Nature ID

In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore the dynamic and fluid relations between religion and “nature” or the more-than-human world. We understand religion as present both within and outside the bounds of conventional religious traditions. In this course, then, religion includes Judaism and ancient Israelite religion, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Indigenous religion, but also ecofeminism and ecowomanism, nature writing, and environmentalism. Topics include humans’ relationships with “nature” and the land as they are practiced, ritualized, and textualized; the role of religions in environmental destruction and in ecological thriving; and the development of eco-spiritual perspectives.

IST 1028 White Christian Nationalism ID

This course will explore how religious and theological studies understand white Christian nationalism and expose incoming students to the relevance of the academic, interdisciplinary study of white Christian nationalism so they recognize from the first year of study that theological/religious studies disciplines work together to generate significant knowledge that matters to the world.

IST 1029 Christianity & Science ID

"This course will explore how various Christian thinkers have understood science and biblical texts as sources of authority. This has in turn led to differing understandings of the divine, the universe, and human nature.

IST 1031 Hermeneutics of Suspicion, Hermeneutics of Generosity ID

In this course, we will consider what it means to interpret—to engage in practices of hermeneutics. Beginning with our own traditions, texts, images, and practices, we will approach them with guarded suspicion, and also work to cultivate a spirit of generosity and openness. Centering on the categories of theological inquiry as expressed in the Iliff curriculum and communal life, this course will prepare first-year students to curate their time at Iliff and to bring the full range of interpretive tools to their theological education.

IST 1100 Identity, Power, & Vocation in Community Req

"The three course sequence of "Identity, Power, and Vocation in Community" (IPVC) cultivates students’ ability to engage in social and theological analysis about social structures, ideologies, and embodied practices that lead to domination or oppression. It facilitates critical thinking about social locations, power and privilege, and what effect these have on students' vocational paths.

The course takes the perspective that this sort of analysis, engaged in community and supported with spiritual practices, is crucial to serving effectively in today’s complex social

environment. It encourages students to deepen their commitment to dismantling privilege and oppression at individual, institutional, and societal levels.

IST 1101 - 1103 Identity, Power, & Vocation in Community Req

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Winter starts will take a 4 credit hour course to fulfill Fall and Winter requirements of IPVC.

IST 1222 MTS Learning Plan Req

This 0 credit course must be taken as a corequisite to MTS Colloquium.

IST 2000 Religions in the World CR

A brief introduction to the history and doctrines of some of the world's religious traditions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, African Religions, North American Indian Religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism. The course is meant to give students an overview that can then be built upon in other courses. This course is a prerequisite for IST 2131 Comparative Philosophies of Religion.

IST 2003 Intro to the Hebrew Bible Req, BI

An introduction to the literature and history of ancient Israel and early Judaism with special attention to the various methods appropriate to studying the Hebrew Bible.

IST 2004 Intro to the New Testament Req, BI

An introduction to the literature of Christian origins that begins with a look at the context out of which the New Testament emerged, then turns to the earliest extant texts, Paul's letters and covers the Gospels, Acts, and post-Pauline epistles.

IST 2005 Ethical Analysis and Advocacy Req, SE

Introduction to ethical reflection about contemporary moral issues in an ecumenical and

global context drawing on ethical and sociological theory and analysis and on theological and psychological perspectives.

IST 2006 Congregations SE

An introduction to the social scientific literature on congregations. Students learn basic methodology for analyzing congregations and their surrounding communities. A review of the empirical literature on congregations covers such issues as congregational cultures, leadership styles, adaptation to community change, racial/ethnic diversity, fund-raising, and membership growth and decline. Will substitute for Christianity in Contemporary American Society.

IST 2012 Pastoral and Spiritual Care Req, PR

An introduction to theories of care, counseling, and psychotherapy in relation to theories of humanity and personhood. Special attention will be given to theological, psychological and ethical perspectives. Normally, Pastoral Theology and Care is a prerequisite for all other courses in the area. Requests for exceptions should go to the area faculty before registration.

IST 2016 Intro to Christian Worship PR

Christian corporate worship is explored in relation to tradition, symbol, music and new forces that are having an impact on the church's ritual life. Close attention is given to the theology, planning and leadership of services, including Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals and other services that mark life transitions.

IST 2019 Preaching & Spiritual Leadership PR

We are living in a world of complexity and polarization, culturally and religiously, as well as socio-politically. Our society desperately needs mature spiritual leadership that guides people in the process of discernment and to live it out faithfully. This course takes this situation seriously and focuses on preaching as an art of spiritual leadership. It aims to help students equip themselves as spiritual leaders and enhance their unique voices by deepening their understanding of spirituality and practicing their spiritual leadership through preaching. Designed for those who wish to become great spiritual preachers, this course uses a variety of pedagogical approaches: group discussions, self-reflection on spirituality, surveys of congregational spiritual types, preaching workshops, and sermon evaluations.

IST 2020 Community Organizing PR

This course will introduce students to the histories and core concepts of community

organizing in the United States, including the various skills, strategies, values, and goals underlying particular organizing models. Students will have the opportunity to reflect on their core values in relationship to self interest and identity, develop skills in building meaningful relationships across differences, analyze power and privilege, and engage community organizing strategies for social justice and change.

IST 2021 Spiritual Care in Death & Dying PR, MAPSC
Grief & Loss

Students will examine literature, films and art to engage multi-layered experiences of death, dying, grief, and loss from caregiver and care seeker perspectives. They will develop self awareness of their own values, beliefs, and responses to these experiences and practice offering spiritual care to persons and communities challenged by these experiences.

IST 2024 United Methodist History DR

English Methodism to the death of John Wesley; the United Methodist tradition in North America; racial and ethnic diversity and the role of women in United Methodism. This course meets the disciplinary requirements for ordination. Offered each year.

IST 2025 United Methodist Doctrine DR

An exploration of the doctrinal heritage of United Methodism: its sources, distinctive marks, development in the United States, relation to contemporary doctrinal standards and practices of the UMC and role in ecumenical dialogue. This course meets the disciplinary requirements for ordination to elder or permanent deacon or diaconal ministry in the U.M.C. Offered each year.

IST 2026 U. M. Polity for Leadership DR

Organization and methodology of The United Methodist Church. This course meets the disciplinary requirement for diaconal ministry or ordination to elder or permanent deacon in the U.M.C. (offered each year).

IST 2032 Anglican Liturgy DR

A consideration of the theology and development of Anglican worship as reflected in The Book of Common Prayer with particular attention to the Rites of Initiation and the Eucharist. The role of symbol and ritual in worship will be examined.

IST 2033 Anglican Polity DR

"This fully-online, 4 credit course offers an introduction to the polity of The Episcopal Church and the role of authority in the Anglican Communion. In addition to studying the Constitution and Canons (church-wide and diocese-specific), students will be invited to articulate a theological, ecclesiological, and pastoral understanding of The Episcopal Church's approach to governance.

IST 2035 Greek I EL

Introduction to grammar of Koine Greek for translation and exegetical study. (offered every other year).

IST 2036 Greek II EL

Continuation of Greek I.

IST 2038 Anglican Spirituality DR

Anglican Spirituality is a unique blend that incorporates centuries of tradition, ranging from a pre-Church of England ethos recognized by Augustine of Canterbury in the sixth-century, to today's rich multicultural global tapestry represented by the Anglican Communion. At its heart, ours is a spirituality that is based in corporate worship and a lived faith that stems from a deeply sacramental view of self, community, and world in relationship both with God and with one another. While sacramentalists and Anglican evangelicals would (and do) use different words to describe these hallmarks of our shared spiritual tradition, where we might agree is in the shared grace of a faith that is lived out, acted upon in response to the world's need, and rooted in relationship with God.

This course will dive deep beneath the surface of our contemporary global communion to examine several key elements of what might better be called Anglican spiritualities than conceived of as a uniform, monolithic, or singular "spirituality." Incorporating aspects of liturgy, theology, ethics, culture, poetry, post-colonialism, social justice, and relationality, ultimately Anglican spirituality defies definition precisely because it is a living, dynamic, and evolving field of inquiry—elements that make it a fascinating subject of study and a tradition well worth experiencing.

IST 2040 Prophetic G.R.I.T. - Growing Resources InTernally EL

In a world of direct, structural, and cultural violence, how do we find the internal resources and cultivate individual and collective practices to resist injustice and engage our prophetic

voices? We will consider numerous examples of grounding and centering practices from a variety of religious and spiritual traditions that encourage us to develop strength, rest, and joy for our bodies and spirits within a life and community of active resistance to oppression. We will ask ourselves: what are the internal resources necessary to sustain long-term prophetic voice and activism and create authentic communities committed to undermining domination? We will seek to develop personal and communal spiritual routines which honor the integrity of different cultures and resist cultural appropriation.

IST 2059 Unitarian Universalist Polity DR

This course will examine the fundamentals of Unitarian Universalist congregational polity and will also examine essential elements of functional ministry: how to minister in a mission-based institution, how to understand and effectively manage conflict, and how successful administrative functioning enhances system health.

IST 2061 Ministry Praxis: Funerals PR, MAPSC

Ministry Praxis Seminars are one hour weekend courses offered quarterly that focus on specific aspects of the practice of ministry with attention given to the integration of theory and practice. Topics will vary and may include issues such as life cycle rituals, budgeting and finance, ministry in particular settings, etc. The course may be repeated for credit.

IST 2062 UCC Polity DR

Principles and methods of organization used in major Protestant churches (UCC, Baptist, PCUSA, Disciples, UU, etc.). Designed for non-United Methodists to prepare them for organizational leadership and to meet polity requirements of various denominations, according to student need and interest.

IST 2063 Presbyterian Polity DR

Principles and methods of organization used in major Protestant churches (UCC, Baptist, PCUSA, Disciples, UU, etc.). Designed for non-United Methodists to prepare them for organizational leadership and to meet polity requirements of various denominations, according to student need and interest.

IST 2064 Presbyterian Confessions and Creeds DR

An exploration of the historical background and general themes of the creeds and confessions used by Presbyterians.

IST 2065 U.U. Theology: Selected Topics DR

This course will help students to become familiar with historical and contemporary theological trends with an emphasis on Unitarian and Universalist authors, ideas, beliefs, and challenges. It will also encourage students to examine the relationship between this theology and ministry in Unitarian Universalist churches.

IST 2066 United Church of Christ History DR

Historical development of the theology, identity and mission of the United Church of Christ. Designed to deepen understanding and appreciation of denominational history, and in conjunction with UCC Polity, to meet denominational requirements.

IST 2067 Presbyterian Reformed Theology DR

This course is designed to introduce students to central tenets of reformed theology that have been central in the heritage of the Presbyterian Church, USA and in its current theology. We will focus on the use of this theology for the Standard Ordination Exams in the PC (USA).

IST 2068 Unitarian Universalist History DR

This course examines Unitarian Universalist history from precursors in early Christianity to the present day. The course will pay particular attention to the rise of Unitarian and Universalist movements in America, to the history of the last 45 years, and to the prospects of the movement.

**IST 2069 Spirit & Struggle: Grieving the World
that Never Was SJE Sem.**

This course explores the premise that grief and grieving are necessary components of social justice, collective liberation, and ecological repair.

IST 2070 Jonah & Its Afterlives BI

This course invites students to engage the book of Jonah in conversation with works of literature, art, and theology that either interpret Jonah and/or explore themes in the book, including the nature of God, prophecy, election, death, and transformation. The course will introduce students to the history of interpretation of Jonah in both Christian and Jewish traditions. Of particular interest will be early Christian and medieval art and Jewish midrashic texts based on Jonah. We will also explore conversations between Jonah and works of English literature and consider Jonah's afterlives in popular culture. This 2-credit

course requires no final paper.

IST 2072 Spiritual Care & Sexuality PR, MAPSC

Pastoral care and theological perspectives on representative views of sexuality. Special attention given to the pastor's role: preaching, teaching, pastoral care and relationship to other helping professionals.

IST 2076 Parish Leadership & Congreg. Developm PR

This course will prepare leaders planning to do ministry and/or serve as skills enhancement for those already doing ministry in the church and other religious agencies. The first half of the course will focus on leadership definitions, roles, and capacities/skills/gifts with attention to ways in which individual identities intersect with congregational systems and cultures. The second half of the course will explore the practice of leadership in the following areas: strategic visioning and planning, change management, team building and group process, equipping of lay leaders and volunteers, and general administrative operations.

IST 2079 (Non)violent Social Change SJE Sem.

Students will engage (primarily Christian) theologies, theories, politics and practices of (non)violence that have influenced progressive social movements in the United States from the 20th century until today. Opting to formulate the term “(non)violence” in the course title indicates that we will consider how social change happens (or does not) related to the interplay between theories and tactics of both violence and (non)violence. To examine the dichotomy violence-(non)violence implies 1) questioning the dichotomy itself and clarifying definitions/usage of the terms violence and (non)violence; 2) understanding the structures of power and violence within which violence-(non)violence as social change strategies operate; 3) comparing “strategic” versus “principled” approaches to (non)violence. By discussing justifications and implications for the use of so-called violent means of social change, students will deepen their understanding and practice of (non)violence itself.

IST 2080 Practical Theology Req, PR

This course explores models of practical theological reflection and methods of reflective professional practice as frameworks for religious leadership in the variety of contexts in which students will work. Students will be introduced to disciplined modes of embodying the integration of theory and praxis that allow them to place their coursework across the curriculum into regular conversation with their practice as religious leaders and ministry professionals in a variety of institutional and cultural contexts.

IST 2084 Hebrew I EL

Introduction to grammar of Biblical Hebrew for translation and exegetical study (offered every other year).

IST 2085 Hebrew II EL

Continuation of IST 2084 Hebrew I (offered every other year).

IST 2086 Religion Space & Place (2018) CR

A common term in religious discourse is “sacred space.” One hears it used both in casual discussions and scholarly analysis. But what does this term actually mean? What constitutes the “sacred” as it relates to places and spaces? How does a place or space become and continue to be sacred? What sorts of rituals and religious practices are performed there? What are the mythological and social and historical particularities of a particular space or place? Are sacred spaces and places fundamentally the same, or different, from one another, and how do we compare them? These are only some of the questions we will be interested in asking this quarter. They will inform our analysis and discussion of sacred space and place as we pursue these ideas and topics. Through close readings and discussions of primary and secondary texts, we will attempt to articulate a comparative approach to sacred space and place. We also will attempt to map out a basic theoretical and methodological approach to sacred space and place. Finally, we will consider what sorts of results we achieve if we undertake a comparative analysis of sacred space and place.

IST 2087 Financial Management EL

A brief examination of various financial management concepts relevant to church leaders, nonprofit and for-profit organizations, and various social and community activist positions. The class will explore important debt, equity, and fundraising issues critical to success in these fields and introduce basic financial terms such as forecasting, budgeting, and cash flow.

IST 2088 Christology CT

Understandings of Christ and salvation in Christian theology.

IST 2090 Storytelling & Narrative Justice EL

This course explores how justice might be defined, sought and made through the use of storytelling and narrative forms of various types: such as historical record, education, the autobiographical nature of resistance to oppression, socio-political commentary as story,

narrative clarification of individual and community values, including preservation of culture, motivation for the work of justice, and the creation of community itself through story. The course includes storytelling perspectives such as oral history and tradition, narrative theory, auto/biography, and performance/theatre. Using multiple storytelling and narrative platforms, students will examine others' stories and narratives of justice-seeking-and-making and create and examine their own.

IST 2095 Spiritual Foundations/Fundraising EL

This course will equip future congregational, non-profit, and advocacy leaders for effective fundraising. Students will learn fundraising methodologies grounded in the theology of Christian stewardship and in new principles of inclusive, people-centered philanthropy.

IST 2097 Reformers and Radicals CT

This course provides an introduction to the history of Christian thought in its political, social, and institutional contexts, during Protestantism's formative period. We will cover late medieval theology, the main Protestant Reformers, the Radical Reformation (Anabaptists et al), the Catholic Reformation, and end with Wesley. The focus is on the development of theology, which provides the basis for contemporary theological reflection.

IST 2099 The Iliff Book: Native History and Institutional Reckoning EL

This is a dynamic and interactive online course which explores and analyzes the history of the Iliff book as it connects with historical benchmarks in larger regional and national U.S. history. This exploration of the Iliff book provides a window for examining how Native peoples have been treated after Eurochristian colonial invasion.

IST 2101 Leadership & Organizational Development PR

This course seeks to introduce students to relevant theories and practices related to leadership and organizational development. Leadership will be explored from the perspective of the individual, group and society with particular attention towards contexts relevant to Iliff. Key ideas from the field of organizational studies will enhance the student's ability to assess and lead in a variety of organizations. This course will also provide students with a sense of their own leadership capacity along with tangible experience assessing real world challenges.

IST 2102 Intro to Hinduism CR

This course focuses on the main developments and expressions of Hinduism in India. First,

we begin with a discussion of the pre-Aryan, indigenous religious context of the Indus Valley, and then turn to the emergence of the Vedas, the earliest stratum of the Hindu tradition. We will then examine the development of the Hindu Upanisads, a highly philosophical genre of literature that significantly questions the religious efficacy of the sacrificial, ritual-based Vedas. Finally, we will turn to the devotional and ritual contexts of the many gods and goddesses, and what is sometimes called "popular Hinduism." along the way, we will explore such major topics as: the changing conceptions of sacrifice; the inquiries into the nature of the self, the nature of the Ultimate, the role and development of devotion; mythology; ritual and its functions; the influence of Buddhism and Islam; and the character of Hinduism in modern India.

IST 2107 **Min.Prx: PreMarit. Counsel. & Weddings** **PR, MAPSC**

Through the integration of theology, theory, and practice, this course will invite students to consider and analyze the minister's role in planning and carrying out weddings and premarital counseling.

IST 2110 **Youth Ministries** **EL**

An exploration of congregational ministries with young people in light of multidisciplinary approaches to the construction of adolescence. The course will include explorations of youth cultures as a lens into the meaning-making of adolescents.

IST 2111 **Narratives/Spiritual & Relig. Exper.** **EL**

This course explores the nature and understanding of Personal Spiritual Experiences (PRs) and the role such experiences play in the experiencers' lives. For mostly historical reasons, considered during the course, the study of PRs has not piqued the interest of researchers. A main portion of the course will include exploring the meaning of students' PRs. Dr. Civish's 2008 study of the Personal Spiritual Experiences of students revealed a sense of calling and she utilized the exegesis form of the call narrative to analyze PRs and develop applications both personal and social. With these insights, personal and religious experiences are reconsidered in new and exciting ways that can revitalize faith and hope.

IST 2117 **Justice & Sacred Text** **Req, BI**

Does the Bible have anything useful to teach us about the injustices that plague our modern world? To be sure, the Holy Book contains laws, wisdom teachings, and cautionary tales that address some perennial issues (e.g. poverty), but does it constitute a resource for improving human flourishing as we understand it in our Twenty-First Century American context? What does the Bible really say about human rights, sexuality, abortion, slavery, capital punishment,

poverty, freedom, and more? In this course, we will discuss the ways in which the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament have been used to support movements of liberation and social justice as well as justify slavery, torture, income disparity, sexism, homophobia, racism, environmental destruction, and more.

IST 2118 Framing Justice: Praxes and Tools for Req, SE
Social Justice and Advocacy

This course will provide foundational theories, skills, tools, and insights for framing social justice and advocacy work. Students will learn how clarity of mission and focus support an ethical framework to guide practical discernment in social justice and advocacy work. From this foundation, students will learn how to analyze organizational ecosystems, develop and measure effective strategies, and how to navigate organizational conflict. Students will gain practical support in tools and resources such as contact management, communications, workflow, and financial tracking systems. Undergirding practical skill-building is continual attention to integrity and reflection on building just communities. This course helps students build social justice and advocacy organizations whose methods on how we do the work matches the internal values of why we do the work.

IST 2119 Rivers of Justice: History & Future Req, HI

How does reading and examining history through a social justice lens change our understandings of the past, present, and future of systemic structures and communal belonging? Rather than assume a single definition of social justice this course focuses on a critical analysis of perspectives from a wide range of historical traditions and cultures, including religious, ethical, humanistic, secular, socio-political, and legal discourses about intersecting systems of oppression and resistance. Students will examine case studies from primary and secondary sources covering different periods and themes, beliefs and practices, controversies and compromises, and major figures from historic and contemporary social justice movements.

IST 2120 Intro to UU Religious Education DR

An introduction to Unitarian Universalist religious education. We will explore how religious education is used as a tool which aids individuals of all ages in the lifelong faith formation process.

IST 2121 Abolitionist Imagination EL

The term abolition summons the social projects to dismantle the carceral, punishing systems of slavery, prisons, and policing. The practice of abolition demands the cultivation of

imagination, the capacity to imagine new communities and worlds in order to build them. This course asks students to explore what abolition is, and the role and the practices of imagination at the heart of abolition.

IST 2122 Public Policy: Design, Intersection & Praxis SJE Prax.

Public Policy is not a solo endeavor. Successful public policy design and implementation takes many actors whose unique skills come together at different stages of the public policy process. This course will help you develop skills that can be utilized in the chain of public policy development, particularly design and analysis, help you identify public policy issues that you care care about, and help you learn to craft and write "deliverables" in different policy genres that will assist you to be highly sought after in the job market because of your ability to produce what policy makers need to be effective in policy making.

IST 2123 The Doctrine of Discovery as Christian Domination.

This course centers on learning the history, concrete concepts, practices, and structures of eurochristian domination of Indigenous land and peoples. Students learn about the impact of the history of domination of Indigenous lands and peoples as the universalizing of the eurochristian mind by which all other people can be measured, and how Indigenous peoples' resistance to this totalizing narrative is critical to liberation among all peoples and the whole of creation.

IST 2127 UM Mission of Church in the World DR

Historical, theological, and practical exploration of mission as the energizing and transformative purpose of Christian congregations everywhere - as interpreted in the Methodist movement. Meets revised interpretation of requirements for UM ordination. Online only.

IST 2128 Evangelism in Contemporary Contexts DR

Critical and practical engagement with why and how Christian faith can be shared while honoring the distinctiveness of others. Meets revised interpretation of requirements for UM ordination. Online only.

IST 2131 Comp.Phil.Rel:Religion & Violence Req, CR

In the last decade or so, a plethora of articles and books have been written on the topic of "violence and religion" and "religious violence" (they may or may not be the same thing). Although not all of these works have been explicitly comparative, they all, by virtue of their

employment of the very terminology, partake of the discourse of comparative religion, whether they do so explicitly or not. Is there, then, a common theoretical move that links these seemingly naturally conjoined terms, religion and violence? In talking about “religion and violence” or “religious violence,” what do we gain? what do we lose? Given that the academy has, across the board, grown increasingly suspicious of talk of such universal categories as mysticism, myth, theology and, especially, religion, have we perhaps let “religious violence” fly under our theoretical radars? This course attempts to address these issues, and attempts to come to some common understanding of what religion violence is and what causes it.

IST 2140 Intro to the Pentateuch BI

Building on knowledge of the Hebrew Bible achieved in the breadth course, this course provides further study both in the different books of the Pentateuch and the corpus as a whole. Topics covered range from the content and the themes within the books to scholarship on this material.

IST 2157 SJE Sem:Christian Bioethics Debates SJE Sem.

A survey of major bioethical debates and the perspectives offered by different Christian denominations and organizations. Topics include stem cell research, cloning, human genetic engineering, and euthanasia. Students will learn how the specific debates are shaped by larger religious dynamics, such as the ways in which both liberal and evangelical Protestants have historically turned to science to validate their theological stances

IST 2162 The Life of Prayer EL, MAPSC

This course will have you study the life of prayer as if it were a river, studying it by getting in and swimming, by experiencing it with many senses, giving yourself over to it. Only then, but surely then, it will have you reflecting theoretically and practically on what you have experienced.

IST 2172 Congreg.Educ.& Spiritual.Formation PR

This course explores the role of the local congregation as a formative and transformative environment for faith, commitment, and knowledge of the religious tradition. the educative work of the local congregation has been deeply challenged by a culture in which institutional affiliation has become less important. Additionally, persistent cultural norms of racism, heterosexism, classism, and other unjust structures creates important tasks for the work of formation in the local congregation. Throughout the quarter, students will explore existing alternatives for engaging in educational ministry in the context of the local congregation, both formally published academic resources and the grassroots experimentation documented

online. Through careful critical engagement with these approaches, students will articulate their own theories and goals for formation and transformation of participants in congregational life and create innovative approaches to shaping this formative environment within their own vocational trajectory.

IST 2177 The Gospel Tradition BI

A survey of the early gospel/Jesus tradition, focusing especially on the canonical gospels and their interpretation using traditional methods (historical-critical, literary, etc.) as well as contemporary approaches.

IST 2178 Healing & The Divine Spirit EL

This course focuses on beliefs and ideas at the intersections of pneumatological practice and healing. What is the relationship of the Holy Spirit to historic and contemporary notions of biological, spiritual, psychological, and social approaches to the care of the sick? Themes of religion and spirituality will be examined alongside themes of wholeness, human flourishing, and holistic medicine. Representatives from the fields of nursing and medicine, and from non-Christian/non-Western religious traditions may be featured as guest-speakers.

IST 2182 Women & Spirituality PR, MAPSC

An introduction to important themes and challenges for full expression of spirituality and faith formation for women, including attention to historical women writing about spirituality, introductory feminist theology, and practices of leading and teaching those who identify as women in communities of faith.

IST 2184 Mysticism and Activism EL

This course investigates primarily modern sources for understanding the relationship between mysticism and social activism, exploring the impulse and resistance to deep structural transformation at the level of the human individual and collective, institutional contexts. Considering examples of (primarily) modern mystics, the course engages topics and practices of mysticism and activism in their shared dimensions of contemplation, transformation, and social action. The course places historical and contemporary mystic-activists, as well as the student as mystic-activist, in the context of their individual and community identity in relation to systems of power, oppression and privilege.

**IST 2186 SJE Prax: Spiritual Foundations for SJE Prax.
Social Justice**

This course introduces students to modern social justice activists with deep spiritual roots, inviting students to not only learn from the spiritual practices of social justice activists, but also to learn some of the practices of social justice activists. Through this course, students will meet local social justice activists, read the spiritual writings of some of the most noted leaders in movements for social justice, and practice spiritual grounding techniques in order to strengthen their own social justice work. Students who take this class will learn how to be more spiritually grounded as social justice and religious leaders – and how to cultivate spiritual grounding in others as they lead in their contexts.

IST 2189 Writing Theology Well EL

This course focuses on the practice of writing in a graduate school of theology as an academic discipline. By the end of the course, the student will have learned to present clear arguments in their own voice, using correct citation and formal academic language, in several theological genres such as theology, sermon writing, and biblical exegesis. This class will aid writers at all levels of writing development, from students new to writing in theological humanities to experts looking to sharpen their rhetorical style and personal theological voice. It will also aid students from non-majority backgrounds and cultures in understanding the cultural conventions of Western academic writing.

IST 2191 Black Theologies: From Cone to Warnock EL

Black Theology in the North American context focuses on reflections on the relationship with God to Black people and Black persons/people's relationship to God. In this course, these reflections will be studied historically considering the existential insanity of slavery, Reconstruction, Jim Crow, Segregation, the Civil Rights Movement, and the contemporary Black Lives Matter Movement. This course will seek to locate the distinct theological character of Black Theology through the lens of liberation.

The course will focus on seminal texts of the founder James H. Cone, writings by his contemporaries, and writings by two of his well-known students, Womanist/Reverend/Dr./Dean, Kelly Brown Douglas and Reverend/Dr./Pastor/Senator of Georgia, Raphael Warnock. The course will seek to examine how the founder's thoughts were interpreted in his context, how they are viewed now, how his students have aligned the discipline of Black Theology with Womanist theology, how Black Theology is used in pastoral care, Womanist praxis, and preached in congregational settings.

IST 2205 Public Speaking EL

This course aims to help novices in speech communication improve their verbal and nonverbal communication skills in the context of public ministries. Students will choose three

materials and learn how to communicate them in public in most effective ways. Weekly reading, workshops through videotaping and Zoom meetings, discussions in Canvas, and self-evaluations of their performances will be major pedagogical tools to help students enhance their authentic ways of public speaking. This course is suggested to be taken as the prerequisite for preaching and worship courses.

IST 2206 Progressive Christianity EL

A critical examination of the popular religious movement known as Progressive Christianity. Students will learn how the movement builds on the traditions of American liberal Christianity and Unitarianism, how its leaders market themselves to the public, its contradictory relationship to evangelicalism, and how it reflects white, middle-class privilege.

IST 2210 Research Literacy for Chaplains EL, MAPSC

This course introduces students to the importance of research literacy for professional chaplains. Students will learn about components of research studies, research methods, and basic statistics. They will learn how to search for peer-reviewed articles, critique studies and consider ways to use research findings to enhance and advocate for spiritual care and chaplaincy practice.

IST 2220 Biblical Ethics SE

Anyone who reads the Bible does so from a particular social location. We are all born into an on-going society that shapes us. When we turn our attention to the biblical text as the source of our theological perspectives, we participate in a dialogue between the written word and the meanings our community taught us to give to these words. Many of us have been taught to read the Bible through the eyes of white, middle-class males. Yet, can the text liberate those who are oppressed? To do so, it must be read with the eyes of the disenfranchised. This course will explore how the Bible can be used to liberate those who suffer due to race, class and gender oppression.

IST 2231 The Art and Craft of Preaching PR

This course is designed for those students who anticipate that the practices of sermon composition and performance will be central to their ministry. Its aim is to acquaint students with fundamental knowledge about preaching and will offer the opportunity to practice preaching with one another and within their setting for ministry. There are no prerequisites for taking the class though some experience in public speaking, biblical interpretation (or interpretation of other sacred texts), and/or theological reflection are helpful assets.

IST 2235**Master's Recital****Req**

The masters recital allows graduating students in the professional masters' degrees to reflect upon and synthesize the learning that they have experienced throughout their degree program. Engagement with concrete situations, such as case studies and current events, will provide opportunities to connect classroom learning to professional settings. Students will also have the opportunity to name their vocational hopes and directions with their peers and faculty, and participate in other communal conversation and celebration as their degree draws to a close. This is a requirement for graduation for all graduates, as it serves as the primary means for gathering learning outcomes assessment data for our accrediting body.

IST 2240**Spiritual Autobiography & Memoir****EL, MAPSC**

In this course students will read and analyze both historical and contemporary spiritual autobiographies and memoirs. Students will work collaboratively to develop analytical tools for engaging these works as artifacts of individual experience connected to historical, social, political, and religious realities. We will practice writing our own spiritual stories through regular short writing exercises, seeking ways to share these stories in ways that are compelling, honest/truthful, artistic, edifying, and ethical. Together we will explore and critically assess the potential uses of spiritual autobiography for personal reflection, educational use, spiritual care, spiritual formation, preaching/testimony, and organizational promotion and development.

IST 2242**The Middle Ages in the Popular Imagination****EL**

"This 2000 level seminar explores the emerging critical interest in "medievalism," the contemporary appropriation of historical events and religious symbols from the European Middle Ages (ca.700 to ca.1500 C.E.) among mass media, political rhetoric, and popular culture in the twenty-first century. Together we will consider what this re-imagining of the Middle Ages and revival of medieval cultural precedents means for media studies and historical awareness in our time.

Since the tragic events of 9/11, the Western allies and radical Islamic terrorists have both used medieval precedents to describe their ongoing struggle. The success of the Game of Thrones series has rekindled different aspects of medieval lore and fantasy while epic sagas about the Quest for the Holy Grail and about the mysterious legends of the Knights Templar are appropriated by film-makers, video-game creators, and tragically as well by white-supremacist and neo-nazi groups across the world."

IST 2245**Aging, Health, and Justice****EL**

"The 2017 Population Projections note that by 2035 there will be 78 million people over 65 years of age; a number greater than the expected number of people under 18 years of age. How does this statistic drive the dialogue of who is "old" and what frames "ageism"?"

This course will explore the various dimensions of aging: chronological, biological, psychological, and social through the diverse lenses of health and justice. A broad background of the social justice and health equity challenges of aging will be addressed through online lectures, readings, multimedia content, and interactive discussions."

IST 2249 Practicing Interreligious Spiritual Care SJE Prax.

"This pass/fail 2 credit spiritual care praxis course is for students who have taken IST 2012 Pastoral and Spiritual Care (formerly titled Pastoral Theology and Care) or IST 2501 Justice and Spiritual Care

Readings will consist of the most current chapters used at Iliff to teach interreligious, socially just, research-literate spiritual care. We will use the first hour to watch a zoom video of a role-played spiritual care conversation. In our second hour, students will work in pairs or trios to do zoom-recorded role plays of spiritual care scenarios proposed by the student role-playing the spiritual caregiver. Students could cast themselves in roles as faith community leaders, chaplains, or faith-oriented community leaders.

IST 2251 Ecology & (Non)violence EL

This course exposes students to the theories and practices of individual and collective (non)violence in pursuit of ecological justice. By questioning the violence-(non)violence dichotomy and clarifying definitions/usage of the terms violence and (non)violence, students consider the structures of power and violence within which violence and (non)violence as ecological justice strategies operate. While surveying historical organized resistance to ecological devastation, students reflect on how religious traditions, theologies and spiritual practices contribute to ecological destruction and/or promote earth justice for the other-than-human

IST 2252 Ethics in an Age of Plagues, Pestilence & Pandemics EL, SE

The world is gripped by a deadly pandemic. This is neither the first time, nor probably will be the last. What we do know is in the aftermath of such deadly epidemics, the societal bonds which once held community together are frayed if not completely broken as radically changes take hold and new ways of being arise. This course will wrestle with the importance of maintaining a moral compass during crisis and an ethical vision as a new reality is constructed. Special attention will be given to how not all suffer equally, and the role racism,

classism, and sexism during national emergencies. Finally, the course would assist the student in finding their own ethical voice during a time of hopelessness and desperation.

IST 2253 Islam in the Medieval Mediterranean CR

This is a comparative course examining the emergence of Islam in the social, religious, and historical context of the Medieval Mediterranean from the Arab conquest of Egypt to the rise of the Ottoman Empire and the fall of the Caliphate of Granada in Spain. We will examine tensions and collaborations between Islam and Christianity, like the region's influential centers for the preservation, translation and dissemination of ancient books alongside the accomplishments of Islamic science and Sufi mysticism. This course also examines the importance of these comparative legacies for understanding today's ongoing religious and political conflicts across the region.

IST 2254 Earth Activism EL

What does it mean to act on behalf of the earth? What or who is the earth? How are we in solidarity with the earth, our local ecosystems, and the earth's inhabitants, human and other-than-human? How do our religious beliefs, theology, and spiritual practices nourish or confine our relationship with what we call earth? How do we understand biodiversity and reckon with grief over species, climate, land and the cultural losses that result from earth's destruction? How do we turn concern and grief into just action and just transition to a new way of being and living in community? In this course, we will consider these questions. We take into account our socially located individual and community identities, as well as examples from local to global eco-justice organizations and movements, to guide our study and reflection.

IST 2500 Intro History of Christianity Req, HI

This course introduces students to the broad outlines of the history of Christianity with an emphasis on major historical developments, and on the emergence of both local and trans-local expressions of religious traditions. Students will examine and discuss a series of historical case studies, derived from primary and secondary sources, covering different periods and themes, beliefs and practices, controversies and compromises, and key religious figures. Students will apply their learning from the case studies to a broad understanding of how different social, cross-cultural, institutional and intellectual patterns have shaped the diversity and complexity of the Christian historical and religious tradition.

IST 2501 Justice & Spiritual Care Req, MAPSC

This course on socially just spiritual care focuses on how social change leadership builds on

capacities for spiritual self-differentiation within organizational systems. Course learning outcomes will be taught and assessed through peer experiential learning demonstrating self-differentiation using spiritual self-care practices that enhance healthy boundaries. With that foundation, the course will address the contextual shift from interpersonal caregiving to the structural considerations of collective care in social justice movement spaces.

IST 2510 Introduction to Theology Req, CT

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the goals, tasks, and basic content of Christian theology. In particular we will look at systematic theology, what it is, why it is important, how it works, and historical resources from the Christian tradition that are relevant to many vocations today.

IST 2560 Dismantling Justice Req

This course familiarizes students with some of the historically significant ways justice has been conceived within the fields of theology and philosophy. It then problematizes these offerings by placing decolonial, deconstructive, and post- thought in conversation with contemporary social struggles. Ultimately, it asks students to envision possible futures, holding plurality of traditions (with multiple conceptions of community and self) in mind.

IST 2753 Contemporary Episcopal Ethics DR

This course offers an Anglican/Episcopal spin on Ethics from their foundations in ancient Greece and the early Church, through the tumult of the English (and continental) reformation, and into the post-modern era. In the first part of the course, we'll survey the foundations of ethical thought in Plato and Aristotle, the early church with Jesus, Paul, and Augustine, and the development of Anglican Ethics through the Church of England up through the early 20th century. In the second part of the course, we'll look specifically at the contemporary ethical dilemmas that have faced the Church and discuss how they have been approached – for good or for ill. We'll discuss how we might learn from our whole history in approaching issues currently facing the Church from issues in the parish to current strained ties in the Anglican Communion.

IST 2999 Independent Study

Independent Study

IST 3000 Amer.Ind.Cultures&Worldview CR

A survey of the world views of Native American people as these pertain to both inter-tribal

beliefs and Native American ceremonial life, with an attempt to show how Native American practice proceeds from their world view.

IST 3003 HB Topics: Empire BI

Much, if not most, of the Christian Bible was written against the background, if not within the context of, empire. "Empire" is much discussed in New Testament and early Christianity scholarship, but such is not the case for the Hebrew Bible and ancient Near East. This is surprising, because the first "empires" to emerge in southwest Asia are from the period of the Hebrew Bible and before. Furthermore, Hebrew Bible texts often assume the presence and existence of empires. Isaiah of Jerusalem's interactions with King Ahaz of Judah during the Syro-Ephraimitic War appear to assume Assyria is an empire and imperial power and that opening a political relationship with it will go badly for Judah (Isa 7).

Given the reality of empires in the ancient world, what effect – if any – did they have on the texts of the Hebrew Bible as they were being formed? Two issues are present in this question and are the focus of this course. The first is that of "empire." What is an empire, how does a country become one, what characterizes its existence as an empire as opposed to existence as a kingdom, how does such a socio-political entity exist, how does it interact with other peoples and countries? Consideration of such questions invariably involves a consideration of the present. The course title presents the other focus: "and the Hebrew Bible." Work and readings on empire will be brought into conversation with a range of texts from the Hebrew Bible in order to address how "empire" may be interpreted to inform, shape, affect, or otherwise influence interpretations of it. These foci will be examined through readings in political theory, in primary texts from the ancient Near East and the Hebrew Bible, and other relevant secondary readings.

IST 3004 HB Lit: Genesis BI

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year. Introduction to Hebrew Bible is a prerequisite for all Hebrew Bible literature courses. (THEO 6103)

IST 3005 N.T. Lit: Romans BI

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year. Introduction to New Testament is prerequisite for all New Testament literature courses. (RLGN 4145)

IST 3006 Fanon, Foucault, and Friends SE

Readings of the primary sources of postcolonialists (mainly Fanon) and postmodernist (mainly Foucault) to explore creating ethical approaches to globalized manifestations of race, class and gender oppression. Special attention will be given to the use of Christianity as a liberationist response to global structures of oppression in spite of its historic use in causing much of said oppression. (THEO 6356)

IST 3010 Pilgrimage/Comparative Perspective CR

This is a comparative course that examines the dynamics of pilgrimage from a number of different angles - theoretical, doctrinal, ritual, social - and which utilizes a variety of sources - including classical, ethnographic studies of actual pilgrimages, and focused studies of particular pilgrimage places - with the goal of gaining a thorough understanding of the phenomena of pilgrimage in all of its complexity. (THEO 6447)

IST 3014 Latinx Theology & Ethics EL

The primary sources of Latino/a theological and ethical thought will be read to discover its foundational tenets. The course will explore this contextual approach to religion to discover how it could serve to liberate the Latino/a community from prevalent oppressive social structures. Comparisons will be made with Eurocentric ethics and theology. (THEO 6359)

IST 3021 Education & Social Change SJE Sem.

This course investigates the role of education in maintaining and transforming social structures, identity, and commitments. We will examine how educational practices can contribute towards social change in both religious and public settings.

IST 3024 Feminist Theology CT

Analysis of feminist theology with attention to methodological issues, the relation of contemporary feminist visions to historical material, the ideas of God/Goddess and the question of what it means to be female. Prerequisite: at least one introductory level theology course.

IST 3025 Comparative Mysticism CR

This course examines the problems inherent in the study of "mysticism," a construct often used to describe an immediate experience with the Divine. Students will gain a theoretical understanding of the key issues in the field as well as how elements such as political power and gender formulate mystical experience. After examining some approaches to the subject, we will explore how different religious traditions contemplate these experiences and what

this tells us about mysticism.

IST 3034 Spiritual Care of Trauma EL, MAPSC

We will use a practical theological approach to understanding traumatic narratives and how spiritual practices of compassion prepare us to listen. Readings from psychological of religion and intercultural spiritual care and our own spiritual practices will help us listen compassionately and become more theologically reflexive when we listen to trauma stories. We will use psychological perspectives to understand acute stress responses and post traumatic stress (PTS), post-traumatic growth (PTG) and religious coping. We will use theological perspectives (theodicies) to compare traditional and contemporary ways of understanding traumatic suffering, and, in particular, the moral dilemmas generated by trauma and its aftermath.

IST 3037 The Pursuit of Happiness:A History HI

This course provides a historical examination of key concepts, major questions, and practices about humanity's search for happiness from the Hellenistic-Roman period of Antiquity through the Early Christian and Medieval periods. The content centers on the role of Classical moral philosophy and Christian theology in the formulation of eudaemonic theories about the problem of happiness in relation to metaphysical and religious influences as well as to socio-cultural, political, and institutional norms and practices that shaped Christian notions of human purpose and potential. The legacies of these ancient ideas on the development of modern assumptions about happiness and human flourishing will also be discussed towards the end of the course.

IST 3038 Buddhist Philosophy CR

An introduction to the Buddhist philosophical tradition that covers both the different philosophical movements within Buddhism as schools of thoughts and major philosophical issues, such as the theory of karma and determinism, the nature of mind, proofs for past and future lives, theories of knowledge, ethics, the doctrine of emptiness and the nature of enlightenment.

IST 3045 English Reformations DR

This course argues that English Christianity has always been in the process of reformation. The Venerable Bede in his Ecclesiastical History of the English People documents this tendency in the early middle ages. Henry VIII's reforming turn, the reforms sought by John Wesley and by John Henry Newman continued the process. Current upheavals in the post colonial era constitute a new chapter in a reformation still underway.

IST 3047 From Text to Sermon BI

This course will cover strategies and methods for biblical exegesis in the task of composing sermons. Students will employ a variety of critical tools and readings to develop sermon ideas and full sermons, providing valuable skills and experience for those interested in entering parish ministry, or those simply interested in biblical exegesis.

IST 3052 H.B. Lit: Deuteronomy BI

The book of Deuteronomy for centuries has been viewed as laying out a political view of Israel's life together. Josephus, for example, described Deuteronomy as Israel's politeia or "form of government." Government certainly is an issue in the book, particularly as it involves the conduct of self and others. More recently, Deuteronomy is understood to play a foundational role in the books of the Former Prophets within the theory of the Deuteronomistic History. This course examines these and other critical issues in the study of Deuteronomy. Prerequisite: TX-Breadth.

IST 3057 Sects, Cults and New Religions SE

An exploration of non-mainstream religious groups. Topics include innovation and recruitment; "cult" controversies; sectarian Christianity, gender and sexuality; UFO religions; and religion and marginalized racial projects.

IST 3058 Liberating Sex (2018) SE

The purpose of the course is to search the Christian Scriptures, in spite of its accusations of being patriarchal, to find biblically-based guidelines for developing an ethical sexual lifestyle that is aware of how racism, classism, and specifically sexism influences the current conversation on sexual ethics. The course's focus will be on developing healthy models that foster intimacy and vulnerability for a disjointed and at times oppressive community.

IST 3063 Formation of the Bible BI

This course focuses on the development of the Christian Bible. Some attention, however, will be given to the emergence of the Jewish canon, primarily as it relates to and impacts the Christian canon. The chronological expanse of the course ranges from the Hellenistic through the late Roman period. The approach of the course is necessarily literary and historical, but theoretical issues about what constitutes scripture and canon will also be given attention.

IST 3064 Form.Wh.Male Figures in Christ.Eth. SE

This course on formative white male figures in Christian Ethics examines the ethical canon from a historical perspective. Special attention is given to texts and traditions as living changing heritages.

IST 3065 Empire & the Rise of Christianity BI

This course covers approximately the first five centuries of Christian history with a view toward understanding the role empire played in the rise of Christianity, both in terms of the confluence between Christianity and the Roman Empire as well as its role in the development of Christian beliefs, practices, production of discourse, institutions, and strategies of social control.

IST 3074 N.T.Lit: 1 Corinthians BI

Interpretation of selected New Testament literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year. TX-BREADTH is a prerequisite for all New Testament literature courses.

IST 3082 Heb.Bible Lit: Poetry of the Bible BI

In this course, we will analyze poems primarily from the books of Job, Lamentations, Psalms, 2 Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Class sessions will be divided between studying some aspect of Hebrew prosody (e.g., metaphor, parallelism, lineation) and looking at the ways in which various poets use these particular devices. We will be particularly interested in identifying how poets bring their messages to life, engage their audiences, challenge (or uphold) the status quo, and revitalize the community's imagination and, in turn, its faith in YHWH.

IST 3085 Liberal & Evangel.Protestantism/US SE

This course compares liberal and evangelical forms of Protestantism in the United States, drawing on both scholarly analysis and popular works. Topics of focus include interpretations of the Bible, race, gender, politics, and science.

IST 3089 Body & Sexuality in Hebrew Bible BI

In this class, we will explore the diverse representations of embodiment and sexuality in the Hebrew Bible, specifically in the context of the ancient Near Eastern world.

IST 3093 MoralStress,Resilience,Integration PR, MAPSC

Moral stress arises from shame/guilt/fear of causing harm involving conflicts in values. Moral injury arises from traumatic stress that is more shame than fear based, and has been researched extensively among military personnel. Spiritual integration of moral stress and injury uses spiritual practices and theological meaning-making to compassionately identify life-limiting embedded shame-based values, beliefs, and ways of coping with moral stress and injury (lived theologies) in order to compassionately understand the origins of moral stress and injury. Relational resilience is the outcome of spiritual integration based on spiritual practices fostering compassion and more complex theological ways of understanding moral conflicts, stress and injury.

IST 3094 Theology of Paul Tillich CT

This course provides an introduction to the systematic theology of Paul Johannes Tillich (1886-1965). It explores the content and form of Tillich's theological method and his unique contribution as a Christian existentialist. Key considerations of Tillich throughout the course include 1) his personal theological formation 2) the content and form of Tillich's theology and method as shaped within the historical, religious, and cultural context of Nazi Germany to the McCarthyism, and 3) the relevance of Tillich as a conversation partner for thinking theologically about the contemporary intersections of theology and culture. (RLGN 4623)

IST 3098 Theology & the Construction of Race CT

Several important books have recently been published making the case that religion, and more specifically, Christian theology, have played a constitutive role in creating the ideas of race and racial hierarchies. This course is an extended argument (with which students are free to agree or disagree in part or in whole—in any case they will become familiar with the relevant literature and concepts) that 1. In significant ways religion and race are modern, not universal or permanent, constructions; that 2. Religion and race are two of the very few fundamental conceptual building blocks of the modern world, such that, no matter what one thinks of religion and race, one is unable to think or operate in the modern world without them; and that 3. Religion and race are mutually imbricated in such a way that, even when race is not explicitly a topic of discussion or observation, modern religion is always already racialized. (RLGN4413)

IST 3099 N.T. Literature: Acts BI

This course offers a survey of the Book of Acts, including its relationship to the Gospel of Luke. We will survey major interpretive issues and strategies for reading Acts, including postcolonial and empire perspectives, geographical and spatial frames, and historiographical and literary analyses. The course will begin with a brief study of Luke's gospel before moving on to Acts,

and will attend to questions of whether and how these two books are connected to each other.

IST 3101 Holy Spirit:History & Traditions HI

What have Christians believed and written about the Holy Spirit through the centuries? Why does Pentecost show up in such different ways across the pages of Christian theology and literature? The midst of the European Enlightenment, why did John Wesley hold such special reverence for the role of experience in Christian thought and education? Why has the Pentecostal legacy functioned simultaneously as a subversive trope for critiquing dominant church paradigms while also sparking creative, re-interpretations of Christian tradition among so many reformers? These are just a few of the questions explored in this class as we discuss historical and theological works by contemporary scholars in pneumatology and church history.

IST 3102 Atheists, Secularists & Nones SE

An examination of non-religious and/or non-affiliated populations, with a primary focus on the United States. We will explore: 1) the variety of beliefs among those not affiliated with religious institutions; 2) different social expressions of atheism; 3) the implications of recent religious trends for debates about secularization in the modern West.

IST 3104 Judaism,Gender, & Religion CR

Germans refer to the period of roughly 1770-1850 as the Sattelzeit, or “Saddle Era”—the time between the end of the early modern world and Europe and the modern world. During this era basic assumptions that we continue to make about what religion is and what gender is are constructed. This is also the era when what we think of as Judaism is re-shaped in major ways. Through a close reading of primary texts by Jewish women we will examine the intersection of gender, Judaism, and religion and examine the modern construction of these categories.

IST 3107 The Bible in the Digital Age BI

An increasing number of people are using Bible apps and their digital devices (phones, tablets, computers) rather than print Bibles to access “the Bible.” This change of practice has significant implications for how people think about the Bible, what it is, and how we use it. We explore a number of these digital opportunities and critically reflect on how they change the definition and use of the Bible.

IST 3110 Asceticism & Monasticism CR

Two seemingly universal elements in the world’s religious traditions are the interrelated

phenomena of asceticism and monasticism. This course explores a variety of ascetic and monastic contexts from a comparative perspective.

IST 3111 Spanish Mystics & Reformers HI

Early modern Spain witnessed the emergence of Catholic and Protestant individuals whose timeless works and popular appeal in subsequent centuries rested largely upon the practice of "contemplation in action." This course examines the works of such mystics and reformers as Teresa of Ávila, John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, Juan de Valdés, Constantino Ponce de la Fuente and others. It also explores the influence of Islam and Judaism on these sixteenth century religious movements, as well as modern Spain's subsequent rejection of this pluralistic legacy as it sought to define its new national identity.

IST 3115 The Bible & Its Afterlives:Jonah BI

This course invites students to place the biblical book of Jonah in conversation with works of literature, art, and theology that interpret Jonah or explore themes in the book, including the nature of God, prophecy, election, death, and transformation. The course will introduce students to the history of interpretation (or reception history) by considering Jonah's afterlives in a variety of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic texts, artistic programs, and manuscript illuminations.

IST 3120 NT Lit: Synoptic Gospels BI

A survey of the early gospel/Jesus tradition, focusing especially on the canonical gospels and their interpretation using traditional methods (historical-critical, literary, etc.) as well as contemporary approaches.

IST 3122 Women & Theologies fr. Global So. CT

This course is a critical study of the challenges and contributions of feminist theologies from the global south to theological studies in North America, particularly, feminist theologies. Framed in postcolonial discourses, this course will study works of representative figures in feminist theologies from Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Topics will include the impact of globalization, postcolonial discourse, religion and culture, sexuality and spirituality, and ecological concerns.

IST 3125 H.B. Lit: Book of Job BI

The book of Job raises a number of theological issues, including theodicy and the nature of

God, the reasons why people worship God, and how humans address God. This course will explore several of the themes and issues raised in this provocative book.

IST 3126 Liberation Theologies CT

This course examines the emergence and development of the different manifestations of Liberation Theologies and global social protest. Special attention is given to texts and traditions from different ethnic and racial communities, both domestically and internationally; treating them as living changing heritages, in order to propose critical options which foster emancipatory practices in the contemporary struggle for justice. The course will concentrate on Liberation theologies, ethics, and hermeneutics.

IST 3128 Decolonizing Congregational Leadership PR

This course explores the applications of postcolonial and decolonial discourses to the theory and practice of parish leadership, particularly within Christian congregational contexts. Students will reflect on leadership praxis across several areas (i.e., Western constructions) of congregational life including: worship and liturgy, education and formation, organizational culture, and governance. The course engages students in critical reflection on one's leadership identities, assumptions, and practices in the context of faith community, inviting possibilities for congregational transformation.

IST 3129 Asian American Theologies CT

This course will survey the writings of major Asian North American theologians, with particular attention to new constructions in Asian American theological scholarship and how they relate to canonical Asian/American theologians and contemporary social issues. The course examines Asian American theological reflections on identity, liminality, colonialism, racism, sexism, and capitalism and how Asian American Christians can respond/intervene/heal in the face of social crises.

IST 3130 Book of Acts BI

This course offers a survey of the Book of Acts, including its relationship to the Gospel of Luke. We will survey major interpretive issues and strategies for reading Acts, including postcolonial and empire perspectives, geographical and spatial frames, and historiographical and literary analyses. The course will begin with a brief study of Luke's gospel before moving on to Acts, and will attend to questions of whether and how these two books are connected to each other.

IST 3131 Hebrew Bible and Ecology BI

In this class, students will develop reading strategies and interpretive perspectives that are attentive to how a wide range of biblical issues and themes might intersect with and inform questions of ecological sustainability. Developing an "ecological hermeneutic" will entail 1) the creative exegesis of specific texts from the perspective of land care; 2) listening to communities and individuals whose land practices are rooted in an ethic of care for the earth; and 3) the cultivation of biblical and contemporary perspectives and principles that will enable us to form a wholistic ethic of care for the earth.

IST 3133 Decolonial Theologies of the Global South CT

This course will explore the theological and critical writings of theologians and theorists of the Global South in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Resisting an Area Studies approach to theological studies in the First/Third World paradigm of the Cold War, this course adopts Alina Sajed's definition of Global South as including necropolitical zones in the North" characterized by exploitation, oppression and neocolonial relations" while unpacking the neocolonial activity of historic Third World nation-states in East Asia and the Arabian Peninsula. Readings will include texts incorporating liberationist, anti/post/decolonial, anticapitalist, feminist, queer, indigenous, and Marxist lenses. Theoretical texts will counterbalance theological writings to assess their liberative potentialities whilst also acknowledging their limitations.

IST 3134 Theologies in the Age of AI CT

Artificial intelligence (AI) in the early 21st century is rapidly growing. Much like other technologies made famous by speculative fiction and sci-fi AI exists, but in nascent less fantastical modes. In a process sense AI is still more conceptual than a fully formed physical reality. So, questions arise such as "what are theological thinkers doing to meet AI where it is?" This course seeks to explore myriad perspectives on the ways AI is simultaneously being conceptualized by religious scholars and how it is subsequently reshaping theological thought.

IST 3135 Internal Family Systems Therapy PR, MAPSC

Internal Family Systems Therapy (IFS) is a non-pathologizing psycho-spiritual approach to personal healing and spiritual transformation through self-compassion and self-exploration. This course will introduce students to the core concepts and practices of the model through experiential and theoretical approaches to it and the worlds/pluridimensional qualities of what it means to be "ourselves".

IST 3136 Womanist Pastoral Theology and Care PR

This advanced course introduces students to foundational and emerging theories, models, and approaches in Womanist pastoral theology, care, and counseling. As a specialized discipline within pastoral theology, Womanist pastoral theology describes and implements theologies and frameworks of care that attend to the lived experiences of Black women and girls by emphasizing the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Toward that end, students will be exposed to the various theological perspectives, insights, and practices of Womanist pastoral theologians and practitioners.

IST 3137 New Testament Greek Exegesis BI

Continuation of Greek II with a focus on exegetical method (offered every other year).

IST 3139 Gods and Goddesses CR

This course explores the development, character, and function of the gods and goddesses of a range of religious traditions by examining a variety of mythological, historical, and ethnographical sources. The core focus will be on India, but we will expand our vision to include other religious traditions, and we will attempt to strike a balance here between focusing on individual figures and the more general issue of the divine in the religious traditions of the world.

Along the way, a variety of broad questions and issues will be considered, both explicitly and implicitly, including: the very nature of the divine, the relationship between gods and humans, the relationship between various gods and goddesses, etc.

This is a course in comparative religions, so the hope is that in learning about these specific iterations of Indian deities students will come away with a more expansive way of thinking about divinity and the divine in their own traditions.

IST 3140 Jewish Christian Relations 50-500 C.E. HI

This course considers the “parting of the ways” between Judaism and Christianity, beginning with the tumultuous first century (the Jewish War and the beginnings of the Jesus tradition) and continuing through the synthesis of Christianity and Empire in late antiquity. Along the way, we will consider how Christianity and Judaism emerged from a common matrix, influenced and co-created each other, and Othered each other in their processes of self-definition. We will attend especially to the problems with the “World Religions” model, ancient identity formation, the origins of Christian anti-Semitism, the effects of empire and diaspora, and modern attempts to explain the “parting.”

IST 3141 Hebrew Bible Lit: Psalms BI

Interpretation of selected Hebrew Bible literature. Each course focuses on a book or selected topic. Different courses are offered each year. Intro to the Hebrew Bible is a prerequisite for all Hebrew Bible literature courses.

IST 3142 Womanist Theoethics SE, SJE Sem.

This course will focus on the canonical works of womanist theology and womanist ethics. Students will read the seminal texts of first wave womanist theologians and first wave womanist ethicists. Students will also read works by third wave womanists and evaluate how they build on the canonical works to form what is known as the Womanist House of Wisdom.

The course will seek to examine how pioneer womanist scholarship was interpreted in its historical context and how the discipline of womanist religious thought in theology and ethics was formed. Students will also explore womanist methodologies and how they can be operationalized by people outside of Black female embodiment. Finally, students will learn how womanist theoethics is used in womanist social justice praxis, pastoral care, and preached in congregational settings

IST 3143 Decolonizing Theories and Methods SE

Religious studies draws from multiple disciplines which include anthropology, history, feminism, transnationalism, empire studies and sociology. Often, students approach theories and methods by reading classic authors and mainly contemporary eurocentric scholars of religion. This course will approach theories and methods through the lens of decoloniality, concentrating on the perspectives and contributions emerging from the margins of eurocentric thought.

IST 3167 The Bible & Contemporary Issues BI

Using current events and issues as a starting point, various approaches for reading the Bible are studied to see how they help interpret the Bible in light of those issues. This course helps students learn more about exegesis and become more comfortable interpreting the Bible with scholarly tools along with understanding how these tools provide a means of addressing current issues with the Bible as a theological resource.

IST 3170 Queering Early Christianity BI

This course surveys some of the major influences of queer theory on the study of the New Testament and early Christianity, beginning with the work of Judith Butler and continuing

through the contributions of queer theorizations inflected by affect, violence, diaspora, race and racialization, and trans discourses. The course considers a variety of canonical and non-canonical texts and practices from the first centuries of the Christian tradition, with an eye to how theorizations of queerness help frame inquiry into the formation of Christian “identity” and belonging.

IST 3171 Religion, Science & Technology EL

This course introduces students to the many important issues raised by the various intersections of science and religion. It incorporates study of technology because technology is often where science and religion “meet,” though often unwittingly, because human flourishing is inherently bound up with technological advance and motivations for pursuing certain technological advances (as opposed to others) derive from deeply religious assumptions, narratives, and beliefs, because meaning is also essential to human flourishing. Ultimately the purpose of the course is two-fold: to enhance our knowledge of current technologies emerging from scientific work so that we might think theologically about (and along with) technology.

IST 3172 AI x Artificial Minds EL

Artificial Intelligence is an often convoluted topic. In many cases it has created another class of existence in the “chain of being” (God, human **artificial intelligence**, animals, plants, etc.). This course will raise further questions to this “chain”, not only questioning its actual existence (as posthuman scholarship already does), but to consider the ways that AI also exists as part of the playing field of being through its own cognition (programming logic—first, second, or higher order logic). This course will analyze the ways that race, sex/sexuality, gender, class, etc., have been used to reify this “chain of being” as a means to consider the possibility of AI’s place as an equal member of actuality/reality/space.

IST 3184 Mysticism and Activism EL

This course investigates primarily modern sources for understanding the relationship between mysticism and social activism, exploring the impulse and resistance to deep structural transformation at the level of the human individual and collective, institutional contexts. Considering examples of (primarily) modern mystics, the course engages topics and practices of mysticism and activism in their shared dimensions of contemplation, transformation, and social action. The course places historical and contemporary mystic-activists, as well as the student as mystic-activist, in the context of their individual and community identity in relation to systems of power, oppression and privilege.

IST 3186 Hebrew Bible Exegesis BI

Continuation of PJ 1012 with a focus on exegetical method (offered every other year.)

IST 3201 Leadership & Organizational Develop PR

This course seeks to introduce students to relevant theories and practices related to leadership and organizational development. Leadership will be explored from the perspective of the individual, group and society with particular attention towards contexts relevant to Iliff. Key ideas from the field of organizational studies will enhance the student's ability to assess and lead in a variety of organizations. This course will also provide students with a sense of their own leadership capacity along with tangible experience assessing real world challenges.

IST 3204 Artificial Intelligence & What It Means to be Human CT

Artificial Intelligence raises pressing questions about machines: Are they really intelligent? Can they have consciousness? Ought they have moral status? Are algorithms related to computer like minds are to bodies? Do smart machines change the relationship of humans to technology? Each of these questions, in turn, is actually a question about human nature: What are the kinds of human intelligence, and are they unique to humans? Why do humans have moral status? What kinds of embodiment are essential to humans? (Do we include things like race and gender?) Are humans tool-users, or did we evolve as humans because of tools? In that case, have humans always been cyborgs? Questions about human nature are one of the classic theological loci, falling under the rubric of theological anthropology. In other words, religious traditions have thousands of years of deep thinking on these questions that are being raised in new ways (as Nick Bostrom has famously argued, AI is like "philosophy with a deadline"). This course is a sophisticated but non-technical introduction to the history of AI and to the tools and ideas of AI in its current forms. We will cover the most important ethical issues with which AI confronts us, and bring the resources of philosophy and theology to tackling some of the questions of human nature raised by AI.

IST 3215 Still Black, Posthuman CT

Blackness waits at the door. It sits in the room. It seeps into crevices. It disrupts stable sensibilities. It is the abyss. It is an overwhelming presence of life and the beyond. And it waits. This course will explore many presentations of Blackness as an ontology, material essence, and tangible modality. This is important to the state of the theological experiment as James Cone insisted Blackness is the key to global salvation over 50 years ago. So, this course will not only explore the onto-materiality of Blackness, but present a case for it as an integral framework to engage posthumanism's de-centered, yet re-emerging human who inhabits a

re-imagined human-creature-divine relationship, through its proclivity to emphasize animal studies and ecology while holding fast to liberalism's damaging modes of uncritical inclusivity.

IST 3241 Pandemics & Healing in History HI

This course examines how religious traditions and societies have responded to major medical crises and disasters across time and place. Through a series of historical case studies students will explore how disease, epidemics, and pandemics redefined medicine, healing and resiliency while also giving rise to new cultural movements, socio-economic structures, social justice concerns, and social activism.

IST 3250 Jesus for Christians & NonChristian EL

Who is Jesus of Nazareth, and what is his relationship to Jesus Christ? This course will examine this central question in multiple religious and non-religious cultural contexts. We will use the methods of comparative theology to read ideas about Jesus in the context of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Paganism, Spiritual But Not Religious (SBNR), and non-theistic texts. Students will compare and contrast these ideas to create their own understanding of Jesus' narrative and his relationship to our present world in their particular context.

IST 3252 Ethics in an Age of Plagues, Pestilence & Pandemics EL

The world is gripped by a deadly pandemic. This is neither the first time, nor probably will be the last. What we do know is in the aftermath of such deadly epidemics, the societal bonds which once held community together are frayed if not completely broken as radically changes take hold and new ways of being arise. This course will wrestle with the importance of maintaining a moral compass during crisis and an ethical vision as a new reality is constructed. Special attention will be given to how not all suffer equally, and the role racism, classism, and sexism during national emergencies. Finally, the course would assist the student in finding their own ethical voice during a time of hopelessness and desperation.

IST 3311 Interreligious Dialogue: A Critical Dialogue CR

This course is intended to be an intensive, critical analysis of interreligious dialogue. Through reading and discussing a number of different perspectives within this dialogue, we will explore these and other questions, with the aim of developing an acceptable methodological and ideological position.

IST 3900 Storytelling & Narrative Justice EL

available to MDiv students under supervision and directed by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Students making this course a part of their Internship requirement must submit a petition to the director of Professional Formation before enrolling. 8 hours, Pass/Fail

IST 4005 MTS Thesis Proposal Seminar Req

"This course is designed to provide support and structure to students in the first phrases of thesis development. Assignments will be geared toward teaching effective and sophisticated research practices as well as writing and argumentation skills. In this class, students will define and refine their topic, thesis, and points of evidence in order to produce a proposal and a detailed outline of the thesis.

Note: students will be expected to consult with a faculty advisor and a second reader at two points in the quarter. Within the first two weeks of the quarter, students should plan to discuss the viability and scope of their topic. After submitting their proposal at mid-quarter, they should seek their faculty readers' guidance to refine and revise the proposal and discuss the next phases of thesis development."

IST 4006 CPE Integration Praxis Req

This course helps students integrate their completed CPE experience into their professional formation and ongoing coursework at Iliff. Students will form a cohort group to discern how their CPE experience is part of their vocational discernment process at Iliff. A verbatim case study will be used to explore how students embodied their faith and core values through practice, including expressing respect for diverse spiritual/religious identities and traditions. Case studies will also be used to analyze their engagement with and systemic assessment of their CPE context, especially in terms of leadership opportunities for increased agency and efficacy working towards social justice and peace.

IST 4995 MTS Thesis Req

MA Thesis Project/Research

IST 4998 Advanced Community Praxis Req

As a supplement to the OPF Curriculum it normally follows the successful completion of Internship or CPE.

IST 4999 MSWY Req

"Students must meet all Iliff prescribed master's degree requirements. Requirements for Personal, Professional, and Spiritual Formation Internship(s) are met through the required core curriculum and field placement in the Graduate School of Social Work. Certain required courses and electives may be taken in either school and substituted for courses within the other school. A declaration form must be completed in the Office of the Registrar at the Iliff School of Theology. When students' primary registration is at GSSW, they must register for IST4999 MSWY Course (0 credits) at Iliff.

Prior to registration at University of Denver, students must consult their Iliff advisor if they plan on transferring credits between institutions. Upon completion of the social work courses to be applied toward the MDIV, MAPSC, MASJE, or MTS degree, students must supply the Iliff Registrar with University of Denver transcripts of such courses. Only work done at the C level (2.0) or better is acceptable."

IST 5010 D.Min.Sem.in Foundations of Prophetic Leadership Req

This six-credit hybrid intensive course is the foundational course for the Doctor of Ministry in Prophetic Leadership. The course surveys models of prophetic leadership from the biblical prophetic literature to contemporary clergy and community organizers, and invites students to place their own proposed projects within one or more of those models, and consider what resources and competencies will be necessary to work within and between those models to pursue the proposed project.

**IST 5015 Research Methods & Ethics in Lived Religion/
Practical Theology Req**

This course introduces students to a variety of qualitative and quantitative approaches to rigorous scholarly research in ministry and other organizational contexts, as well as to particular ethical challenges and questions that such approaches may elicit. Students will also be introduced to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) process as a foundational component in developing a critically informed, contextualized research methodology for the DMin Final Project or any research-based project in the fields of practical theology/lived religion.

IST 5020 DMin Seminar in Advanced Practical Theological Research Req

This collaborative seminar provides an opportunity for students to explore the process of practical theological research for their DMin project and to work collaboratively to shape research that is impactful and compelling. Students will establish the theoretical framing of their project through deep engagement with a body of literature relevant to their topic,

engage in rigorous contextual analysis of their research site/community, and begin the descriptive work necessary for their particular question, and in doing so refine their research question and appropriate research strategies necessary to their project.

IST 5025 DMin Project Proposal Seminar Req

This required course in the Doctor of Ministry degree program will prepare students to submit their final project proposal, including scope and methodology of the project; an annotated bibliography and literature review; and attention to the ethics and legality of qualitative research.

IST 5995 D.Min. Project Req

Students who have completed all DMin coursework must register for the DMin Project each quarter (fall winter, spring) until they successfully complete the Project Presentation, Culminating Conversation, and Approval. Students will be charged a fee of \$50 per quarter. 0 credits.

IST 5999 Independent Study (DMin)

Independent Study (DMin)