

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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

Both 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.

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.

Grow in mind and spirit at ESR

Biblical & Historical Studies, Pastoral Care

JANUARY INTENSIVES

January 4 – 15, 2021

Bible and Pastoral Care *BS/PC 338*

Intensive

Instructors- Nancy Bowen and Jim Higginbotham

M-F, 1:30-5:00

In recent decades, pastoral theology has largely ignored the Bible. Scripture is not appropriated well in caregiving ministries, even though it is a primary resource for preaching, worship, and spiritual development. Biblical scholars have helpfully explored issues of human suffering and psychological issues within the text, but often have failed to provide clear guides as to how texts can help ministers respond to the challenges of life. As a result, faith communities and caregivers frequently use unexamined assumptions about the Bible in their ministries or feel lost in the tensions and ambiguities of making sense of the human condition in light of prescriptions and narratives from ancient contexts. This course is a critical exploration of the intersection of Biblical studies and pastoral care. At the junction of this interdisciplinary dialogue is the question of interpretation. How does one understand Bible in relation to issues of suffering, violence, sexuality, and death? Is Scripture useful for making sense of and responding compassionately to distressing situations? The class will provide resources for ministerial practices and Biblical interpretation so that students may develop a more contextually-relevant Biblical and pastoral theology.

Biblical & Historical Studies

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

Introduction to Old Testament Literature and History - *BS 101*

Blended

Instructor- Nancy Bowen

TBA

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.

Israel's Wisdom Tradition - *BS356*

Blended

Instructor-Nancy Bowen

TBA

This course is designed to introduce students to a study of Israel's wisdom literature in its Western Asian cultural setting and within its own religious and social context. The course will examine the specific types of wisdom literature within the Hebrew canon—Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and selected psalms, and beyond these the apocryphal books of Ben Sira and Wisdom of Solomon. Special attention will be paid to the social construct of this literature and the world view within which it lives and functions. A focus of the course is on the theological dimensions of this literature and how it might (or might not) have application for contemporary faith and life.

Pastoral Ministry

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

Pastoral Spirituality - *PM 150*

Online

Instructor- Phil Basiley

TBD

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.

MAY INTENSIVES

May 17 – 28, 2021

Work of the Pastor - *PM 250*

Intensive

Instructor- Phil Baisley

M-F, Time(s)

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.

Peace & Justice Studies

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

Community Organizing - *PJ 225*

Blended

Instructor – Jim Higginbotham

Day(s), Times(s)

This class will: introduce students to the methods and models of community organizing, provide an opportunity to utilize these skills, and help them imagine their use in ministry. Special attention will be paid to issues of gender, class, race and ethnicity and sexual orientation in organizing.

Practice of Ministry

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

Introduction to Pastoral Care - *PC 101*

Online

Instructor – Jim Higginbotham

Asynchronous

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.

Spiritual Growth & Practice, Quaker Studies

JANUARY INTENSIVES

January 4 – 15, 2021

Quaker Spirituality - *QS/SP 390*

Intensive

Instructor – Michael Birkel

M-F, 8:30AM-Noon

Quaker Spirituality will explore spiritual practices of Friends, past and present. Topics will include letters of spiritual nurture, worship and ministry, journals, contemplative prayer, discernment, the apophatic way, and recent directions, such as Quaker-Buddhist blendings. Prerequisite: FC101, or permission of the instructor.

Spiritual Growth & Practice

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

History of Christian Spirituality - *SP 342*

Blended

Instructor- Michael Birkel

TBD

This course explores the spiritual traditions of Christianity in its historical and global context. Students will be introduced to the origins, development and diversity of traditions of the Christian faith and the great variety of spiritual practices they spawned. Students will learn how different traditions took root in unique historical and cultural circumstances and how they reflect a particular way of thinking about God. Students will not only gain knowledge and information about a variety of Christian traditions but will also gain a more reflective and discerning understanding of their own tradition, and will be able to draw on new insights, disciplines and practices to deepen their own experience of God's presence in their lives, and in the lives of the communities they will be serving in their ministry.

Individual Spiritual Direction - *SP 335*

Blended

Instructor - Michael Birkel

Day(s), Times(s)

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. Prerequisite: FC101.

Synthesis Capstone

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

Comprehensive Seminar - SC 380

Residential

Instructor- Phil Baisley

TBD

This seminar is part of the evaluation process in the student's achievement of a degree and is to be taken in semester two of the student's final year. It enables the student to have an experience in integrating learning from all areas of the curriculum around a given problem. The seminar also serves to strengthen a student in areas of weakness.

Supervised Ministry - SC 370

Blended

Instructor- Matt Hisrich

TBD

The Supervised Ministry Seminar helps students prepare for ministry through an internship in a setting appropriate for their calling and gifts, and through theological reflection on their experiences. Each week, supervision by an experienced practitioner provides feedback, guidance, nurture, and evaluation, as does the seminar in which students present and process incidents in ministry. In addition, students attend at least 30 hours of workshops related to their ministry. Arrangements for supervised ministry sites/projects, and for weekly reflection with a supervisor, are made during the second semester of the previous year. Prerequisites are faculty approval of the student's readiness for Supervised Ministry and at least 31.5 semester hours, including the following courses: FC 101, FC 102, FC 103, FC 339, BS 101 B 102, one introductory History course (HS 103, H 101, or H), and two courses in the student's emphasis. 9 semester hours.

Theological & Interfaith Studies

JANUARY INTENSIVES

January 4 – 15, 2021

Interfaith Dialogue - TS 360

Intensives

Instructor- Lonnie Valentine

M-F, Time(s)

This is an introduction to the vision theology of faith traditions, as well as the Christian theological responses to other religious traditions. Students will finish the course with some basic understanding of other traditions as well as developing their own theology of world religions. The intent of such an introduction is to equip students for engaging in dialog with other faiths in their ministry. Prerequisite: TS 101/101-O

MAY INTENSIVES

May 17 – 28, 2021

Christian Ethics - *TS 336*

Blended

Instructor – Lonnie Valentine

TBD

An examination of the Christian moral life and the theological convictions that animate it, including its understanding of the good, of conscience, the nature of humanity, and the faith community's public witness. These proposals are considered in conversation with selected issues requiring careful and responsible Christian engagement, for example, war and peace, the environment, and genetic engineering. Prerequisite: TS 101/101- O or T 101/101-O.

Writing as Ministry

JANUARY INTENSIVES

January 4 – 15, 2021

Creative Non-Fiction - *WR 230*

Intensive

Instructor- Ben Brazil

TBD

This course will give you an opportunity to explore the rich possibilities of creative non-fiction, one of the most popular and quickest growing forms of literary writing practiced today. It will introduce you to some of the subgenres of creative nonfiction – memoir, personal essay, narrative journalism, and the lyric essay, among others – and to the genre-bending techniques that make this kind of writing so compelling. We'll also explore fundamental questions about generating and developing essay ideas; integrating subjective experience and researched fact; structuring essays that win and keep readers' attention; and, finally, the ethics of writing about real people.

SEMESTER TWO

January 26 – April 30, 2021

Public Theology - *WR 250*

Online

Instructor- Ben Brazil

TBD

This course will allow you to explore what may be a leading to write. It will encourage you to discover the shape and texture of the leading and focus it into an appropriate literary form—an essay, story, memoir, journal, article, sermon, book, blog, book review—even a newsletter or a tweet. It will encourage that part of you that is always listening to the whispers of God to open more fully, listen more deeply, and guide you into the work. And it will provide an opportunity for you to sharpen your craft and prepare a work for publication.

Writing Seminar - WR 350

Blended

Instructor- Ben Brazil

TBD

Practice in all facets necessary for preparing a major writing project for the reading public (writing, revising, editing, market research, queries). Students will develop a "contract" of what they intend to accomplish by the end of the semester: goals, completed writing, and materials necessary for publishing that writing. Direction for the course is determined in part by students' interests and needs as they work toward publication of their writing projects. Workshop format. Prerequisite: WR 101 and any 200 level writing course