

**PALMER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
WEST VIRGINIA M.DIV. PROGRAM
SUMMER 2023 AND FALL 2023 COURSE OFFERINGS**

**SUMMER I, 2023
May 15, 2023 to July 2, 2023**

**PRMN 635D Jesus, "Just Us" (Justice), Joy
3 credits. Dr. Tokunbo Adelekan**

One week intensive at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: May 22 – 26

Creative, compassionate, social engagement is essential to every healthy democratic society. Yet, persecution, injustice and abuse still run rampant – threatening the fabric of civilization.

This course is an invitation to explore how and why Christian communities work to transform the social order in the twentieth century. One could say that the chief signifying "event" of Christianity has the transcendent and infinite God of the Hebrew Bible, whose name cannot even be spoken—YHWH—taking on the flesh of a first-century man named "Jesus," who spends most of his life healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and living in solidarity with laborers, tax collectors, and prostitutes. He routinely reminded his followers that they were to be called to be stewards of the Kingdom enacting the idea that entry into that Kingdom is very much tied to what one does in this world for the least, which is to say the most "worldly," among us.

Students will be invited to examine the fusion between personal compassion and compassion expressed by groups and communities. We will explore questions such as: What is the connection between faith and compassion? How do congregations, communities of faith, social structures, etc. work to create compassion? How can a society or group be said to have a soul? Moreover, in this course, students will encounter works that invite self-examination around their positions within these systems, and this examination will help us to work towards developing empathy and understanding for others. Students will also think about the question, "What can we do?" This question will help you to think about your own position and how we can take the material that we've explored to create a more just and equitable society for all.

Finally, we will probe how Christian activist cultures relate to a host of social issues including, but not limited to: congregational decline, suicide, prison reform, the environment, unemployment, race, gender and nationalism, Black Lives Matter, police brutality and healthcare.

**SUMMER II, 2023
July 3, 2023 to August 18, 2023**

**PRMN 629 Biblical Storytelling
3 credits. Dr. Deborah Winters and Prof. Cynthia Pollard**

July 3 – July 21: Asynchronous online for the first week, then required Zoom meetings on July 11, 13, 18, and 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

"Biblical Storytelling is a spiritual discipline that entails the lively interpretation, expression and animation of a narrative text of the Old and New Testament that has been first deeply internalized and is then remembered, embodied, breathe and voiced by a teller/performer as a sacred event in community with an audience/congregation." (Master Storyteller, Dennis Dewey). The story once embodied and shared beyond the four walls of sanctuary enables us to share the gospel. It becomes in essence a "storied spirituality" in which the teller and listener become engaged in a "language event" which acts as an experiential vehicle of God's Kingdom. (Ian Scott)

PRMN 521 Preaching Practicum

3 credits. Dr. Ed Rogers

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: July 17–19

This course builds on "Introduction to Homiletics." The primary goal of the course is to give students as many opportunities to preach as many different types of sermons (such as communion sermons, funeral sermons, lectionary-based sermons, social crisis sermons, wedding sermons, etc.) as class size and time permit. Students have opportunities to develop more fully their skills both in preparation and delivery of sermons. Attention may be given in this course to the timing of sermons, advanced public speaking skills, and/or multiple traditional and contemporary approaches to sermon design (inductive preaching and sermon "moves," for example). As sermons are preached in class, faculty members and student peers join in supportive, constructive critique; a spirit of mutual encouragement for each member of the class is a major course goal.

FALL SEMESTER 2023**August 28, 2023 to December 16, 2023****SUPV 525 THEOLOGICAL FIELD EDUCATION 1A**

1.5 credits. Dr. Trent Eastman

The first year of theological field education (TFE) is comprised of supervised ministry in a church-based setting. Faculty-led seminar groups utilize an integrative reflective and practice model. Students must begin theological field education courses with the fall semester and remain in the same seminar group and site placement through fall and spring semesters. SUPV 525 (TFE1A) represents the first semester of first-year TFE, to be followed by SUPV 526 (TFE1B) in the subsequent semester.

SFRM 506 Nurturing Spiritual Life and Character 2: Journey to Wholeness

3 credits. Dr. Mayra Picos Lee

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: September 25 – 27

Building upon their learning and work in Nurturing Spiritual Life and Character 1, students explore the implications of spiritual and emotional health in the context of their call to leadership.

THLE 520 Systematic Theology and Ethics: Vision of Community

3 credits. Dr. Donald Brash

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: September 27 – 29

This course probes several major themes in Systematic Theology with the intention of cultivating the student's ability to think deeply and carefully about their beliefs in dialogue with Christians past and present, from the Mediterranean basin to global points of view. A critical component of this exploration engages the ethical implications of Christian theology. This course will discuss major themes within the framework of two major focal points: the Trinitarian God and vision of God expressed as God's Reign. Within those two major themes, the course will discuss Scripture, the doctrine of Creation, theological anthropology, the problem of sin, and the gift of grace. In all of this, the course attends to the student's ability to think, articulate and apply beliefs and ethics clearly and cogently to life and ministry.

INTG 625 Foundations of Christian Community Development in Appalachia and Beyond

3 credits. Dr. Jeff Biddle

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: October 2 – 4

This course is designed to cover the principles of Christian community development and their practical applications that have emerged from a wide range of practices over time and have proven so helpful to

ministries in West Virginia and beyond. Drawing on readings from leading practitioners such as John Perkins, Wayne Gordon, Soong-Chan Rah, Bob Lupton, Ron Sider, Kretzmann and McKnight, and Michelle Warren, this interdisciplinary course reviews cultural competencies; economic development concepts and strategies and the role of competition and government intervention within those; and congregational leadership and community empowerment with an eye towards asset-based community development, advocacy, and the roles of place, privilege, and community leadership in that process.

BIBL 501 Old Testament Study 1

3 credits. Dr. Trent Eastman

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: October 4 – 6

This course aims at introducing students to the history and content of the Old Testament in general. The main focus however will be given to an examination of the Pentateuch (Genesis through Deuteronomy) and Historical Books (Joshua through Esther). Issues such as Ancient Near Eastern context, structure, composition and history of scholarship of the Pentateuch and Historical books will be discussed alongside themes of Creation, Fall, Flood, Emergence of Israel, the Law, the Cultic System, the Monarchy, the Exile and the Post-Exilic Periods.

SPRING SEMESTER 2024

January 8, 2024 to May 4, 2024

SUPV 526 THEOLOGICAL FIELD EDUCATION 1B

1.5 credits. Dr. Trent Eastman

The first year of theological field education (TFE) is comprised of supervised ministry in a church-based setting. Faculty-led seminar groups utilize an integrative reflective and practice model. Students must begin theological field education courses with the fall semester and remain in the same seminar group and site placement through fall and spring semesters. SUPV 525 (TFE1A) represents the first semester of first-year TFE, to be followed by SUPV 526 (TFE1B) in the subsequent semester.

BIBL 502 Old Testament Study 2

3 credits. Dr. Trent Eastman

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: Exact dates TBD (2.5 days w/in either Feb 5-9 or Feb 12-16)

This course will explore the books of the Prophets, who emerged in ancient Israel as an eclectic group identified only by their claim to speak for God, and their "high octave" condemnation of the socio-political and religious condition of their time. They communicated by preaching, singing, crying, walking naked and shaving, to name a few. This course will also study the great body of biblical literature which consists of the hymns, laments and thanksgivings of the book of Psalms, the wisdom sayings of Israel collected in Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes, the deep grief expressed in Lamentations, and the love songs of the Song of Songs. This course shall explore the relationship of the prophetic books and the Writings to the rest of the canon and then focus on specific issues, themes and theologies in the books.

THLE 521 Systematic Theology and Ethics: Reign of God

3 credits. Dr. Donald Brash

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: Exact dates TBD (2.5 days w/in either Feb 5-9 or Feb 12-16)

This course probes several major themes in Systematic Theology with the intention of cultivating the student's ability to think deeply and carefully about their beliefs in dialogue with Christians past and present, from the Mediterranean basin to global points of view. A critical component of this exploration engages the ethical implications of Christian theology. This course will discuss major themes within the framework of two major focal points: the Trinitarian God and the eschatological Reign of God as God's encompassing vision for

creation. Within those two major themes, the course will examine more closely the Persons of the Trinity-the Creator as the Dabar of the Reign, Jesus Christ as the Embodiment of the Reign, and the Holy Spirit as the Ruach of the Reign-as well as the doctrines of salvation (soteriology), the church (ecclesiology), and the "last things" (eschatology). In all of this, the course attends to the student's ability to think, articulate and apply beliefs and ethics clearly and cogently to life and ministry.

INTG 524 Church Renewal and Evangelism

3 credits. Dr. Allan Copenhaver

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: Exact dates TBD (2.5 days w/in either Feb 5-9 or Feb 12-16)

"Church renewal leads to evangelism leads to church renewal leads to evangelism." At the risk of oversimplification, this process may well describe the whole of the Christian faith for the last 2000 years. At the very least, it describes the inseparable relationship between the two; for we cannot speak of renewal without evangelism nor evangelism without renewal. This course grounds this relationship theologically, as it guides us in biblical study as well as in contemporary issues that are relevant to the subject. By the very nature of renewal and evangelism, however, this course also compels us to understand the relationship practically, as it explores missional church models as well as church-based evangelism strategies.

INTG 510 A Guide to Seminary Writing

3 credits. Dr. Mary Beth McCloy

Residency Dates at Parchment Valley, Ripley WV: Exact dates TBD (2.5 days w/in either Feb 5-9 or Feb 12-16)

This course introduces students to seminary rubrics (expectations) and resources for graduate level theological writing, and gives opportunity for utilizing resources and applying rubrics to specific writing assignments in first level courses. Three types of assessment will occur: self, peer, and instructor. The student's self-assessment will become part of his/her ongoing seminary portfolio. This course is offered on a Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) basis only. This course is required for all master's students except for those who place out based on their orientation assessment process.

Note:

Students are responsible for the cost of travel, room and board at Parchment Valley. For current room and board rates for West Virginia Program students, contact Parchment Valley at 1-800-489-8564.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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