

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Courses at **Earlham School of Religion** nurture the intellect and spirit. Join us in Richmond, Indiana, for two-week intensive and semester-long courses; or, study online through our ACCESS program. Both paths support degree, certificate and non-degree work and cover a broad range of topics. Also, ESR students can take courses at Bethany Theological Seminary and vice-versa so both seminaries' courses are listed here.

Visit esr.earlham.edu or call 800-432-1377 to learn more about classes and events at Earlham School of Religion.

COURSE KEY

T – TWO-WEEK INTENSIVE classes are two-week terms held in Richmond, Indiana in August, January, and May. The classes meet either during the morning or afternoon Monday through Friday.

O – ONLINE classes make use of the Moodle course management system for providing information, course documents, assignments, and interaction through discussion forums. Participation is encouraged throughout the week but at a convenient time for the student.

B – BLENDED classes allow students at a distance to interact with students and the instructor in the classroom at ESR via videoconference.

Earlham School of Religion courses are in burgundy
Bethany Theological Seminary courses are in blue

Biblical & Historical Studies

AUGUST INTENSIVES
August 3rd – 14th, 2020

Reading Luke: African American Interpretation

B 218 (Biblical Studies)

Daniel Ulrich & Smith

SEMESTER ONE
August 27th – December 4th, 2020

Introduction to Quakerism

QS 150/150-B

Instructor – Steve Angell

Monday, 6:10PM – 9:00PM

This course provides a practical guide to Quaker history, theology, outreach, faith and practice. It considers the historical and theological origins of Quakerism and its relationships to politics and governance. It provides a guide to Quaker business practice, including clerking. It considers relationships of Quakers to outward culture, including education and service, in their English, North American, and global South contexts. While grounded in in-depth consideration of Quakers' past, it imaginatively considers new or continuing roles that Quakers, and Quaker ideas and practices, may play in coming generations.

American Religious History

HS 103-O

Instructor – Steve Angell

Not to be scheduled yet – Arranged with instructor

This course explores selective themes in the history of American religions, aiming to provide both a good overview and also some depth in selective themes, which may change with each offering. For Fall 2020, in-depth themes will include the study of religion and empire(s), as it affects religions in the Americas; the study of religio-racial formations, i.e., how Americans' understanding of their identities (often formulated in terms of "race") affected their religious understanding, and vice versa; and the growth and development of evangelical American religions.

Introduction to Old Testament History and Literature

BS 101-O

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.

Women in the First Testament (and other parts of the Bible)

BS375/BS375-B

Instructor – Nancy Bowen

Tuesday, 6:10PM – 9:00PM

This course is an in-depth study of women in the Old (First) Testament, including the Apocrypha (and a bit of the New [Second] Testament). The course will focus on how women are characterized and their various social roles and locations within each biblical book. The course will give attention to the similarities and differences of women's roles and status in the social and religious contexts of ancient Israel and today. The course assumes basic knowledge of the content and history of the FT. Prerequisite: BS 101 or B-102

Reading the New Testament Contextually

B 102-B (Biblical Studies)

Daniel Ulrich

This survey course is an invitation into deeper, contextual understandings of the twenty seven diverse writings that make up the second part of the Christian canon. It is designed for both new and experienced readers of the Bible. We will practice thoughtful and imaginative readings of New Testament texts with multiple contexts in view,

including the historical situations of the texts' authors and earliest audiences, the student's own present-day context, and a present day context that involves intercultural conversation. 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #1, #3

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER (SVMC)
WEEKEND INTENSIVE

August 28 – 29, October 16 – 17, November 13 – 14, 2020

Exegesis of Chronicles and Ezra-Nehemiah

B 314 (Biblical Studies)

Steve Schweitzer

The books of 1 and 2 Chronicles, Ezra, and Nehemiah were written during the postexilic period of ancient Israel in the midst of cultural change. Following the traumatic experience of exile, the community in Judah struggled to form a new identity as the people of God. Chronicles attempts to construct a better alternate future by creating a distinct view of the past. Ezra-Nehemiah presents the recent history of this group from the perspective of those elite who returned to bring leadership and a new vision. Often avoided as irrelevant or only being historical in nature, these books contain rich contributions to a wide range of topics, such as theology, worship, spirituality, prayer, joy, identity formation, community life, God's involvement in history, inclusivity and exclusivity, the reinterpretation of previous biblical traditions, the function of the Law, and the relationship to Empire. Methodological approaches to these texts addressed in this course include: historical criticism; source, form, and redaction criticisms; rhetorical, narrative, and reader-response criticisms; feminist criticism; queer theory; utopian literary theory; postcolonial criticism; canonical criticism; spatial theory; and theological readings. Prerequisite: BS 101. 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #1, #2.

Spiritual Growth & Practice, Biblical & Historical Studies, Quaker Studies

AUGUST INTENSIVES

August 3rd – 14th, 2020

Quakers and the Bible

QS/SP/BS-T 339

Instructor – Steve - Angell and Michael Birkel

Monday-Friday, 8:30AM – Noon

This course examines the various uses and interpretations by Quakers of the Bible throughout their history. Specific areas of exploration include Quaker use of the Bible in devotion, public discourse, study, and scholarship; how the Bible has functioned in different parts of the Quaker spectrum, in different historical and geographical contexts; the use of the Bible in relation to the Quaker testimonies; how Quakers have read in the past or how they read today particular books of the Bible. Because Friends have read Scripture as an invitation to a spiritual experience, we'll try to recover and practice for ourselves their way of reading. This course aspires to be both academic and

experiential. If the course is to be recognized as meeting an upper-level requirement in Biblical Studies, an introductory course in Biblical Studies is a pre-requisite.

History of Christianity

H 101-B (Historical Studies)

H. Kendall Rogers

This course gives an overview of the history of Christianity from the apostolic period to the eve of the Reformation. Topics addressed include theoretical issues in studying the history of Christianity, early Christianity, the Constantinian shift, Augustine's influence, asceticism, the Middle Ages, Medieval lay piety and dissent, monastic orders, the papacy and the beginnings of the Renaissance. 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #1, #2.

Spiritual Growth & Practice

AUGUST INTENSIVES

August 3rd – 14th, 2020

Spiritual Formation and Personal Practice

FC 101-T

Instructor – Jim Higginbotham

Monday-Friday, 1:30PM – 5:00PM

Students engage in a multidimensional reflection on their personal spiritual journey as experiential grounding for ministry and explore spiritual autobiography (their own and others) and personal and corporate Christian spiritual disciplines, as well as core practices of Quaker spirituality, in order to deepen their practice of faith. Active, prayerful listening is emphasized through participation in an ongoing small group that continues through the second semester (FC102). At the end of the first semester, students draft a vision for their spiritual practice, one designed to foster both solitary and communal spiritual growth.

SEMESTER ONE

August 27th – December 4th, 2020

New Frontiers in Spirituality

SP 350/350-B

Instructor – Michael Birkel

Tuesday, 8:30AM – 11:10AM

This course will explore the expanding frontiers of contemporary spirituality beyond conventional religious boundaries. It will consider the phenomenon of spiritual independence or “spiritual but not religious.” The course will look at spiritual practices such as kabbalah and mindfulness, both within their historical communities of origin and outside them, as a dimension of a universalist spirituality. The course will also, the course will look at the ethics of borrowing from traditions not one's own, at the rise of multiple religious identities, and at new efforts at interspiritual dialogue and cooperation.

Mysticism: Interfaith Exploration

SP 390/390-B

Instructor – Michael Birkel

Thursday, 8:30AM – 11:10AM

This seminar will explore mystical texts, from Jewish, Hindu, Christian, Islamic, and Buddhist sources. We will reflect on such themes as the roles of the particular and the universal in spiritual experience and its articulation, the relationship between experience and knowledge of the divine, the link between love of God and knowledge of God, the experience of union, and the authority of mystical experience.

Spirituality and Ecology: The Sabbath Poetry of Wendall Berry

T 218-B (Theological Studies)

Hathaway

Practice of Ministry

SEMESTER ONE

August 27th – December 4th, 2020

Introduction to Pastoral Care

PC 101/101-B

Instructor – Jim Higginbotham

Tuesday, Thursday, 9:55AM – 11:10AM

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

Human Sexuality

PC 333

Instructor – Jim Higginbotham

Wednesday, (time TBA)

This seminar examines the manner in which sexuality is a dimension of any relationship and the specific ways in which sexuality is an issue in ministry. The class explores the effects of sex roles, cultural conditioning and gender as the parameters within which ministry occurs. Topics covered include: conflicting values; gender identity; sexual orientation; and current social issues related to sexuality. Students are given the opportunity to reflect on their sexual history and personal reactions to the material, with the aim of developing/solidifying a personal sexual ethic that would inform one's ministry. Prerequisite: PC 101/101-O

Understanding Youth Ministry

M 231-B (Ministry Studies)

Russell Haitch

This basic course looks at the period of youth and the person of the youth minister, as well as the ministry to which youth themselves are called within church and society.

Attention will be given to the theological themes implicit in today's social, psychological, and cultural trends. How can youth ministry transform, rather than simply reproduce, these dynamics? 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #3, #4.

Ministry Formation

F 301-B (Ministry Formation)

Daniel Poole

Ministers-in-training gain experience in doing fulltime or part-time extended ministry in congregations, camps, hospitals, social ministry settings, and district or conference programs. Students are given opportunities to engage in specific forms of ministry and to reflect on their practice of ministry through supervision. Placements will extend 10 or more weeks and will typically be full-time (400 or more hours). 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #3.

Science, Theology, Ministry

M/T 219-B (Ministry Studies/ Theological Studies)

Russell Haitch

This course deals with how Christians can see God in a scientific world. Science and theology both give us a sense of reality, but at times they can feel like two different universes. The goal is to bring the two together. Organized around big themes of life, death, and resurrection, this course focuses on topics such as life (and fullness of life), in evolutionary biology and in Christian scripture; overcoming death, in Christian baptism and via artificial intelligence; and resurrection hope, in Christian theology and via neuroscience study of enduring consciousness. In regard to ministry, the course will help students become more knowledgeable, confident, and practiced in addressing issues of science and faith with all people, but especially youth.

Preaching, Theopoetics, and Society

M 120-B (Ministry Studies)

Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

Exegeting the Call and Culture of Ministry

F 110-1-B (Ministry Formation)

Daniel Poole

ECC provides a formational context in which to process seminary life and discern readiness to participate in Ministry Formation (F 301). Participants in this course explore the various aspects of Christian ministry with particular attention to pastoral/congregational ministries. Students examine social and spiritual shaping of ministerial identity through specific readings, small group work, theological reflection, and ministry interviews. 3 semester hours of credit granted at the successful completion of the entirety of F 110. MDiv Obj #4.

Patterns of Worship

M 220-B (Ministry Studies)

Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm

This semester-long course will introduce students to the theological, historical, creative, and performative dimensions of diverse patterns of corporate worship in North America (i.e., blended, emergent, Anabaptist, other). Through the creative interplay of theology

and imagination, students will design services for a variety of settings, including worship services in Bethany's Nicarry Chapel. 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #2, #3.

MA Formation Seminar

I 202-B (Interdisciplinary Studies)

Hathaway

This fall semester seminar meets once a week to provide a context in which to discern the kind of theological scholarship and public leadership each MA student would like to pursue and use as an anchor for their studies at Bethany. Participants in this course become familiar with the various academic disciplines of theological education with particular attention given to developing a sense of vocation along with critical thinking, research, and writing skills. The weekly seminars also provide the setting for students to examine the social and spiritual shape of their scholarly identity with an emphasis on learning to tell their unfolding intellectual autobiography. By the end of the semester, participants will have chosen between an MA portfolio or MA thesis and selected an area of concentration. 3 semester hours of credit.

Writing

AUGUST INTENSIVES

August 3rd – 14th, 2020

Creative Non-Fiction

WR 230-T

Instructor – Ben Brazil

Monday-Friday, 1:30PM – 5:00PM

Creative non-fiction lives in the borderlands between objective reality and subjective experience, between the relentless data of existence and the meanings we give to them. Borrowing literary techniques, it attends to real life as lived and felt. Because that includes (but is not limited to) religious experience, coursework attends to topics that are explicitly spiritual and those that are not. Specifically, it focuses on three broad subgenres of creative nonfiction: memoir, personal essay (including essays of ideas), and lyric essay. Along the way, it covers how to generate ideas; how to use literary and research techniques to develop them; and how to grapple, publicly and ethically, with the big questions and intimate relationships that give our lives meaning.

SEMESTER ONE

August 27th – December 4th, 2020

Writing the Story

WR 220-O

Instructor – Ben Brazil

Stories shape our world and our being; they move us intellectually, emotionally, morally, and spiritually. But while we intuitively recognize when we've heard or read a good story, knowing how to write one is trickier. This course offers an introduction to various narrative genres and techniques for working in them. It centers literary storytelling (in both fiction and non-fiction), giving attention generating story ideas, developing

characters, structuring a plot, and exploring questions of meaning (religious or otherwise). Along the way, though, it will likely explore other story genres, like performed (out-loud) stories, parables, and flash fiction, among others. While course readings will include spiritual and religious themes, student writing need not be religious in an explicit way. Instead, the course encourages students to explore and write from their own, broader moral point of view, whatever that may be.

Applied Storytelling

WR260-B

4.5 hour lab course (not sure how we designate that)

Thursday, 6:10PM – 9:00 PM

This course offers theory of, and practice in, using narrative to effect change in the world. While commonly associated with entertainment and literature, stories also create personal identity; bond churches and other communities; motivate social movements; promote non-profit organizations; frame political issues; define worldviews, and much more. In this class, students will explore some of these possibilities. As a practicum course for ESR's writing track, this class requires a practicum and carries an extra 1.5 credit hours, for a total of 4.5 hours. For the practicum, students, in consultation with the professor, will identify a local-to-them issue and/or organization that might benefit from their storytelling work. The practicum should take an extra 2-3 hours per week, on average, in addition to normal coursework. More details (and support) will be available from the professor.

Semester One Weekend Intensives

September 18 – 19, October 16 – 17, November 13 – 14, 2020

Theopoetics

T/W 315-B (Theological Studies/Writing)

Scott Holland

In recent years several theologians and scholars of religion have contended that “theology, after all, is a kind of writing.” Moving beyond older models that present theology as a metaphysics or systematics, those influenced by both the postmodern turn in philosophy and the intercultural emergence of spirituality studies are suggesting that theology can be imagined as a poetics. This course is situated at the intersection of religion and literature and will study recent genres of theological, spiritual and religious writings known as theopoetics. 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #2, #3.

Peace & Justice Studies

SEMESTER ONE

August 27th – December 4th, 2020

Spiritual Formation and Public Mission

FC 102/102-B

Instructor – Lonnie Valentine

Friday, 8:30AM – 11:10AM

This is the second of the three courses composing the initial sequence of the Formation Core. It builds on FC 101 Spiritual Formation by exploring what difference students' spirituality makes in considering issues of social change and peacemaking. In addition, this course connects students to the other core areas of the ESR curriculum: biblical studies, theology, historical studies, and practical theology. Prerequisite: FC 101

Conflict Transformation

P 201-O (Peace Studies)

Roberts

This course provides the student with an introduction to the study of conflict and its resolution. We will explore the basic theoretical concepts of the field and apply this knowledge as we learn and practice skills for analyzing and resolving conflicts. The course seeks to answer the following questions at both the theoretical level and the level of personal action: What are the causes and consequences of social conflict? How do we come to know and understand conflict? How do our assumptions about conflict affect our strategies for management or resolution? What methods are available for waging and resolving conflicts productively rather than destructively? 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #2, #4.

Peace of the City and Public Theology

P 249-B (Peace Studies)

Scott Holland

This course will work with the thesis that the biblical story of redemption begins in a garden (Eden) but ends in a city (the New Jerusalem). Religion may indeed begin in solitude, but as social creatures, our lives are public. Biblical religion reminds us that our faith is embodied in evangelical, ethical and aesthetic engagements with culture, thus inviting public theological reflection. Combining the disciplines of peace studies and theology, the course will explore how a variety of public proposals for theology might contribute to or inhibit what prophetic religion has called the shalom or welfare of the city. 3 semester hours. MDiv Obj #2, #3.

Theological & Interfaith Studies

AUGUST INTENSIVES

August 3rd – 14th, 2020

Process Theology

TS/PJ-T 364

Instructor – Lonnie Valentine

Monday-Friday, 1:30PM – 5:00PM

This is an advanced theology course examine the vision of Process Theology. This theological movement is based upon the work of Alfred North Whitehead who challenged the usual views of God as omnipotent. Process theologians following Whitehead have the applied the process view to issues of peace and justice, environmental concerns, economics, and politics. Prerequisite: TS 101 or permission of instructor

Theology and Ministry in Response to Crisis

M/T 225- T (Ministry Studies/ Theological Studies)

Russell Haitch

Science and Religion

T 211- T (Theological Studies)

Steven Schweitzer

Science, Theology, Ministry

M/T 219- B (Ministry Studies/ Theological Studies)

Russell Haitch

This course deals with how Christians can see God in a scientific world. Science and theology both give us a sense of reality, but at times they can feel like two different universes. The goal is to bring the two together. Organized around big themes of life, death, and resurrection, this course focuses on topics such as life (and fullness of life), in evolutionary biology and in Christian scripture; overcoming death, in Christian baptism and via artificial intelligence; and resurrection hope, in Christian theology and via neuroscience study of enduring consciousness. In regard to ministry, the course will help students become more knowledgeable, confident, and practiced in addressing issues of science and faith with all people, but especially youth.

SEMESTER ONE

August 27th – December 4th, 2020

Introduction to Theological Reflection

TS 101- O

Instructor – Lonnie Valentine

This course is both an introduction to the methods of theological reflection as well as to important movements in the development of Christian, including Quaker, theological thinking. This course will also introduce a few of the theological perspectives of other faith traditions for comparison. The goal is for students to be able to engage in critical and constructive reflection about their own understanding of reality as well as about key theological ideas.

Pastoral Ministry

AUGUST INTENSIVES

August 3rd – 14th, 2020

The Friends Pastor

PM 260- T

Instructor – Phil Baisley

Monday-Friday, 8:30PM – Noon

What makes the Friends pastor different from the pastor of other Christian churches? Is there a distinctly Quaker way of doing pastoral ministry? This course will examine the history and theology of pastoral ministry among Friends. It will also explore how Friends

pastors perform traditional “pastoral” ministries in ways that reflect Friends’ history and ecclesiology.

Theology and Ministry in Response to Crisis

M/T 225- T (Ministry Studies/ Theological Studies)

Russell Haitch

SEMESTER ONE

August 27th – December 4th, 2020

Pastoral Spirituality

PM 150/150-B

Instructor – Phil Baisley

Thursday, 1:20PM – 4:00PM

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.

Introduction to Preaching

(This is a year-long course)

PM 101-O

Instructor – Phil Baisley

This course will assist students in acquiring the basic knowledge and skills for elective biblical preaching. Attention will be given to biblical exegesis in the preparation of sermons, and students will be instructed and given opportunity to apply homiletical theory and skills toward the development of their own preaching voice