

## **GDR – Spring 2016 Course Atlas**

### **RLE 701R – Questions of War**

**Tuesday, 2:30-5:30**

**Dr. Ellen Ott Marshall**

Traditionally, ethicists refer to the debate over the moral justification of war as “the question of war.” This course includes writings by Bonhoeffer, Reinhold Niebuhr, John Howard Yoder, Stanley Hauerwas, Jean Bethke Elshtain, and Michael Walzer to discuss the moral justification. Increasingly, however, ethicists find themselves addressing multiple questions of war. For this reason, “Questions of War” in the spring of 2016 will also examine contemporary issues, such as the use of torture, drones, genocide and humanitarian intervention, moral injury and trauma, and the reality of child soldiers.

### **RLHB 720 - Exodus: Text and Interpretation**

**Thursday, 9:30-12:30**

**Dr. Brent A. Strawn**

The course is a study of the book of Exodus focusing on matters of text, translation, and interpretation with primary attention paid to the first half of the book.

### **RLHT 735 - Topics in American Religious History: The 1960s**

**Thursday, 10:00-1:00**

**Dr. Gary Laderman**

This seminar will explore the cultural and social dimensions of religion in this pivotal decade in American history.

### **RLL 701a – Akkadian**

**Friday, 9:30-11:00**

**Dr. Joel LeMon**

The course is a basic study of the Akkadian language spanning two semesters. At the conclusion of the second semester, students will be able to read transliterated literary texts in Standard Babylonian with the help of a dictionary. Through the course of both semesters, the students will encounter the basic principles of Sumerian grammar. Students will also be equipped to navigate peripheral dialects of Akkadian. The students will also be able to grasp the essential elements of the Akkadian orthographic system.

### **RLNT 760 - New Testament and Theology**

**Wednesday, 9:00-12:00**

**Dr. Luke Timothy Johnson**

In recent decades talk of “practice” has swirled through multiple academic discourses: anthropology, sociology, philosophy, literature, history, and every discipline and field associated with studies in religion and theology. Emphasis on practice has brought new attention to the quotidian, the performed, and the material. It has illuminated embodied forms of knowing and reinvigorated language of virtue. It has helped subjugated discourses to find voices, and it has stressed the importance of culture and community. It has reoriented the field of practical theology and helped scholars, students, religious leaders and lay people rediscover faith as a way of life. Talk of practice has also produced much confusion. “Practice” has become a word to conjure with, and so a word that different people use in very different ways – often without awareness of the differences or the choices implicit in their own use. In this seminar we will parse some of the most important forms of talk about practice that currently circulate in the fields associated with theological and religious studies. We will trace their roots in sociology, anthropology, and moral philosophy. Members of the seminar will read texts together to construct genealogies of theories of practice. The seminar will then provide opportunities to develop theories of practice in two different directions: in the study of the lived religion of some community, past or present, and in relation to important literature in each member’s field of study. Developing theories of practice in these directions involves more than simply applying them. It involves creating generative, reciprocal, and critical relationships in which the theories gain depth and rigor even as they illumine academic fields and concrete situations.

### **RLNT 771 – History of New Testament Interpretation II (Reformation to the Present)**

**Monday, 1:30-4:30**

**Dr. Vernon K. Robbins**

This seminar covers interpretation of the New Testament from the sixteenth century to the present. It will begin with an exploration of forces at work in New Testament interpretation during the Protestant Reformation, the Catholic Counter Reformation, and new developments during the eighteenth century. After this, it will investigate the nineteenth and twentieth century contexts of analysis and interpretation of history, myth, philosophical truth, and biblical theology in which the literary-historical methods of text, source, form, tradition, and redaction criticism emerged. Then the seminar will turn to late twentieth century and current twenty-first century modes and methods for interpreting the New Testament. An overall goal of the seminar is to gain an understanding of the contexts that gave rise to literary-historical approaches and to assess their relation to additional approaches that emerged during the last four decades of analysis and interpretation. Participants in the seminar will read secondary sources as guides to primary interpretive literature. The emphasis, however, will be on primary interpretive sources. Specific examples of interpretation will be especially important.

Texts:

William Baird, *History of New Testament Research*, Volumes 1-2

Werner Georg Kümmel, *Introduction to the New Testament*.

Werner Georg Kümmel, *The New Testament: the history of the investigation of its problems*.

Wayne A. Meeks, *Writings of St. Paul*

Magnus Zetterholm, *Approaches to Paul: A Student’s Guide to Recent Scholarship*

Rudolf Bultmann, *The History of the Synoptic Tradition*

Heiki Raisanen, *Beyond New Testament Theology* (Second edition, 2000)

John K. Riches, *A Century of New Testament Study*

Vernon K. Robbins, *The Tapestry of Early Christian Discourse*

Albert Schweitzer, *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*

Anthony C. Thiselton, *New Horizons in Hermeneutics*

You will be sent a more official book list with ISBN numbers once you have registered for the course. Particulars: Seminar participants will write short weekly reports on the history of the interpretation of various NT writings through the centuries from the Reformation to the present. These will be expanded, revised, and incorporated into a final paper.

**RLR 700 – Topics in Religion / ICIVS 710**  
**Historiography and the Study of Islam**  
**Thursday, 1:00-4:00**  
**Dr. Vincent J. Cornell**

This course is an introduction to the “New Historiography” as it applies to Islamic Studies. Students will be introduced to the most important historiographers in this field including R. G. Collingwood, Marc Bloch and the Annales school, Jan Vansina’s work on the historiography of oral tradition, and theorists of the “linguistic turn,” such as Hayden White. The second half of the course is a critical introduction to the historiographical methods applied by Muslim historians and historians of Islam.

**RLR 700 – Topics in Religion**  
**Interfaith Spiritual Care**  
**Wednesday, 2:00-5:00**  
**Dr. Emmanuel Y. Lartey**

Can a Hindu provide spiritual care to a Muslim without damage to either faith tradition? How may a Christian engage in spiritual care of a Buddhist? How can participants of one religious tradition offer spiritual care that is respectful to members of a different faith tradition? This course will explore the nature of spiritual care as conceived of and practiced in Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Buddhist, Hindu and African religious cultures. We shall examine how inter-religious interaction may be engaged in service of spiritual care across religious traditions.

**RLR 700 – Topics in Religion**  
**Introduction to the Study of Religious Practices**  
**Wednesday, 9:00-12:00**

**RLR 700 – Topics in Religion**  
**Proclamation Language and Popular Culture**  
**Thursday, 9:00-12:00**  
**Dr. Teresa Fry Brown**

Study of the usage of faith language in proclamation and the influence of popular culture genres on listeners' reception or rejection of the preached message.

**RLR 700 – Topics in Religion**  
**Qualitative Research Methods**  
**Thursday, 2:30-5:30**  
**Dr. Karen D. Scheib**

This course primarily examines qualitative research methods with some introduction to quantitative, and mixed methods approaches in practical theology and social scientific research. Attention is given to the ethical dimensions of research and as a vehicle of social action. Course assignments provide opportunities for students to integrate theory and practice in the construction of a viable research proposal.

**RLR 700 – Topics in Religion**  
**Religion, Suffering and Healing: Ethnographic Approaches**  
**Tuesday, 8:30-11:30**  
**Dr. Don Seeman**

What role does religion and religious practices play in suffering, illness and healing? We will consider both classic ethnographic accounts like those of Victor Turner and more recent theorizing on the relationship between ethnography and religious bioethics, Pentecostal healing and the global AIDS pandemic. This course will be of interest to students of medical anthropology, ritual theory, ethics and contemplative studies.

**RLTS 750 – Philosophical Theology**  
**Thursday, 1:00-4:00**  
**Dr. Wendy Farley**

Different practices and social locations produce distinctive epistemological styles and criteria. Philosophical theology is typically governed neither by simple appeals to authority nor by complete exteriority to historically concrete wisdom traditions. This course will explore representative ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary philosophical theologians, with particular attention to ways in which philosophical modes of thought can contribute to religious innovation and social critique.