

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR SPRING SEMESTER 2024

**AARS 530 Preaching Methods in the African American Tradition:** Preaching is vital to the worship context in the African American tradition. Through rigorous biblical criticism, cultural relevance, and a homiletic approach, preaching goes through several reviews before the preacher proclaims the message. This course will examine the varied ways to move from scripture to sermon. Students will commit to a preselected text for the semester and preach in class using the different methods. This will allow students to know other preaching ways to better assist them in preaching.

**CH 503 The Apostolic Fathers:** This course will deal with the Christian theologians and leaders of the 1st and 2nd centuries after the time of Christ and His Apostles. Students will study their historical settings, biographical backgrounds, and writings. The course will cover the intellectual and spiritual contributions and relevance to the Christian Church today. Emphasis is on the writings and lives of Ignatius of Antioch, Clement of Rome, and Polycarp of Smyrna. Students will study the Didache, next to the New Testament, the oldest known Christian manual of church life. Also, as time permits, we will explore the Epistle of Diognetus, the Epistle of Barnabas, and the Shepherd of Hermas. This course will focus its study only on the orthodox Christian theological writers and not on the copious Gnostic heretical texts that circulated concurrently at that time.

**NT 502 Book Study—Matthew:** Students will inductively examine the first Gospel and study the background context, the author's purpose, the literary structure, and the theological themes. They will also conduct a theological study of Jesus and a comparison and contrasts with the Synoptic Gospel. Finally, the class will seek to identify contemporary relevance of the Gospel.

**OT 502 Historical Books:** This course studies Joshua through Esther, emphasizing the nature and purpose of the Old Testament histories. The introduction, content survey, archaeological and geographical backgrounds, and the biblical theology of the historical books are all examined. Issues of chronology and modern critical theories are evaluated by carefully studying the Scriptures themselves, developing a thorough appreciation for the reliability and accuracy of narrative histories.

**PT 701 Public Worship (Spiritual Formation):** These courses focus on spiritual formation—the process and practices by which a person progresses in one's *spiritual* life. Students will become familiar with the Daily Office, Collects, and the Great Litany in the Book of Common Prayer.

**PT 718 World Religion:** This course introduces major religious traditions. Topics include Primal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. Upon completion, students should be able to identify the origins, history, beliefs, and practices of the religions studied. Major topics include the role of women in various religions, the relationship between religion and science, and the involvement of religion in world peace and the preservation of the environment.

**ST 634 The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion:** This course gives the student an intensive overview of one of the primary theological platforms of the Protestant Reformation. It permits a review of the theology courses previously taken through the lens of the Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, considered historically and dogmatically. As the formal confessional document of the Church of England and the Reformed Episcopal Church, the Articles are of special importance to those preparing for ministry in the Reformed Episcopal Church. Still, their study of them will provide valuable theological reflection for students of all Protestant confessional churches.

### **Enrichment Course**

**Survey of New Testament:** This course gives students a general introduction to the New Testament writings. Students will study each book's authorship, date, historical context, occasion, structure, and purpose to gain knowledge of Christ's life, the church's establishment, and the teachings concerning the believer's faith and practice. This course is *NOT* for credit; it is for information and understanding.