

FALL 2008 TOPICS COURSES

Ministry through the Life Cycle

PTHM 468 01A

Mondays, 6:00-9:15 PM

Barbara Sutton

Church leaders attend with care to faith growth, challenges, and pastoral care of the entire Christian community. Ministry through the lifecycle is influenced by theology, family systems, social sciences and developmental psychology. This course draws on these resources to examine the way in which we can support the fundamental activity of meaning making for persons of faith at each point of the life cycle. The challenges and tasks associated with each stage will be investigated as well as the role ministry should play at those critical times in one's life. Attention will be given to the lifecycle of the family, family of origin, family systems, and a family perspective to ministry. The course will allow the student to concentrate attention on the periods of development that are of greatest pastoral or personal significance (e.g., adolescence, young adulthood, mid-life, etc.) Attention will also be given to the church leader's own developmental tasks and need for care in relation to the varied demands of care giving.

Theological Aesthetics

DOCT 468 02A

Thursdays, 1:00-4:15 PM

Don Saliers

A seminar course on the theological tradition as it intersects with philosophical aesthetics. Focused readings in philosophical aesthetics (analysis, interpretation of human perception in and through various artistic media) and the larger theological tradition. Case studies and readings focused around poetry, visual arts, music, liturgical prayer, and fine arts performances.

U.S. Hispanic Ministry

DOCT 468 01A

Wednesdays, 1:00-4:15 PM

Miguel Diaz

An introduction to U.S. Hispanic theology and the writings of contemporary U.S. Hispanic theologians. The course examines the presence and diversity of Hispanic communities in the United States. It emphasizes U.S. Hispanic theology as an expression of the contemporary quest to do theology in light of specific contexts (e.g. the emergence of local or contextual theologies after Vatican II). The course explores the following theological themes from U.S. Hispanic perspectives: theological method, biblical interpretation, Christology, doctrine of God, anthropology, ecclesiology, Mariology, and the centrality of popular faith expressions in U.S. Hispanic theological discourse.

Environment in Christian Theology
MORL 468 01A
Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1:00-2:30 PM
Bernie Evans

During the past few decades a number of writers have argued that Christian theology can offer us very little assistance as we try to respond to current environmental problems. According to this thinking Christian theology has little interest in the natural world and is “hopelessly anthropocentric.” The purpose of this course is to discover what classical Christian thought has to say about the natural world. The course surveys selected writings of Christian theologians to determine how they answer the question: what should be the relationship between the human person and the rest of creation?

Bible and Benedict
MONS 468 01A
WEB CLASS
Irene Nowell, OSB

Using *lectio divina* as the core method, this course explores key scriptural themes that emerge in the Rule of St. Benedict. Particular attention is given to how Scripture influences instructions on humility, obedience, silence, and the community of goods.