

# NEW YORK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

*...continuing The Biblical Seminary in New York*

## MAY/JUNE COURSE LIST 2018

As of: 01/10/18 (Subject to revisions; please check for updates)

- **EARLY** In-Person Registration: Jan. 16, 17, 18 (12:30-5:30pm) at Spring Registration
- Registration: In person: Wed. May 9 (12:30-5:30pm)
- Other dates/times make appointment with the Registrar by **EMAIL ONLY**
- Online: beginning May 1, 9am until day BEFORE a course begins by 3pm-NYTS students only
- By E-Mail- fill out registration form and email to: [lbumgardner@nyts.edu](mailto:lbumgardner@nyts.edu)
- By Fax: fill out registration form and fax to 212-870-1236
- Registration form available for download on Moodle Site News and NYTS Website
- All classes are held at Riverside Church unless otherwise noted  
(Enter at 91 Claremont Ave. between W. 120 & 121 St.; take elevators on the left)
- Contact the Registrar at [lbumgardner@nyts.edu](mailto:lbumgardner@nyts.edu)

### MAY 2018

#### **BBN2422: When We Were Goddesses: 2 Cr.** (Elective)

Implications for Women in Religion: Polytheism to Monotheism

Prof. Eleanor Moody-Shepherd [emoody.shepherd@nyts.edu](mailto:emoody.shepherd@nyts.edu) NYTS Rm. 500, Conf. Rm. A  
May 22, 24, 29 & 31 (6-9:30pm); Sat. May 26, June 2 (8:30am- 4:30pm)

Women in the Abrahamic Traditions have been wondering about their place in religious history. They are questioning when and how women's voices and priestly function were destroyed. Did you know that the first Divine Being was a woman?

A small number of women in some traditions have broken through the "blood-stained ceiling" where they function in a marginalized place. Most of them are without office or agency. In this class we will go on a quest to uncover women's divine heritage, and tradition.

#### **CPE1002: Foundations in Chaplaincy Ministry, 2 Cr.** (elective; non-credit)

Prof. Nancy Fields [nfields@nyts.edu](mailto:nfields@nyts.edu) NYTS Room 500, Conf. Rm. B  
Thursdays (6-9:30pm): May 24, 31; June: 7, 14, 21, 28; July: 5, 12, 19

You must be approved by Dr. Nancy Fields in order to register.

Please contact Dr. Nancy Fields at 212-870-1269 or [nfields@nyts.edu](mailto:nfields@nyts.edu) for approval **BEFORE** registering.

- Group Educational Classes: 3 hours per week
- Individual Session: 10 individual sessions; 30 minutes each
- Clinical Practice in Ministry: 6 hours per week of clinical practice at select clinical placement sites.

## JUNE 2018

### **BBH2413: Women in the First Testament; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Eleanor Moody-Shepherd [emoody.shepherd@nyts.edu](mailto:emoody.shepherd@nyts.edu) Rm. 311  
June 12, 14, 19, 21 (6-9:30pm) & Saturdays June 9, 16, 23 (8am-5pm)

This course will seek to help students understand the role of women in the First Testament as a paradigm for salvation history. The exploration of the text will be through the social, political, and theological perspectives of the time in which they lived. Given those realities, the class will struggle with the church's dilemma in addressing the role of women in the leadership and cultic functions in the contemporary church. Students must read the assigned reading before coming to class, which will be posted on "Moodle" by May 1.

### **BBH3153: Song of Songs: A Love Story; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Jin H. Han [jhan@nyts.edu](mailto:jhan@nyts.edu) Rm. 314  
June 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 (6-9:30pm)

This is an exegetical study of the canonical Song of Songs, also known as the Song of Solomon. An ancient sage, speaking of the great value of the book, says that the whole world is not worth the day when this book was given to Israel. In this course, we will study the ancient figures of speech that speak of human love. We will also explore the multifarious ways in which the book has been interpreted as a discourse of spirituality by rabbinic, medieval and modern commentators. The course will also include research on how the language of the Song is reflected in art and literature.

### **BBN3053: The Shorter Letters of Paul: 3 Cr. (Elective)**

#### *"Thessalonians, Philippians and Philemon"*

Prof. Efrain Agosto [eagosto@nyts.edu](mailto:eagosto@nyts.edu) Rm. 323  
June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20 (6-9:30pm) & Sat. June 23 (8:30am-4:30pm)

While many turn first to Romans, Galatians and Corinthians to understand Paul, it is worth the journey to Northern Greece – Ancient Macedonia – to explore a set of Paul's shorter letters – 1-2 Thessalonians and Philippians – in order to understand him and his followers better, especially as he ministers to these needy communities through the pastoral theology embedded in these letters. In addition, the shortest of his letters, Philemon, written apparently to a local church leader in a less identifiable region, exhibits more of an intended audience than just one person and, therefore, merits careful attention also for its embedded theology and call to justice and reconciliation. Together these four letters will be analyzed in this course for their instruction about Pauline ministry, Pauline theology and the art of writing pastoral letters in earliest Christianity.

### **MMP2823: Women Preaching; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Flora Wilson Bridges [florawilsonbridges2@gmail.com](mailto:florawilsonbridges2@gmail.com) Rm. 330  
June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20 (6-9:30pm) & Sat. June 23 (8:30am-4:30pm)

This class is designed to give students the maximum opportunity to practice crafting and thinking about sermons. We will work together in class and beyond on message, methods and maximum impact for preaching. We will use texts from the Revised Common Lectionary and work on sermons from both Testaments.

**MMU0133: Writing Skills for Theological Education; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Esther Owens [ewovens@nyts.edu](mailto:ewovens@nyts.edu) Rm. 321

Saturdays June 2, 9, 16, 23 (8am-4pm)

This is an intensive writing course designed to give training in the fundamentals of expository and argumentative writing. The main emphasis is on giving students practice in organizing ideas into coherently structured and effective essays, using as a focal point their own unique experiences. Students are encouraged to look deeply into these experiences and to see them from shifting points of view.

In the course, writing is viewed as a means of communication as well as a means of inquiry, a way of thinking. To this end, the course focuses on analyzing the organizational patterns of various modes of writing and of paragraphs in relation to their development of entire essays. Problem-solving strategies for writing and concepts of critical thinking are explored. In addition to an examination of the four basic forms of writing, the research procedure and exegetical approaches are introduced. A study of grammar is incorporated into the study of writing, based on the needs of the students enrolled.

**MPC2623: Group Counseling; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Gary Hellman [www.mindspirit.org](http://www.mindspirit.org) Rm. 240

June 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 (6-9pm) & Sat. June 9 (8:30am-4:30pm)

Today Pastoral Care and Counseling in congregations and in agency settings rely upon and benefit greatly from our understanding of group theory and process. This course will explore the history, theological perspective and process of working with individuals in group contexts and with group experience as a whole. Aspects of group theory and process will be explored through readings, discussions, and in-class group process. A primary goal of the course is to assist students with knowledge of group dynamics leading to more effective leadership in groups in their professional roles.

**MRE2513: Strategies for Effective Teaching; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Kirkpatrick Cohall [kcohall@nyts.edu](mailto:kcohall@nyts.edu) Rm. 318

June 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 (6-9:30pm) & Sat. June 16 (8:30am-4:30pm)

This course will introduce students to a variety of strategies, methods, and techniques for teaching religion and theology in various environments. The course also offers students the opportunity to examine each of these strategies and to evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies for meeting their school and program expectation. Students will acquire a working knowledge of contemporary models of religious education through readings, theoretical analysis, case studies and personal reflection. They will be able to decipher methodologies, theories and models germane to their communities or congregational context that will contribute to social transformation.

**MRL2603: Charitable Organization, Tax Law & Property Finance; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Malcolm Porter Rm. 320

June 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, (6-9:30pm) & Sat. June 9 (8:30am-4:30pm)

Under the U.S. federal tax system for churches and religious organizations are treated similarly, however Churches are distinguished by special rules under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The term church is found, but not specifically defined, in the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The term is not used by all faiths; however, in an attempt to make this publication easy to read, we use it in its generic sense as a place of worship including, for example, mosques and synagogues. With the exception of the special rules for church audits, the use of the term church throughout this publication also includes conventions and associations of churches as well as integrated auxiliaries of a church.

**MYM2003: Youth & Family Ministry; 3 Cr. (Elective)**

Prof. Kathleen Turner [kturnernyts@gmail.com](mailto:kturnernyts@gmail.com) Rm. 316

June 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 (6-9pm); & Sat. June 16 (8:30am-4:30pm)

This course explores how shifting social and cultural dynamics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century have impacted ministry to youth and families in urban communities. Participants will be exposed to various models, theories and practical skills needed to design effective family and youth ministries that are responsive to emergent trends and challenges.

**TTU3243: Theosis:**

**3 Cr. (Elective)**

***“The Possibility, Path & Vertigo of Becoming Participants of the Divine Nature”***

Prof. Humberto Alfaro [halfaro@nyts.edu](mailto:halfaro@nyts.edu) Rm. 411

June 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 (6pm –9:30pm) & Retreat Saturday June 9 (9 am – 9 pm)

The premise of this course is that the idea of becoming participants of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), in spite of terminological diversity and a constellation of interpretations about its particular experiential possibility, never ceased to attract theologians and mystics through two millennia of Christian tradition. In this course, the complex concept of *theosis* is explored in a contemporary biblical and theological context in the light of Eastern and Western traditions. From this perspective, this course scrutinizes the writings of Athanasius, Ephrem the Syrian, Basil the Great, Gregory of Nyssa, Gregory of Nazianzus, Maximus the Confessor, Gregory Palamas, Saint Anselm, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Sergius Bulgakow, and Karl Rahner. Attention is paid to the following questions: What exactly is meant by *theosis* (θέωσις)? What are the origins of the term and the development of the concept in the intellectual history of ideas? Is there a divine promise of human deification implicit in the teaching of Scriptures? What are the constellations of interpretations of *theosis*? What are the possibilities, path and vertigo of *theosis*? What are the contemporary theological, ethical and ministerial problems, if any, with human beings becoming divine? How could a human being become divine without refuting the essential divine-human distinction in classical theological reasoning? What is the ministerial relevance of *theosis* as an experiential possibility? These questions and concerns will be processed, contextualized, and addressed in our exploration of the nature and development of *theosis* as a vision of human wholeness and spiritual transformation within the context of our ministries.

## OTHER COURSES:

### CLINICAL PASTORAL EDUCATION (CPE): Non-Credit

Prof. Nancy Fields

By approval only; contact Dr. Nancy Fields at [nfields@nyts.edu](mailto:nfields@nyts.edu) for approval **BEFORE** you register.

Meets: Fridays (6-9:30pm) & Saturdays (9:30am-3:30pm); NYTS Rm. 500 Conference Rooms

May: 25, 26

June: 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30

July: 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 29

August: 6, 7

## CONFERENCE:

### SMU2923: Religious Leadership in the City: 3 Cr. (Elective)

*“An Urban Ministry Summer Intensive in NYC”*

Prof. Moses O. Biney [mbiney@nyts.edu](mailto:mbiney@nyts.edu)

June 13 (5pm; dinner) to June 21, 2018 (12 Noon) **Dates subject to change**

Interchurch Center (1<sup>st</sup> Fl)

Enter through 61 Claremont Ave. & W. 120 St. (between Broadway & Riverside Dr.)

A city isn't just a place to live, to shop, to go out and have kids play. It's a place that implicates how one derives one's ethics, how one develops a sense of justice, how one learns to talk with and learn from people who are unlike oneself, which is how a human being becomes human.

-- Richard Sennett<sup>1</sup>

An argument I have developed over the years is that cities – our large and mixed and slightly anarchic cities – are places where those without power get to make a history, a culture, an economy.

-- Saskia Sassan<sup>2</sup>

Today, 54 per cent of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 66 per cent by 2050.

-- United Nations<sup>3</sup>

Cities are often portrayed as problems that need to be solved. They are characterized by their aging infrastructures, violence-prone neighborhoods, severe economic disparities, limited resources, and declining religious congregations. We see cities as divine gifts to humanity, fostering creativity and containing resources for their own renewal even as they offer abundant opportunities for service.

Beginning with the notion that cities are places of great capacity, we will spend one intensive week exploring how faith-based communities on the ground can become part of the larger ecology of ministry and learning. We will be especially attentive to how members of faith-based communities in urban contexts learn to adapt, innovate, and create new models of leadership that benefit and empower members to thrive in changing urban contexts. Through interactive seminars and field study in churches and other

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<sup>1</sup> “The Civitas of Seeing,” *Places: A Quarterly Journal of Environmental Design* 5:4 (1989), 84.

<sup>2</sup> “Right to the City,” *The Global Urbanist*, accessed online at <http://globalurbanist.com/2014/12/03/saskia-sassen-right-to-the-city>,

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, “World's population increasingly urban with more than half living in urban areas,” accessed online at <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html>

faith-based centers, participants will look at how religion or spirituality is part of the very fabric of urban life. By focusing on key elements of religious leadership in the city, participants will explore how faith leaders can develop organizational perspectives that are relevant to their situation, derive new theological insights, and become more effective agents of change.

Questions that will guide us through the journey:

- What is “the urban” and what is it about the urban context and its changing nature that faith communities in particular should understand?
- What do congregations and other faith communities add to the quality of life of urban communities?
- What models of leadership and accompanying skill sets are necessary to promote contextual effectiveness in urban congregations and positive change and in rapidly changing urban environments?
- What can we learn from other regional and global cities?
- What does theology look like in and for the twenty-first century urban reality?

The week-long course will consist of morning plenary sessions with faculty and presentations from several disciplines, and afternoon field work experience in various local faith communities. Most evenings will offer free time for participants to study, enjoy the city, or participate in local events at the various faith communities. On two evenings everyone will be invited to join in a common meal at a selected location.

Participants will be assigned to a faith community for the week and will be expected to attend at least one worship or meditation session (depending on faith tradition) at the site.

“Religious Leadership in the City” is designed for students in theological education, lay professionals, and anyone interested in learning about religion and spirituality in the city. The course is offered for 3 credits at the master’s level for students at NYTS or part of the New York Theological Consortium, and for Continuing Education for those not currently pursuing a degree (appropriate tuition and fees apply). Students from other theological schools are invited to participate for a \$150 participant fee.

The course opens Wednesday evening, June 13, at 5 pm with dinner and concludes at 12 noon on June 21.

Accommodation for participants who seek housing is available at Manhattan School of Music located on 122<sup>nd</sup> Street between Broadway and Claremont Avenue (two blocks from NYTS). Rates are \$85 per-day for single rooms and \$75 per-day for double rooms, with shared showers and bathroom facilities. Fee includes bed linen and towels, with one changing during the week. Reservations must be made by April 1 with a 50% deposit (prices subject to change).

NYTS is easily accessible to and from all major New York City airports and Penn Station (Amtrak). Participants should plan to travel around New York City by public transportation. MetroCards for subway or bus fare are \$31 for one week unlimited travel, or \$2.75 per trip (subject to possible fare hike).

A light breakfast will be provided each day at NYTS. Participants will be on their own most days for lunch and/or dinner (except for the two common evening meals).

All participants are invited to attend the annual NYTS Masters of Professional Studies degree commencement service inside Sing Sing Correctional Facility on Wednesday, June 13, at 11:00 am. Those wishing to visit Sing Sing must register before April 1.

For more information contact Dr. Moses Biney at [mbiney@nyts.edu](mailto:mbiney@nyts.edu)

## **SUPERVISED MINISTRY:**

Prof. Nancy Fields     [nfields@nyts.edu](mailto:nfields@nyts.edu)

Meets: June 1 to Aug. 31, 2018

Offered as independent study throughout the summer by approval only; contact Dr. Nancy Fields at [nfields@nyts.edu](mailto:nfields@nyts.edu) for approval **BEFORE** you register.

SMN1002: Supervised Ministry 1; 2 Cr. Yr. C, Required

SMN2002: Supervised Ministry 2; 2 Cr. Yr. C, Required

SMN3002: Supervised Ministry 3; 2 Cr. Yr. D, Required

SMN4002: Supervised Ministry 4; 2 Cr. Yr. D, Required