

Summer 2025 Theology Graduate Course Descriptions

**Please check the Master Schedule to confirm course day/times*

THL 8115: THM: Bible and Marginality (Spitaler)

M/Th 4:00-6:00pm (100% online – mix of synchronous & asynchronous)

6/30/25-7/28/25 CRN 15149

This course explores the intersection of marginality and biblical narratives. Through an examination of selected biblical passages, students will critically analyze the portrayal of marginalized groups, including women, children, foreigners, religious minorities, people with illness and disabilities, and socially and socioeconomically disadvantaged people. The course adopts an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from postcolonial, liberationist, latino/a, feminist, and womanist studies, biblical studies, and theological perspectives. Students will engage with theoretical frameworks that illuminate the ways in which marginality is depicted, challenged, or reinforced within biblical narratives. Discussions will encompass the sociohistorical context in which these texts were written, considering how power dynamics, identity, and social structures influenced the representation of marginalized voices. Furthermore, students will explore contemporary interpretations and applications of these biblical themes, examining how marginalized communities have appropriated or contested biblical narratives for empowerment and social change. Through close reading and critical analysis of literature on the class theme, and class discussions of select biblical texts, participants will develop a nuanced understanding of the intricate relationship between marginality and the biblical tradition, fostering a deeper awareness of the diverse voices present in these ancient texts. Thus, this course aims to equip students with the analytical tools necessary to engage thoughtfully with biblical literature and to critically reflect on its implications for contemporary issues of marginalization and social justice.

Area: Bible

THL 8290: THM: Theology, Violence, and the Sacred (Hughes)

T/W/Th 1:00-3:00pm (100% online – mix of Synchronous & Asynchronous)

6/30/25-7/28/25 CRN 15150

This seminar will explore the intersection of theology, philosophy, and cultural theory through attention to the question of violence. The point of entry will engage with 20th/21st century thinking on violence (W. Benjamin, T. Merton, etc), but the course will then focus its lens on two influential but somewhat liminal or heterodox figures, Simone Weil and René Girard. Both figures offer a reading of our fundamental human condition as afflicted by violence or force, and these accounts lead to fascinating reflections on freedom & necessity, grace, brokenness, repair. Etc. We will begin with substantial and foundational readings from Weil (Gravity and Grace, Waiting for God, the Need for Roots) and from Girard (I See Satan Fall Like Lightning, Battling to the End), along with others influenced by them (James Alison, Rowan Williams, Grant Kaplan, David Tracy), treating convergences and differences between our root figures as the occasion for fundamental theological reflection on faith and culture. This course will be of interest to systematics, spirituality, ethics, and bible students, with particular relevance for political theology, asceticism and spiritual practice, and fundamental theology.

Area: Systematic and Constructive Theology, Spirituality

THL 8510: Christian Existentialism (Akis)

100% online – Asynchronous

5/28/25-6/25/25 CRN 15085

This course examines Christian existentialism through key concepts such as anxiety, despair, sin, freedom, and the “leap of faith.” Drawing on the writings of Kierkegaard, Tillich, Buber, and Marcel, we will explore how these thinkers address existential challenges in the search for meaning and authenticity. The course encourages students to engage with existential struggles and the search for authenticity while examining how Christian existentialism offers a unique perspective on the human quest for significance.

Area: Spirituality

Language Courses:

Register for language courses using [this form](#)

LAT 7000 - 001 Latin Workshop

CRN: 15049

Days: MTWRF from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in Bartley Hall 032.

Instructors: Collin M. Hilton

Summer Session I

Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate Arts and Sciences

HUM 8000 - 001 German Workshop CRN: 15125

Days: MTWRF from 1:00 pm to 04:00 pm in Online SYN.

Instructors: TBD

Session II

Restrictions: Must be enrolled in one of the following Levels: Graduate Arts and Sciences