

Theoretical Courses

RA-113 Art As Worship, Worship As Art

Exploration of the relationships between art-making as a spiritual discipline, using art as a focus for personal devotion, incorporating art forms into corporate worship, and seeing corporate worship itself as a form of art.

2 credit hours

Fall 2017 D. Sokolove

RA-122 Picturing the Church: Two Millennia of Art and Architecture

A survey of Christian art and architecture from the earliest evidence to present trends.

2 credit hours

Spring 2017 D. Sokolove

RA-128: The Arts and the Need of the World

Exploration of how the arts are integral to individual and communal self-understanding and spiritual development; use of the arts in social movements; possibilities for congregations and individuals to include the arts in their service to the world.

2 credits

Spring 2019 Sokolove/Guenther

RA-153 Art for God's Sake: Art, Visual Culture, and Christian Understanding

Investigate the ways that art has been used in shaping Christian faith, understandings and attitudes.

Definitions and explorations of aesthetics, art theory, and the function of fine art, popular art and devotional art in the church and the wider society.

2 credit hours

Spring 2018 D. Sokolove

Music

RA-130 Chapel Choir

Participation in singing for community worship; reflection on the role of church music in Christian worship. Requires participation in Tuesday community Chapel services. May be taken six semesters for credit.

1 credit hour

Fall and Spring semesters E. Guenther

Current Catalog Listing



RA-133 Greatest Hits of Sacred Music

Focusing on some of the most popular works of sacred music including Handel's *Messiah*, masterpieces by Bach, Haydn and others, we will focus on the power of the music and the relationship between notes themselves and the biblical sources.

2 credit hours

Spring 2018 E. Guenther
Fall 2019 E. Guenther
Summer 2021 E. Guenther

RA-135 Music Skills for the Local Church

The basics of music for pastors and others in local church ministry. Music reading, terminology, listening drills, singing of hymn tunes and basic sight reading. This course is intended for those who have little or no previous musical experience.

2 credit hours

Summer 2019 E. Guenther
Spring 2021 E. Guenther

RA-136 Songs of Zion: Spirituals in the Life of The Church

The heritage of the African-American spiritual and its manifold presence in the contemporary church; theological themes of the spiritual and the nuances of translating those themes into music; strategies for the effective use of the Songs of Zion in contemporary worship.

2 credit hours

Summer 2018 E. Guenther
Spring 2020 E. Guenther
Fall 2021 E. Guenther

RA-137 Lift Every Voice: Exploring Congregational Song

Examines the United Methodist Hymnal and hymnals from other major Protestant denominations, focusing on diverse cultural traditions that are part of today's worship.

2 credit hours

Spring 2019 E. Guenther
Fall 2020 E. Guenther
Summer 2022 E. Guenther

RA-138 Music and Social Justice

The role of music in causes of peace and justice and the particular works (from hymns to major oratorios) that address themselves to these issues.

2 credit hours

Fall 2017 E. Guenther
Fall 2018 E. Guenther
Summer 2020 E. Guenther
Spring 2022 E. Guenther

Current Catalog Listing



Dramatic and Literary Arts

RA-142 Theological Themes in Fiction

Twentieth century literature's affirmation, criticism and revision of basic Christian themes: faith, love and family relationships, life and death, sin and grace, the church, clergy and scriptural teaching.

2 credit hours

Spring 2020 K. Staudt

RA-144 Scripture in Literature

An exploration of how writers from different times, places, and cultural perspectives have retold and reinterpreted stories from scripture; including John Milton, Renita Williams, Frederick Buechner, Lucille Clifton, Denise Levertov, Margaret Atwood, James Weldon Johnson and others.

2 credit hours

Spring 2018 K. Staudt

RA-146 Poetry as Spiritual Practice

The practices of reading and writing poetry as ways of seeing and of being in the world. Contemporary and classic Christian poetry, the poetry of the Psalms, and the relationship between reading, writing, form and discipline in poetic practice. Writing workshops, papers and presentations on particular poetic voices, experiments with reading and writing students' own poetry.

2 credit hours

Spring 2019 K. Staudt

RA-173 Performing Scripture

Hands-on Exploration, experimentation, instruction, interpretation, comparison and coaching in the internalization and performance of scripture for worship, education, pastoral care, Bible study, evangelism, missions and spiritual formation including an increase in biblical repertoire for use by the greater Wesley community as well as local congregations, both currently and in future ministry. *2 credit hours*

Spring 2018 T. Radosevic

Fall 2020 T. Radosevic

RA-175 Biblical Storytelling

An exploration of biblical storytelling – traditional oral presentations, electronic renderings, and a combination of the two – in various ministry settings in the context of our digital culture, including the role and practice of biblical storytelling.

2 credit hours

Summer 2017 T. Radosevic

Summer 2018 T. Radosevic

Spring 2019 T. Radosevic

Summer 2019 T. Radosevic

Summer 2020 T. Radosevic

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RA-176 The Rest of the Story: Parables and Parallel Stories

An exploration of the power of narrative in Hebrew and Christian scriptures, other complementary texts, and personal faith journeys – particularly when experienced as performance in tandem with each other – for biblical understanding and spiritual formation.

2 credit hours

Fall 2018 T. Radosevic

Spring 2020 T. Radosevic

RA-177 The Word Made Flesh: Making Scripture Seen and Heard

An exploration of variations in scripture presentation for worship and education – embodied storytelling, photography, traditional visual arts, screen projection, music – as a visceral experience of these sacred stories.

2 credit hours

Fall 2017 T. Radosevic

Fall 2019 T. Radosevic

RA-178 Drama for Ministry: Improvisation and Bibliodrama

Improvisational techniques and bibliodrama exercises for use in church or ministry settings and for pastoral development. Includes imaginative exploration of biblical narratives and role playing from biblical and theological sources.

2 credit hours

RA-188 Tools for Drama in Ministry

Basic theatre techniques for application in church and ministry settings. Includes improvisation, role playing from biblical sources, choral presentation of scripture, and performance of an original short liturgical drama. Reading includes essays in performance theory and biblical storytelling, as well as selected plays. No prior experience in drama necessary.

2 credit hours

Spring 2018 D. Davis

RA-189 Writing for Drama in Worship

Playwriting techniques for short dramas from biblical/theological texts designed for worship.

2 credit hours

RA-191 T.S. Elliot and the Search for God

This course explores the spiritual quest as depicted in the poems, plays, and essays of the twentieth century's greatest poet. From the spiritual desolation of "The Waste Land" to the Christian vision of time, eternity, incarnation, and redemption in "Four Quartets," Eliot maps the spiritual quest in prescient ways - engaging postmodern relativism and secularism; the struggle between faith and doubt; the desire for private revelation; and pluralism. Ultimately, Eliot discovers God in a sacramental faith grounded in the 'hints and guesses' of Incarnation. 'The rest,' as he writes in "The Dry Salvages," 'is prayer, observance, discipline, thought and action.' Students will closely read, analyze, and discuss Eliot's major works, exploring connections between his depiction of the spiritual quest and today's postmodern "seeker" culture. They will examine how poetry, in its use of metaphor, symbol, and analogy, functions as an alternate language for theology, pointing toward

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a revelation of love that ultimately exceeds our capacity for reason and analysis. Course work includes written essays, online reflections, in-class discussion, and participation in a dramatic reading of “The Waste Land” (no prior experience required).

2 credit hours

Summer 2017 D. Davis

RA-281 A Spiritual Journey through the *Divine Comedy*

Exploration of theological, moral, and social themes in the greatest poem in Christian literature, with specific application to the spiritual journeys of course participants.

2 credits

Dance

RA-121-0 Liturgical Dance as Spiritual Practice

Instilling spiritual practices, discipline, and understanding one’s purpose in life with liturgical dance. This class will allow students to understand how spiritual practices create a pathway for liturgical dance to be a spiritual discipline. They will also learn how spiritual practices play an intricate role in crafting a liturgical piece, and how to incorporate these spiritual practices into daily life and/or ministries, as well as gain a deeper understanding of the role that liturgical dance plays in worship.

1 credit hour

Summer 2017 J. Hoover

RA-196 Liturgical Dance Theory & Practice

A biblical, theological, spiritual and practical overview of dance in Christian worship and reflective consideration of the evolution of the art form. Emphasis on best practices for ministry that assist the dancer in the creative process and instill an ethos for discipleship.

2 credit hour

Summer 2018 J. Hoover

RA-197 Embodied Theology: Shaping Transformative Liturgical Dance

An introduction to body theology and its impact on sacred artistry. An opportunity to explore theological themes such as faith, reconciliation, love and forgiveness as powerful shapers of liturgical dance.

2 credit hour

Fall 2017 J. Hoover

RA-198 Embodied Prayer: Dancing into Wholeness with God

An exploration of prayer practices that integrate the body with heart, mind and spirit for sustaining creative ministries. The practice of movement and beginner dance forms to help ministers-in-training claim “body wisdom” for inspired leadership.

2 credits

Spring 2018 K. Sparks

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Visual Arts

RA-109 Chapel Visuals

Principles of design and visual proclamation for an architectural setting through collaborative work with other students and the Chapel Elder to plan, design, and execute paraments, banners and other visual materials for community worship in Oxnam Chapel, taking into account the liturgical calendar, lectionary readings and special celebrations that occur during the semester. *2 credit hours*

Fall 2017 A. Gray

Spring 2018 A. Gray

RA-112 The Holy in Washington, D.C. Art: Art as Embodiment

Theological themes and major styles of art encountered through studio lectures, slide presentations, and field trips to this city's painting, sculpture, manuscript illumination, icons, and stained glass. Application of learnings to local church.

2 credit hours

RA-114 Ecclesiastical Design and Construction: Art as Proclamation

Seeing church environments critically; programming visual initiatives; utilize visual symbols; experience contemporary religious works on-site; designing and, where possible constructing student's choice of paraments, vestments, banners, site specific work, and graphics.

2 credit hours

RA-152 Contemplative Drawing: Nurturing the Spiritual Self

Stimulate prophetic imagination through seeing, drawing, being. Explore creative process in relationship to spiritual formation. Left-hemispheric verbal, logical, and analytical processing integrated with right-hemispheric spatial, intuitive processing. Especially for non-artists. Evaluation on process rather than product.

2 credit hours

RA-230 Elements of Design: Reaching a Visual Culture

Basic design for ministry in the local church for worship, Christian education, and church publications. Issues of effective communication, accessibility, and copyright in digital media, print media, photography, and other visual applications.

2 credit hours

RA-295 Arts Practicum

Individual projects with theological focus in student's choice of medium such as paint, fabric (vestments, banners, tapestry), clay, wood, calligraphy, photography, poetry, dance, etc. Students unacquainted with dynamics of creative process in relationship to spiritual formation (art as meditation) and unacquainted with non-verbal expressions of Christian proclamation encouraged to participate. May be repeated once for credit. Pass/Fail only.

1 credit hour

Every Fall and Spring Artists-in-Residence