EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

GROW IN MIND AND SPIRIT AT ESR

Public Ministry & Writing

Writing Beyond Words: Prayer and Creative Writing
WR 250-T or SP 214-T
Instructors – Michael Birkel and Ben Brazil

How may writing become prayer? How is prayer a kind of writing? This course explores the intersections of prayer and writing. We will study and practice different sorts of prayer, as well as read writers who put language to their lives in the spirit. In particular, we will explore different forms of meditation and prayer (verbal, visual, and contemplative, among others), as well as different forms of writing (devotional writing, reflective writing, memoir, etc.). This course counts as either WR250: Writing for God and God’s People OR SP 214: Prayer.

Applied Storytelling
WR 270-B; WR 270
Instructor – Ben Brazil

Stories entertain, but they also do work. For individuals, stories give shape to identity, meaning, and values. In communities, stories knit people together and offer bridges across barriers of differences. In non-profit and justice work, stories frame problems, galvanize responses, and illuminate the on-the-ground meaning of orienting values. This course offers instruction and practice in some of the ways story can serve ministry and other values-driven work.

Practice of Ministry

Bivocational Mentoring
PM 280-T
Instructor – Phil Baisley

This course builds on the concepts of self-care begun in Pastoral Spirituality. It explores the nature and practice of mentoring relationship and gives the student the opportunity to facilitate such relationships for themselves and others who are involved in bivocational ministry.

Pastoral Spirituality
PM 150-O
Instructor – Phil Baisley

This course emphasizes the personal side of pastoring. Topics will include maintaining one’s overall health and spiritual focus, being part of a pastoral family, building healthy relationships with a congregation and identifying one’s philosophy of ministry. While designed for new pastors or those planning to become pastors, this course will also be helpful to students who have been working in congregations for some time.

Intro to Pastoral Care
PC 101-O
Instructor – ESR Adjunct

An experiential and critical exploration of pastoral care. Caregiving in a faith community or by its representatives in other settings is a practical theological activity, drawing on religious tradition, social sciences, theology, and the gifts of the people involved. Therefore, this class focuses on the integration of person, faith, belief, method, and practice. Skills of attending, listening, understanding, and caring are addressed in the context of social and personal dynamics.

Work of the Pastor
PM 250-T
Instructor – Phil Baisley

This course emphasizes the day-to-day activities of pastoral ministers. Students will become familiar with the pastoral candidating process and getting acquainted with a new congregation. They will study and practice principles of pastoral visitation, weddings and premarital ministry, and funerals and grief care. Other topics include pastoral ethics, congregational conflict, and how gracefully to say goodbye to a congregation.

Courses at Earlham School of Religion nurture both intellect and spirit. Join us in Richmond, Indiana, for semester-long courses, two-week intensive classes or study online through our ACCESS-online program.

Residential and ACCESS paths support degree, certificate and non-degree work and cover a broad range of topics.

Visit esr.earlham.edu or call 800-432-1377 to learn more about classes and events at ESR.
Spiritual Growth & Practice

Writing Beyond Words: Prayer and Creative Writing
WR 250-T or SP 214-T
Instructor – Michael Birkel and Ben Brazil
How may writing become prayer? How is prayer a kind of writing? This course explores the intersections of prayer and writing. We will study and practice different sorts of prayer, as well as read writers who put language to their lives in the spirit. In particular, we will explore different forms of meditation and prayer (verbal, visual, and contemplative, among others), as well as different forms of writing (devotional writing, reflective writing, memoir, etc.). This course courts as either WR250: Writing for God and God’s People OR SP 214: Prayer.

Individual Spiritual Direction
SP 335
Instructor – Michael Birkel
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of Christian spiritual direction for individuals. Through receiving and giving supervised spiritual direction, participating in a practicum, reading and discussion, students will become familiar with spiritual direction and prayerfully discern the implications for their future ministry.

The Quaker Encounter with Buddhism
SP 320-B; SP 320
Instructor – Michael Birkel
This course will explore the Quaker encounter with Buddhism. Readings will include writings from the Zen tradition, a book on socially-engaged Buddhist ethics, texts on dual religious belonging, and Quaker and Buddhist responses to one another. We will consider profound similarities as well as deep differences between the two traditions. Goals will include being careful listeners and good guests in another religious community, as well as moving beyond simply listening to responding from within one’s own.

Theological & Interfaith Studies

Contextual Theology: South Korea
TS 290-T
Instructor – Grace Ji-Sun Kim
This course introduces students to the role of context and culture in theology and in the practice of ministry through a first hand cross-cultural experience in South Korea and careful reflection upon it. Students will explore the history, culture and religious practices of Korea, visit various churches and faith communities, and engage in cultural events in Korea. We will also visit Buddhist temples and explore Korean religious heritage. Students will be based at Hanshin Seminary but will also visit other seminaries in and outside of Seoul.

Peace & Justice Studies

Spirituality of Peacemaking
PJ 370
Instructor – Lonnie Valentine
This course first explores the lives of representative individuals who connect their spiritual life with work for social transformation such as Thomas Merton, Malcolm X, Dorothy Day, and Peace Pilgrim. Also, theological models that put spirituality and social change are examined in the work of such theologians as Latin American liberation theologian Jon Sobrino and womanist Emile Townes. Prerequisite: SP 101

Biblical & Historical Studies

Quaker Public Ministry
QS 377-T
Instructor – Steve Angell
Explores the different forms of ministry and religious leadership among Quakers, both programmed and unprogrammed. Students choosing Quaker Public Ministry as their M.Div. emphasis will design a 1.5 credit hour practicum in addition to the 3-credit hour course.

Queer Bible
QS 320-T
Instructor – Nancy Bowen
This class will engage biblical interpretation written by authors who identify as LGBTQIA. Students will consider the principles of what constitutes “queer” hermeneutics.

Psalms
BS 340-O
Instructor – Nancy Bowen
BS101 is a prerequisite for this class. This course focuses on interpretation of the book of Psalms, including the content and structure of the collection; poetic structure and genre; theology, metaphor, and understanding of prayer within psalms; use of psalms in worship in ancient Israel, church history, and today.

Quaker History and Literature
QS 107
Instructor – Steve Angell
Explores Quaker History and Literature from the seventeenth century until the present day.

Intro to Old Testament History and Literature
BS 101
Instructor – Nancy Bowen
Introduces students to the diversity of literary and theological traditions in the Old Testament. Attention will be given to the formation and role of these traditions in the context of the life and history of the people of Israel and to their function in contemporary life and faith.

ESR CAMPUS EVENTS

Join a journey where we are challenged and engaged. Visit esr.earlham.edu.

Spring Prospective Student Visit Day
March 6, 2020

2020 Spring Gathering
March 7, 2020
Keynote: Summer Cushman

2020 Willson Lectures
April 4, 2020
Keynote: Grace Si-Jun Kim

For more information about these and other upcoming events, contact Mandy Ford, fordma@earlham.edu or 800-432-1377