

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT
SUMMER 2026

Courses as of 2/25/26 – Please continue to check Master Schedule for latest updates.

THL 8115 THM: NEGLECTED NT TEXTS (Peter Spitaler)
M/R 4:00-6:00pm Online Mix of SYN & ASYN (7/1/26-7/29/26)

This seminar explores several often-overlooked writings of the New Testament—James, Jude, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 2 John, 3 John, and Hebrews—with sustained attention to their distinctive voices, rhetorical strategies, and theological claims. Rather than treating these texts as peripheral to “Pauline” or “Gospel-centered” accounts of early Christianity, the course approaches them as primary witnesses to diverse communities negotiating identity, authority, ethics, suffering, and scriptural interpretation in the late first and early second centuries. Students will engage major scholarly debates on authorship and pseudonymity, audience reconstruction, genre and intertextuality, and the use of Israel’s Scriptures and Second Temple traditions. Close reading of the text will be paired with secondary literature to develop skills in exegesis, argument analysis, and methodological self-awareness. Particular focus will fall on how these writings frame moral formation and communal practices (James), boundary-making and contested authority (2–3 John; Jude), suffering and social marginality (1 Peter), memory, tradition, and eschatological urgency (2 Peter), and Christological confession and scriptural reasoning (Hebrews). Throughout, the seminar asks what becomes visible about early Christian thought and life when these “neglected” texts are read on their own terms, and how they reshape broader narratives of New Testament theology and reception.

Area: Bible

THL 8290 THM: THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF FAITH (Yasemin Akis)
MTWR 8:30-10:50am Online Mix of SYN & ASYC (6/1/26-6/29/26)

This graduate seminar investigates faith as a mode of existence through phenomenological attention to lived experience. With Kierkegaard as our primary guide, the course examines how believing unfolds amid anxiety, vulnerability, and the risk of decision, and how such experiences shape the individual’s relation to God. Readings from phenomenological thinkers such as Heidegger, Merleau-Ponty, and Levinas deepen this inquiry by attending to how faith is embodied, lived in relation to others, and marked by openness to transcendence. Rather than treating faith primarily as doctrine or belief-content, the seminar emphasizes careful description of how faith is experienced, sustained, and tested in existence, asking what a phenomenology of faith makes visible about religious existence itself.

Area: Systematics/Constructive

THL 8320 THM: FRIENDSHIP AND FORGIVENESS (Timothy Hanchin)
MTWR 12:30-2:50pm Online Mix of SYN & ASYN (6/1/26-6/29/26)

The social psychologist Jonathan Haidt uses the story of Babel as a metaphor for the fracturing of contemporary American society. We are disoriented by a rupture of shared

reality, leaving us unable to speak the same language or recognize the same truth. We experience the fragmentation of everything. We often no longer even realize that what we hold in common far outweighs whatever divides us.

This course suggests the transformation of friendship that our hearts need. Bernard Lonergan, perhaps the 20th century's most influential Catholic theologian, crowns his soteriology with the analogy of friendship. This course situates Lonergan's contribution to the current questions in soteriology and social ethics. These questions reflect a valid ethical concern, articulated by liberation, feminist, *mujerista*, and womanist theologies, that classical accounts of atonement (such as Anselm's) are prone to abusive interpretations of the cross. Lonergan's soteriology offers an occasion to reconsider Christian authenticity, conversion, and forgiveness—from the foot of the cross—as a christomorphic falling into friendship with God. In addition, this course examines practices of friendship - including forgiveness - that animate our friendship with God. Christian friendship, while not a panacea, may provide a wellspring of reconciliation and healing for a splintered world. Moreover, a theological understanding of friendship and forgiveness invites new practical insight into the Paschal Mystery. The pedagogy of this course is collaborative and conversational. Students are invited to engage course content through their educational and ministerial praxes.

Area: Systematics/Constructive and Ethics

THL 8560 THM: ART, IMAGINATION, EPIPHANY (Kevin Hughes)

TWR1:00-3:00pm Online Mix of SYN & ASYN (7/1/26-7/29/26)

Beginning with an exploration of “the theological imagination” with Judith Wolfe, Vittorio Montemaggi, William Desmond, and others, this course will then focus on visual art as a locus for theological engagement. The center of gravity for our inquiry will be on visual art from the Gothic into the Baroque and Early Modern periods, from Giotto to Caravaggio and beyond, but we will reach into the medium of sculpture (Bernini, Rodin) and later periods of painting (Van Gogh, Rouault, Chagall). As a framing question, my current research exploring the possibilities and limits of art-as-mystical-text will give us room to ask “how is the sacred revealed in visual art?” While this is a course, in a sense, in *theological aesthetics*, it differs from some such studies in putting the study of the art itself and so in developing our interpretive skills in “reading” paintings in the forefront of our inquiry. The course will be 100% online, mix of synchronous and asynchronous work. We will meet TWR online discussing both texts and artifacts in real time. Then the “long weekends” will give an opportunity to deepen your knowledge asynchronously with further reading and weekly online discussion board and journal posts, and to develop your own research question, the fruit of which will be a short (15 minute) research presentation in the last week.

Area: Spirituality & Systematics/Constructive

Language Courses:

LAT 7050 - 001 Attic Greek Workshop CRN: 11593

Days: MTWRF from 10:00am – 2:00PM - Barley Hall Room 032

Instructors: Collin Hilton

Session I

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

HUM 8000 - 001 German Workshop CRN: 11595

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

Instructors: Meredith Hacking

Session II

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