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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>FOUNDATION BIBLE THL 8001-001</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:00 – 9:20 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Spitaler</td>
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<td>The course introduces students to research skills that will allow them to participate in the discourse of biblical studies. It is designed to deepen the student’s overall understanding of the biblical literature (“biblical literacy”), including the background literature of early Israel, biblical and post-biblical Judaism, and early Christianity.</td>
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<td><strong>FOUNDATION HISTORY THL 8002-001</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>4:30 – 6:50 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Kevin Hughes</td>
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<td>This course will address some key texts for the approach to Church history, historical theology, and the history of Christianity, more generally. As such, it will serve as an introduction to the history of the discipline and to its methods and practices.</td>
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<td><strong>FOUNDATION ETHICS THL 8004-001</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7:00 – 9:20 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Kathleen Grimes</td>
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<td>This course will introduce major themes, thinkers, and texts in the field of Christian ethics. It will utilize both historical and contemporary sources in order to familiarize students with the broad terrain of Christian ethics.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PENTATEUCH THL 8110-001</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:30 – 6:50 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Carey Walsh</td>
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<td>An examination of the first five books of the Hebrew Bible, with emphasis on the theology of Deuteronomy as the interpretive framework of the history of Israelite and Judean peoples. Relevant ancient near Eastern beliefs and customs which appear in the Pentateuchal tradition will also be considered.</td>
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<td><strong>ECCLESIOLOGY THL 8210-001</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>1:50 – 4:10 PM</td>
<td>Dr. Bernard Prusak</td>
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<td>MMT Students Only</td>
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<td>This course will analyze how the community called Church came from Jesus, how it determined to proclaim him to the entire world, and how it initially created a diversity of ministerial patterns to implement that proclamation. It will trace the way historical</td>
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developments have carried on from that origin, namely the evolution from the ministerial “pluriformity,” and unity in diversity, of the earliest churches to the structural fixity of a communion of churches united with their bishops, all in communion with the bishop of Rome.

In that regard, it will compare the earlier theology of Church as communion with the medieval hierarchical emphasis. In examining the ways in which the Church has sought to embody the practice of the reign of God, the course will attend to contemporary concerns about the historical “depositioning” of the baptized and intensifying emphasis on centralized hierarchical authority and jurisdiction. It will study Vatican II’s juxtaposition of ecclesiologies and subsequent tensions in the post-Vatican II era, including the meaning and role of the local church and its bishop within the universal communion, and proposals for revisioning the unitive function of the papacy.

The course will likewise consider the possibilities for new leadership patterns—including the role of women—and for dialogical responsibility in teaching and decision making. It will also give attention to ecumenism, dialogue with non-Christian religions, and ecclesial commitment to praxis for peace, justice, and care for the earth. It will ask what the goals and function of Church should be within our pluralist world. How will the Church, as sacrament of God’s offer of self in relationship, best proclaim a spirituality that responds to humans’ search for meaning?

**SACRAMENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH THL 8240-001**

**WEDNESDAY 1:50 – 4:10 PM. DR. TIMOTHY BRUNK**

Drawing upon relevant documents from the Second Vatican Council and upon works by Joseph Martos, Kenan Osborne, Edward Schillebeeckx, and Louis-Marie Chauvet, this course will examine the history of sacramental theology and practice as well as the interplay of ecclesiology, Christology, sacramentology, and day to day Christian life. This course will emphasize the nature of Christian existence as essentially sacramental. Vatican II denounced the “split between the faith which many profess and their daily lives,” characterizing it as “among the more serious errors of our age” (Gaudium et Spes, no. 43); this course will investigate how three representative theologians have addressed this concern with particular reference to worship.

**ETHICS OF LIFE & DEATH THL 8330-001**
The Christian ethical tradition is built around a core commitment to the value and dignity of life. Scripture suggests we are meant to have life and have it abundantly. How does this tradition interpret and confront matters of life and death as they emerge in circumstances both ordinary and extraordinary? This course will include a range of applied issues— from assisted reproduction to assisted suicide, from hospice care for infants to life sentences for the incarcerated. We will consider what it means to be a steward of life, to die a good death, and to grieve ethically. And how might these concerns intersect with racial and economic injustices? We will explore moral analysis from the Christian tradition while also considering the experiences of those who wrestle with these matters in the course of their lives and their ministries. Several guest speakers will join us for conversation, including experts from Catholic health care and death row prison ministry.

This course will provide a survey of women mystical writers, both continental and insular, of the Middle Ages (although we will bookend our investigation with Late Antique and Modern texts) by means of a close reading of primary sources in translation. Authors to be studied include Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), Hadewijch of Brabant (early 13th century), Mechthild of Magdeburg (c. 1210-1282/1294), Beatrice of Nazareth (1200-1268), Marguerite Porete (d. 1310), Julian of Norwich (ca. 1343-1416), and Raïssa Maritain (d. 1960). Our historical journey through these authors will also attend to the historiography of these texts in order to see how their discovery has transformed medieval studies, literary studies, theology, and philosophy.

Although the voices of women are often assumed to be silent, repressed, or nonexistent in the history of Christianity, medieval Europe presents a rich treasury of mystical works by women. In a variety of literary genres, many of these writers describe visionary, ecstatic, or contemplative encounters with God. We will ask, first, about the different ways in which appeals to the visionary and imaginative serve the creation of theological authority for these writers. What kinds of authority and challenges to authority are created by such appeals? (Challenges that become more difficult for women authors in their relationships to male clerics). Second, we will consider the key theological interventions and inventions made by these texts in a range of issues central to the history of Christianity, including the often-gendered articulation of a relationship between spirit
and body; the limits and possibilities of language attempting to give word to the inexpressible; the nature of union with God; how the contemplative life relates to politics and ethics.

**SPIRITUALITY OF CARE THL 8530-001**

**Thursday 11:10 am – 1:30 pm. Dr. Jennifer Jackson**

**MMT Students Only**

This course introduces students to theological resources and practices that reflect a spirituality of care. Readings will focus on classic and contemporary Christian theological texts, methods and models as well as multi-disciplinary scholarship and practices that contribute to a spirituality of care. Significant elements of the course meant to equip ministerial leaders will include: scriptural reflection, holistic approaches to self-care and care for others in diverse contexts, and spiritual discernment and accompaniment practices.

**INTERFAITH & INTERCULTURAL STUDIES THL 8600-001**

**Wednesday 11:10 – 1:30 pm. Dr. Kerry San Chirico**

**MMT Students Only**

The United States is the most religiously diverse country in the world, yet basic knowledge of religious traditions beyond Christianity is woefully lacking. Hate crimes continue in our post 9-11 world, threatening not just minority religious communities but the common national fabric. Meanwhile, religious strife overseas captures headlines. The aim of this graduate course is thus three fold: first, to impart knowledge of particular religious traditions—in the form of particular beliefs, practices, and struggles, primarily, though not exclusively, in the United States; second, to examine theologies of religions in various traditions as well as historical examples of inter-religious cooperation and exchange; third, to explore the practical application of inter-religious literacy and cooperation projects on campus and outside Villanova. The goal, then, is to develop a framework for understanding religious pluralism both phenomenologically and theologically—that is, to understand the facts of religious difference, but to draw on our own and other religious traditions to make meaningful sense of religious pluralism for the common good.
THEOLOGICAL PEDAGOGY THL 8701-001

TUESDAY 4:30-6:50 PM  DR. CHRISTY LANG HEARLSON

This seminar initiates the Heart of Teaching program for MTS students in the Theological Education track and PhD students. It is the first of two seminars that comprise the Heart of Teaching coursework en route to the apprenticeship process. Education Seminar 1 addresses the philosophical foundations and pedagogical approaches for theological education at the level of our time. To this end, the seminar considers the bearing of Villanova’s Christian mission and Augustinian charism.

TEACHING PRACTICUM THL 8703-001

WEDNESDAY 1:50-4:10 PM  DR. CHRISTY LANG HEARLSON

Independent teaching with supervision and mentorship.

LAY ECCLESIAL MINISTRY

THL 8802-001 TUESDAY 9:45 – 11:00 AM
THL 8802-002 THURSDAY 9:45 – 11:00 AM
DR. JOHN P. EDWARDS  MMT STUDENTS ONLY

Lay ecclesial ministry is not something new within the Christian church; it was evident from the very beginnings of Christianity. Jesus sent his followers to announce that the Reign of God is at hand. In order to understand the contemporary manifestation of “lay ecclesial ministry” within the Christian church, it is necessary to explore the biblical, historical, and theological foundations of Christian ministry. A reading and exploration of Pope Francis’s Apostolic Exhortation “The Joy of the Gospel” will frame our understanding of the “New Evangelization” in relation to ministry. Some emphasis will be placed on the documents of Vatican II (Gaudium et Spes and Lumen Gentium) as platforms for theological exploration of ministry in the Catholic contemporary context. Particular attention will be given to the US Catholic Bishop’s document “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord” as a groundbreaking statement of the role laity in the Catholic Church. The course will also explore how contemporary theological understandings of ministry might help to inform the vocation and charisms of lay ecclesial ministers. A practicum component will enhance the academic study of the theology of ministry. Ministry Practicum 2 is a corequisite for this course.
MINISTRY FIELD EDUCATION 2 THL 8884-001

Fr. Joseph Calderone, O.S.A.

Supervised field experience in an approved setting. Students are mentored by approved practicum supervisors and approved site supervisors. Course participation serves to deepen student understanding of their field experience and ministerial identity.

MINISTRY FIELD EDUCATION 4 THL 8884-002/003

Dr. Margaret Mell

Supervised field experience in an approved setting. Students are mentored by approved practicum supervisors and approved site supervisors. Course participation serves to deepen student understanding of their field experience and ministerial identity.