



**The
Lutheran Theological
Seminary at Philadelphia**

Advanced-Level Degree Programs

PhD Courses

2011-2013

2011-2012 Academic Year

August 2011

PhD Comprehensive Exams – August 24, 26, 29, and 31 – second year students

PhD orientation -- August 29-September 1-- incoming students

Fall Semester 2011

PhD Seminar in Public Theology, Dr. Sebastian

This integrative seminar relates theological discourse to the public arena. The public aspect of the various disciplines--history, Bible, theology, ministry--will be related to issues arising from the analysis of the contemporary public situation. The seminar will cover such issues as communicating theology in the public arena, theology and social ethical issues, practical application of theology in everyday life and in contemporary society, relation of theology to other disciplines, theology and culture, engaging other religious traditions, etc. (R)

PhD/STM seminar-- The Theology of the Cross: The New Testament and Beyond, Dr. Heen

In the Heidelberg Disputation of 1518 Luther contrasted a "theologian of the cross" with a "theologian of glory". In doing so he gave impetus to a trajectory often referred to as a "theology of the cross". The course explores the relationship of this tradition to Scripture by means of close readings of New Testament texts set in dialogue with Reformation and post-Reformation readings that have acknowledged the cross to be revelatory of God. The seminar will identify pastoral and hermeneutical resources for the contemporary church that emerge out of this study of both foundational (New Testament) and later articulations of "the theology of the cross". (ST, HT)

PhD/STM seminar--Communicating the Word, Dr. Krych

Exploration of theologians of the 20th and 21st centuries who focus on communicating the Word of God through preaching and teaching, with implications for contemporary theology and practice of ministry. PhD participants are encouraged to use readings from the comprehensive examination booklists. (TMM, CT)

January 2012

PhD Teaching Seminar (required for first-year PhD students)-- Dr. Krych

This seminar will explore methods of teaching in higher education settings, such as colleges and seminaries. The seminar prepares for teaching assistant responsibilities that are a required part of the PhD program. Non-credit bi-weekly workshops will follow to continue reflection on teaching and research throughout the rest of the first and the second years. (R)

Spring 2012

PhD/STM seminar --The Heritage of Reformation Hermeneutics: From Biblical Theology to Biblical Criticism and Back Again, Dr. Heen

An examination of biblical theologies of churches that are heirs of the Reformation through various pre-modern (e.g., protestant orthodoxy), modern (e.g., the literalism of common sense realism; neo-Lutheranism), and post-modern (e.g., reader-response) configurations. Attention will be given to the effect of larger shifts in scientific, academic, and popular culture upon the understanding of the nature and role of Scripture in the theological enterprise. The rise of higher criticism, especially historical-criticism, and its effect upon the discipline of biblical theology is assessed as well as possibilities for a re-configuration of the role of biblical studies for the public work of the church in the twenty-first century. (ST, HT)

PhD/STM seminar—Scriptures of the World and Interreligious Hermeneutics, Dr. Rajashekar

An exploration of the dynamics of scriptures and their function in the life of religious communities. The seminar will examine the phenomenology and the evolution of the concept of scripture; their authority, power, inspiration and ritual use; and methods of textual interpretation. Sacred scriptures will be reviewed from a comparative perspective, identifying distinctive elements in *selected* scriptural traditions (Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism). (CT, ST)

STM/DMin Upgrade—Reading Scripture in Ancient Judaism, Dr. Wil Gafney

This course will explore rabbinic Jewish exegesis in the first through fourth centuries. We will explore early rabbinic readings of the Exodus story, Passover and selected passages from the Torah and Prophets. We will become acquainted with extra-biblical Jewish sacred literature in the Mishnah, Talmud and midrash. And, we will pay some attention to the role of classical exegesis in contemporary Judaism. Knowledge of Biblical Hebrew is helpful but not required. (ST)

ST= scriptural theology, HT= historical theology, CT= contemporary theology, TMM= theology for ministry/mission, R= Required (Public Theology, Research Methodology, Teaching Seminar)
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Plus PhD courses at UPenn, Temple, Princeton, Westminster --See Graduate School office.

For further information on courses, email Dr. David Grafton,
Director of Graduate Studies, at
advanced@Ltspp.edu or call 215-248-6347.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
7301 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19119
<http://www.Ltsp.edu>
The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia
Advanced Level Degree Programs

PhD courses 2012-2013 Academic Year

August 2012

PhD Comprehensive Exams – August 22, 24, 27 and 29 – (second year students)

PhD orientation -- August 27-31--For new students

Fall Semester 2012

PhD seminar--Scriptural Theology Seminar, Dr. Robinson

Describing writings as scripture signifies a special status and function for those works within communities of faith. This course will examine the historical development of doctrines of scripture, the various ways in which the authority of scriptural writings has been understood, the implications of scriptural status for strategies of interpretation, and the relationship between the authority of the scripture within a community of faith and within the larger realm of public discourse. Primary focus will be on the biblical tradition but other scriptural traditions will be considered as well. (ST)

PhD seminar--Readings in Reformation History and Theology, Dr. Wengert

This course will provide an analysis of a major figure (e.g., Luther, Melancthon, Calvin, Zwingli, Bucer), event (e.g., Peasants' War, 1530 Diet of Augsburg), and/or movement (late-medieval scholasticism; Anabaptism; confessionalization) of the Reformation. Students will be encouraged to link their research to the historical, theological and social contexts of the time. (HT)

PhD/STM seminar –Post Colonial Readings of the Bible, Dr. Sebastian
Course description forthcoming. (CT, TMM, ST)

January 2013

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Spring 2013

PhD/STM seminar --TBA

PhD/STM seminar --Trinitarian Theology, Dr. Hoffmeyer

An examination of the classical development and contemporary revitalization of the doctrine of the Trinity, with an emphasis on using the doctrine of the Trinity as a lens for focusing theological and ethical reflection in church and world today. (CT)

PhD/STM seminar --Research Methods, Dr. M. Sebastian

A thorough examination of the variety of research methodologies available for STM theses and PhD dissertations in scriptural/theological/historical/social-ethical disciplines. Special attention will be given to the actual theses and dissertations being proposed by the participants. (R)

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