



Course Catalog

2026-2027

Updated 4/15/2026

ILF 1002 **First-Year Writing & Research Seminar** **3 credits**

A first-year introductory course is required in Iliff's masters programs. The course introduces theories and methods in the study of religion and theology. Additionally, it provides a core experience and orientation to academic skills necessary for success at the graduate level.

ILF 1005 **'Religion' Unplugged** **3 credits**

A first-year introductory course is required in Iliff's masters programs. The course introduces theories and methods in the study of religion and theology. Additionally, it provides a core experience and orientation to academic skills necessary for success at the graduate level.

ILF 1007 **First-Year Writing & Research Seminar** **3 credits**

Readers typically take the Bible for granted by believing its meaning to be obvious, or, alternatively, they are intimidated and perceive the Bible as an alien text. This course is designed to de-familiarize the Bible and to make it accessible at the same time. De-familiarization is necessary because Bible readers are so familiar with biblical stories that they cannot find anything new to say about the text.

At the same time, readers are often intimidated by the biblical text because they feel they don't know enough to be competent interpreters. This course will enable development of interpretive skills, expose students to resources, and inspire creativity in interpretation, so that the interpreter will gain confidence in reading the Bible and at the same time learn to read the Bible as a living text.

ILF 1010 **Pilgrimage/Comparative Perspective** **3 credits**

This is a comparative course that examines the dynamics of pilgrimage from a number of different angles - theoretical, doctrinal, ritual, social - and which utilizes a variety of sources - including classical, ethnographic studies of actual pilgrimages, and focused studies of particular pilgrimage places - with the goal of gaining a thorough understanding of the phenomena of pilgrimage in all of its complexity. This course fulfills the First-Year Writing and Research Seminar requirement for Master's students.

ILF 1027 **Wilding Religion: Religion & Nature** **3 credits**

In this interdisciplinary course, we will explore the dynamic and fluid relations between religion and "nature" or the more-than-human world. We understand religion as present both within and outside the bounds of conventional religious traditions. In this course, then, religion includes Judaism and ancient Israelite religion, Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Indigenous religion, but also ecofeminism and ecowomanism, nature writing, and environmentalism. Topics include humans' relationships with "nature" and the land as they are practiced, ritualized, and textualized; the role of religions in environmental destruction and in ecological thriving; and the development of eco-spiritual perspectives. This course fulfills the First-Year Writing and Research Seminar requirement for Master's students.

ILF 1100 **Identity, Power, & Difference in Community** **3 credits**

This course "Identity, Power, and Difference in Community" (IPDC) cultivates students' ability to engage in social and theological analysis about social structures, ideologies, and embodied practices that lead to domination or oppression. It facilitates critical thinking about social locations, power and privilege, and what effect these have on students' vocational paths. The course takes the perspective that this sort of analysis, engaged in community and supported with spiritual practices, is crucial to serving effectively in today's complex social environment. It encourages students to deepen their commitment to dismantling privilege and oppression at individual, institutional, and societal levels.

ILF 1200 Vocational Formation & Discernment 3 credits

The purpose of this course is to further understandings and practices related to vocational formation and discernment. The course also will interrogate the ways that power, privilege, and oppression impact healthy relationships as a part of professional ethics. This course should be taken the spring semester before an MDiv student plans to complete their Vocational Residency or other pre-approved vocational formation requirement (i.e., Clinical Pastoral Education), as students will be guided through the respective preparation process. This is an elective for individuals in the MA who wish to engage in vocationally-focused reflection and planning beyond their degree. Prerequisites: IPVC (or its equivalent) and first-year interdisciplinary course.

ILF 2003 Intro to the Hebrew Bible 3 credits

This course introduces students to relevant themes in the Hebrew Bible. A number of topics will be covered in this course, including the historical development of the literature, religion, and culture of ancient Israel, and methods and interpretive strategies for understanding ancient texts.

ILF 2005 Ethical Analysis and Advocacy 3 credits

This course is an introduction to ethical reflection about contemporary moral issues in an ecumenical and global context drawing on traditional eurocentric ethical and social theory and analysis, as well as motifs rooted in the Global South. The first half of the course will focus on six different ethical methodologies while the second half of the course will employ said motifs to issues of race, class, gender, sexuality, and the environment.

ILF 2006 Congregations 3 credits

An introduction to the social scientific literature on congregations. Students learn basic methodology for analyzing congregations and their surrounding communities. A review of the empirical literature on congregations covers such issues as congregational cultures, leadership styles, adaptation to community change, racial/ethnic diversity, fund-raising, and membership growth and decline.

ILF 2007 New Testament Narratives: Gospels & Acts 3 credits

This course functions as one of two introductory courses to the New Testament covering its literary contents, history, different interpretive approaches, and its significance to the Christian tradition. In this part we attend to the in-depth study of the Gospels and the Book of Acts. We also explore the wide array of perspectives and approaches to the interpretation of scripture, with attention to the social justice challenges the texts often present. Students may take this course or the other introductory course (on New Testament Letters) in any order.



ILF 2008 **New Testament Narratives: Letters & Writings** **3 credits**

This course is one of two introductory courses to the New Testament covering its literary contents, history, different interpretive approaches, and its significance to the Christian tradition. In this part we focus on Paul's letters, with some attention to the minor epistles, and non-canonical texts written by Christians of the second century. We also explore the wide array of perspectives and approaches to the interpretation of scripture, with attention to the social justice challenges the texts often present. Students may take this course or the other introductory course (New Testament Narratives: Gospels and Acts) in any order.

ILF 2012 **Introduction to Pastoral & Spiritual Care** **3 credits**

This course explores approaches to pastoral theology and spiritual care through a broad engagement with significant texts both within and beyond the field. Students will examine diverse perspectives, historical developments, and methodological frameworks that shape reflective professional practice across a range of vocational contexts. The course introduces scholars whose work integrates theological commitments, multidisciplinary theories, and lived experience, supporting students in cultivating their own identities as care providers in varied settings.

ILF 2019 **Preaching & Spiritual Leadership** **3 credits**

We are living in a world of complexity and polarization, culturally and religiously, as well as socio-politically. Our society desperately needs mature spiritual leadership that guides people in the process of discernment and to live it out faithfully. This course takes this situation seriously and focuses on preaching as an art of spiritual leadership. It aims to help students equip themselves as spiritual leaders and enhance their unique voices by deepening their understanding of spirituality and practicing their spiritual leadership through preaching. Designed for those who wish to become great spiritual preachers, this course uses a variety of pedagogical approaches: group discussions, self-reflection on spirituality, surveys of congregational spiritual types, preaching workshops, and sermon evaluations.

ILF 2024 **United Methodist History, Doctrine, Polity 1** **3 credits**

This course examines the Methodist tradition from its early roots through the end of the 19th century, including developments regarding theology, doctrine, and the spread of the Methodist tradition across Great Britain and into America. This is the first in a two-course sequence which fulfill United Methodist requirements for History, Doctrine, and Polity, and is a prerequisite for UM History, Doctrine, Polity 2. It is strongly recommended that the courses be taken in sequence within the same academic year.

ILF 2025 **United Methodist History, Doctrine, Polity 2** **3 credits**

This course examines the Methodist tradition from the early 20th century to the current day, including developments regarding theology, doctrine, global Methodism, and splintering of United Methodism in the 21st century. This is the second in a two-course sequence which fulfill United Methodist requirements for History, Doctrine, and Polity. It is strongly recommended that the courses be taken in sequence within the same academic year. Students must have taken UM History, Doctrine, Polity 1 prior to enrolling in this course.

ILF 2032 **Anglican Liturgy** **3 credits**

given to the pastor's role: preaching, teaching, pastoral care and relationship to other helping professionals.

ILF 2080 Practical Theology 3 credits

This course explores models of practical theological reflection and methods of reflective professional practice as frameworks for religious leadership in the variety of contexts in which students will work. Students will be introduced to disciplined modes of embodying the integration of theory and praxis that allow them to place their coursework across the curriculum into regular conversation with their practice as religious leaders and ministry professionals in a variety of institutional and cultural contexts.

ILF 2102 Introduction to Hinduism 3 credits

This course begins with a discussion of the indigenous religious context of the Indus Valley, and then turns to the emergence of the Vedas. It examines the development of the Upanisads, a highly philosophical genre of literature that questions the efficacy of ritual sacrificial. Finally, it turns to the devotional and ritual contexts of the many gods and goddesses, and what is sometimes called "popular Hinduism." Major topics include: conceptions of sacrifice; the nature of the self; the nature of the Ultimate; the role and of devotion; mythology; ritual and its functions; and the character of Hinduism in modern India.

ILF 2110 Ministry with Youth & Young Adults 3 credits

In this course we will strive to explore the worlds of adolescence and young adulthood in contemporary contexts with a spirit of curiosity that refuses to allow young people to be collapsed into stereotypes, marketing groups, or our own experiences. In addition to the questions you bring to the class, we will be working together to answer the following questions: How can we describe something of what adolescence looks like in contemporary settings, with adequate complexity and without collapsing difference? How do we support young people as they develop their spirituality, discern and live into their vocations, and belong within intergenerational communities? What are forces in contemporary society that inhibit the responses of young people to their sense of calling and faithfulness? How can churches and other educational settings provide a space of resistance to these forces rather than a replication of them? What does good youth ministry look like at this moment in history?

ILF 2127 United Methodist Mission of the Church in the World 3 credits

This course explores historical, theological and practical understanding of mission with a view that the purpose of mission, as interpreted in the Methodist movement, is to vitalize and transform Christian congregations everywhere in the world. This course fulfills the United Methodist denominational requirement for ordination.

ILF 2128 Evangelism in Contemporary Contexts 3 credits

Critical and practical engagement with why and how Christian faith can be shared while honoring the distinctiveness of others. Meets ordination requirements for some denominations.

ILF 2186

Spiritual Foundations for Social Justice

3 credits

The course introduces students to modern social justice activism intertwined with profound spiritual underpinnings. It encourages participants to glean insights from the spiritual practices of social justice advocates to learn ways to sustain themselves while leading others to be spiritually grounded leaders. Throughout the course, students delve into the spiritual writings of several leaders in social justice movements while also engaging in practical exercises to bolster their own spiritual grounding, drawing from both course materials and interactions with one another. Students will also learn how to cultivate spiritual grounding in others as they lead in their contexts.

ILF 2220

Biblical Ethics

3 credits

Anyone who reads the Bible does so from a particular social location. We are all born into an on-going society that shapes us. When we turn our attention to the biblical text as the source of our ethical perspectives, we participate in a dialogue between the written word and the meanings our community taught us to give to these words. Many of us have been taught to read the Bible through the eyes of white, middle-class males. Yet, can the text liberate those who are oppressed? To do so, it must be read with the eyes of the disenfranchised. This course will explore how the Bible can be used to bring about justice for those who suffer due to race, class and gender oppression.

ILF 2235

Learning Outcomes Recital Event

0 credits

The Learning Outcomes Recital Event allows graduating students in the professional masters' degrees to reflect upon and synthesize the learning that they have experienced throughout their degree program. Engagement with concrete situations, such as case studies and current events, will provide opportunities to connect classroom learning to professional settings. Students will also have the opportunity to name their vocational hopes and directions with their peers and faculty, and participate in other communal conversation and celebration as their degree draws to a close. This is a requirement for graduation for all graduates, as it serves as the primary means for gathering learning outcomes assessment data for our accrediting body.

ILF 2236

Inclusive Leadership & Local Politics Immersion Course

3 credits

Through this one-week immersion experience, students will engage with local leaders in Columbia, South Carolina, and focus on advocating for trans healthcare and fostering inclusion for transgender individuals in local communities. Utilizing theories of decolonial leadership, integrated ethical frameworks, and local epistemologies, students will explore ways to expand support and inclusion for transgender individuals, developing skills to analyze local political ecosystems and create strategies for effective communication and advocacy. Tuition and expenses during the immersion are paid for by grant funding; the only cost to students is transportation to and from Columbia, South Carolina. Open to master's and doctoral students.

ILF 2500

Introduction to the History of Christianity

3 credits

We are living in a world of complexity and polarization, culturally and religiously, as well as socio-politically. Our society desperately needs mature spiritual leadership that guides people in the process of discernment and to live it out faithfully. This course takes this situation seriously and focuses on preaching as an art of spiritual leadership. It aims to help

students equip themselves as spiritual leaders and enhance their unique voices by deepening their understanding of spirituality and practicing their spiritual leadership through preaching.

Designed for those who wish to become great spiritual preachers, this course uses a variety of pedagogical approaches: group discussions, self-reflection on spirituality, surveys of congregational spiritual types, preaching workshops, and sermon evaluations.

ILF 2510 Introduction to Christian Theology 3 credits

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the goals, tasks, and basic content of Christian theology. In particular, we will look at systematic theology, what it is, why it is important, how it works, and historical resources from the Christian tradition that are relevant to many vocations today.

ILF 2512 Introduction to Buddhism 3 credits

This course begins with an investigation into the social and religious context of 5th century BCE India out of which the Buddha emerged, then moves to Buddhism's philosophical basis in the early teachings of the Buddha, and various interpreters of these teachings. It then turns to the early social and religious structure of the Buddhist community, tracing the changes in this community and doctrinal developments as Buddhism spreads out from India, to Nepal and Tibet, to Sri Lanka, Burma, and Thailand, to China and Japan, and eventually to Europe and America.

ILF 2999 Independent Study 1 – 3 credits

Independent Study

ILF 3004 Hebrew Bible Literature: Genesis 3 credits

This course critically examines the contributions and challenges of feminist theologies from the Global South, engaging postcolonial discourse and exploring diverse perspectives from Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Topics include globalization, religion, culture, sexuality, spirituality, and ecological concerns. Students will analyze how these theologies reshape North American feminist theologies and foster global dialogue.

ILF 3014 Latine Theology and Ethics 3 credits

This course examines the emergence and development of Latinx religious faith and social protest thought from the U.S. Latinx communities. Special attention is given to texts and traditions as living changing heritages, in order to propose critical options that foster emancipatory practices in the contemporary struggle for race and ethnic justice. The course will concentrate on Latinx theology, ethics, and hermeneutics.

ILF 3028 Native Women- Voices of the Matriarchy 3 credits

This course is a broad survey of Native American women's vital role within cultural, social, political, economic, and spiritual structures in Traditional and contemporary matriarchal systems. The writings of Native historians, scholars, and activists examine the ways in which the principles of Indigenous interdependence, radical relationality, theological anthropology, reciprocity and

balance inform contemporary patriarchy's systems of leadership, governance, and spiritual worldview in Native communities. The student is asked to reflect on how practices of US feminism are challenged by and may be inspired to imagine new possibilities for justice and equity when listening to the voices and experiences of Native Women and their communities.

ILF 3030 Library Research Skills 1 credit

Library Research Skills is a course that covers research at the graduate level. This class will cover searching in with the many resources of any academic library. In addition to learning how to use a library search engine and many academic databases, this class will teach students how to collect this research as well in programs like Zotero and other citation management systems. Finally, this class will look at how to properly cite research in different styles.

ILF 3037 The Pursuit of Happiness: A History 3 credits

This course examines major concepts, questions, and practices about humanity's search for Happiness from the Hellenistic-Roman period through the Medieval and Modern periods. Course content and discussion covers the ongoing influence of philosophy, virtue ethics, and theology on eudaemonic theories of Happiness in relation to the metaphysical assumptions, cultural contexts, socio-political ideologies, and institutional values that have shaped religious and secular notions of human purpose and potential. The course also covers the relationship of health and healing to theories of human flourishing, and the impact of different forms of historical and personal trauma on contemporary wellness practices and Happiness programs.

ILF 3057 Sects, Cults and New Religious Movements 3 credits

An exploration of religious groups considered outside of the mainstream of a society. Specific topics include theories of religious group innovation and recruitment; controversies over identifying "cults"; sectarian Christianity, gender and sexuality; religious understandings of the paranormal; and religion and marginalized racial projects.

ILF 3058 Liberating Sex 3 credits

The purpose of the course is to find guidelines for developing an ethical sexual lifestyle that is aware of how racism, classism, and specifically sexism influences the current conversation on sexual ethics. The course's focus will be on developing healthy models that foster intimacy and vulnerability for a disjointed and at times oppressive community.

ILF 3065 Empire and the Rise of Christianity 3 credits

Through the first 500 years of Christianity, this course traces the gradual confluence of Christianity and the Roman Empire as well as its role in the development of Christian beliefs, practices, production of discourse, institutions, and strategies of social control. The course is a kind of hybrid of historical studies, religious studies, and post-colonial critique. Thus, the readings and discussions will include primary source texts, scholarship on the early history of Christianity in its Roman context, the nature and development of the Christian "religion," and post-colonial analyses of various aspects of early Christianity. The flow of the course combines the temporal and the thematic. That is to say that I have attempted to proceed through the term in advancing chronological order in general, but that each week addresses specific themes or issues, some of which extend beyond the primary time period for that week.



ILF 3074 **1 Corinthians** **3 credits**

This course is an upper-level seminar focused on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. We attend carefully to the work of interpretations from different perspectives and study important themes and issues the text raises, such as concepts of the body, sexuality, unity and diversity in community, slavery, and the role of women in early Christianity.

ILF 3078 **Spiritual Care in Crisis** **3 credits**

This advanced pastoral theology course introduces students to theories, models/methods, and spiritual care practices related to crises. Crises include, but are not limited to, sudden loss, death of a loved one(s), sexual assault and abuse, domestic violence, community tragedies, and other pastoral emergencies. Together, we will explore the psychosocial and theological dimensions of crises, impacts of crises (interpersonally & communally), and spiritual practices of crisis intervention, management, and care.

ILF 3089 **Body & Sexuality in Hebrew Bible** **3 credits**

This course will investigate the concepts of the body and sexuality in the Bible from several different perspectives. We will work with biblical texts that describe ideal bodies, ritually and socially constructed bodies, gendered bodies, human bodies, non-human bodies and God's bodies. The starting point for the discussion will be selected biblical texts from the Hebrew Bible and ancient Southwest Asia. The course has a strong focus on reading biblical texts in light of recent theories on embodiment, materiality, the senses, gender, eco-theology, and disability.

ILF 3102 **Atheists, Secularists & Nones** **3 credits**

An examination of non-religious and/or non-affiliated populations, with a primary focus on the United States. We will explore: 1) the variety of beliefs among those not affiliated with religious institutions; 2) different social expressions of atheism; 3) the implications of recent religious trends for debates about secularization in the modern West.

ILF 3104 **Judaism** **3 credits**

This course serves as a basic introduction to Judaism in terms of its history, people, culture, and religious practices and beliefs. It assumes no previous knowledge of Judaism and there are no prerequisites.

ILF 3106 **Migration and the Bible** **3 credits**

Migration and people on the move pervade the Bible. From its opening words to its close, people are on the move in the Bible. Indeed, an argument may be made that the Bible is a book in which migration is the norm not the exception, the accepted and presumed reality rather than that which happens only in times of conflict and duress. In the Hebrew Bible, the deity moves, people are on the move, and "resident aliens," gerim, are always with Israel. In the New Testament, Mary and Joseph to flee to Egypt, Jesus is an itinerant preacher, Paul is a missionary, and the threat of Roman violence that leads to dislocation is constant. This course examines migration in the Bible in conversation with a range of perspectives on it—including denominational resources, international aid agencies, and theoretical viewpoints—with the goal of learning what resources



the Bible offers for responding to the current realities of migration.

ILF 3122 Women & Theologies from the Global South 3 credits

This course critically examines the contributions and challenges of feminist theologies from the Global South, engaging postcolonial discourse and exploring diverse perspectives from Africa, Latin America, and Asia. Topics include globalization, religion, culture, sexuality, spirituality, and ecological concerns. Students will analyze how these theologies reshape North American feminist theologies and foster global dialogue.

ILF 3126 Liberation Theologies 3 credits

This course examines the emergence and development of the different manifestations of Liberation Theologies and global social protest. Special attention is given to texts and traditions from different ethnic and racial communities, both domestic and international; treating them as living changing heritages, in order to propose critical options which foster emancipatory practices in the contemporary struggle for justice. The course will concentrate on Liberation theologies, ethics, and hermeneutics.

ILF 3136 Womanist Pastoral Theology and Care 3 credits

This advanced course introduces students to foundational and emerging theories, models, and approaches in Womanist pastoral theology, care, and counseling. As a specialized discipline within pastoral theology, Womanist pastoral theology describes and implements theologies and frameworks of care that attend to the lived experiences of Black women and girls by emphasizing the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Toward that end, students will be exposed to the various theological perspectives, insights, and practices of Womanist pastoral theologians and practitioners. Successful students will have taken Intro to Pastoral & Spiritual Care or its equivalent.

ILF 3146 Ethics and Social Responsibility 3 credits

Scheduled during the first year of a new presidential administration in the United States, the purpose of this course is to examine the social responsibility of the American citizenry through the lens of the academic discipline of Christian Social Ethics. Alongside study of the historical development of the American social welfare system, students will engage ethical questions related to poverty and homelessness and other structural economic realities.

ILF 3151 Minoritized Interpretations of the New Testament 3 credits

Though the academic study of the New Testament has long been controlled by European and North American institutions and persons of European descent, recent decades have seen a surge of other perspectives that are sometimes collected under the heading of "minoritized." These perspectives include postcolonial and decolonial approaches, and methods centered on racial or ethnic identities, geographies, cultures, shared historical experiences, and gender and sexuality, to name a few. This course considers these forms of interpretation together and separately, as ways of reading biblical texts outside of the field's historical biases, and looks to the future of Biblical Studies.



ILF 3152 **Sex and Gender in Premodern Christianities** **3 credits**

This course traces the development of Christian ideas about gender and sexuality from the first century of the Common Era to the medieval period. With special attention to the circumstances that shaped and influenced premodern Christians' understandings of bodies, this course makes use of feminist, queer, and trans historiographies to understand how gender and sexuality were contested, presented, understood, and negotiated by Christians across place and time.

ILF 3158 **Interrogating Multiple Realities** **3 credits**

This course explores faith-based community organizing through various social analysis methods, focusing on site-based learning and ethnographic research. It aims to examine a comprehensive approach to ministry that engages both spiritual and social dimensions. The course emphasizes the integration of theological reflection, strategic social analysis, and hands-on community engagement to address systemic issues and foster transformative change. Students will critically examine power dynamics, develop faith-based organizing strategies, and conduct ethnographic research within community settings. Through this immersive learning experience, students will deepen their understanding of how to engage in ministry that is contextually relevant, culturally sensitive, and oriented toward justice and holistic transformation.

ILF 3161 **Religious and Public Leadership** **3 credits**

This course introduces students to the form, function, and practice of religious and public leadership in complex organizations, including congregations, denominations, nonprofits, and community-based environments. The first part of the course focuses on frameworks and capacities for leadership, helping students to assess their own leadership abilities and attending to how identities intersect within organizational cultures and systems. The latter part of the course explores the practice of leadership within complex organizations in the areas of planning, adaptation, conflict, human resources, decision making, and administration. Successful masters students in this course will have already taken IPDC and the First-Year Writing & Research Seminar. Also open to DMin students.

ILF 3168 **Being Human in the Bible** **3 credits**

What does it mean to be human, according to the biblical writers? This is both a simple and complicated question to ask, much less answer. How it is addressed has important consequences. A range of perspectives and answers to the question therefore will be taken up in this course. These can include life and death, gender and sexuality, technology, education, family relations, politics, peoplehood, ecology, human vs. animal, philosophy, and economics. These perspectives and answers are engaged in pursuit of gaining a greater appreciation for how one might think through this question. Successful completion of either or both Introduction to the Hebrew Bible or Introduction to the New Testament (or their equivalent) is required.

ILF 3164 **Religious and Public Leadership** **3 credits**

This course introduces students to the form, function, and practice of religious and public leadership in complex organizations, including congregations, denominations, nonprofits, and

community-based environments. The first part of the course focuses on frameworks and capacities for leadership, helping students to assess their own leadership abilities and attending to how identities intersect within organizational cultures and systems. The latter part of the course explores the practice of leadership within complex organizations in the areas of planning, adaptation, conflict, human resources, decision making, and administration. Successful masters students in this course will have already taken IPDC and the First-Year Writing & Research Seminar. Also open to DMin students.

ILF 3187 Monotheism: A Comparative Approach 3 credits

This course explores and compares the three Abrahamic religions as responses to fundamental problems of human existence. Topics will be devoted to a particular stage of the human life-cycle and the problems, both practical and conceptual, which arise at that stage. The course will compare how religions present those problems, and how they develop practices and beliefs to “solve” or make sense of them. We also consider the limits of each belief system: aspects of each problem that are not addressed; possible incompatibilities between religious solutions; as well as the risks and costs that religious solutions can create for both individuals and societies.

This approach grounded in structural and functionalist traditions of the social sciences, will help us to formulate our own critical perspective of these religions and, at the same time, to appreciate their diversity, their convergences, and their cumulative wisdom about matters of universal human concerns.

ILF 3192 Settler Colonialism and Native American Identities 3 credits

This course critically investigates the intersections between settler colonial theory and Native American studies as they relate to Identity formation and the politics of cultural recognition. It allows the student to reflect on cultural assumptions about individual self-expression and communal belonging as compared and contrasted with Indigenous and Settler understandings. Research skills are developed by looking to Native voices and experiences to explore the dynamic and vital contemporary expression of sovereignty within the vastness of Native Communities.

ILF 3227 Christian Zionism 3 credits

This course examines the emergence and development of Christian Zionism as a manifestation of white supremacy. Attention is given to its global implications and how dissent is silenced. Special attention is given to Christian Zionism’s historical, political, and religious development and how it intersects with the Eurocentric colonial project. The course will concentrate on the current Middle Eastern conflict through the writings of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim scholars. Special attention will be given to how a Palestinian Liberation Theology has developed in this context.

ILF 3240 Spiritual Autobiography and Memoir 3 credits

Students will read and analyze both historical and contemporary spiritual autobiographies and memoirs. Students will work collaboratively to develop analytical tools for engaging these works as artifacts of individual experience connected to historical, social, political, and religious realities. We will practice writing our own spiritual stories through regular short writing exercises, seeking ways to share these stories in ways that are compelling, honest/truthful, artistic, edifying, and ethical.

Together we will explore and critically assess the potential uses of spiritual autobiography for personal reflection, educational use, spiritual care, spiritual formation, preaching/testimony, and organizational promotion and development.

ILF 3241 Pandemics & Healing in History 3 credits

This course examines how religious traditions and societies have responded to major medical crises and disasters across time and place. Through a series of historical case studies students will explore how disease, epidemics, and pandemics redefined medicine, public health and healing practices, personal and communal piety, resiliency, and concern for the common good. Students will also examine how in the aftermath of widespread socio-political panic, high mortality rates, and trauma experienced under such adversities, religious traditions and societies also witnessed the emergence of new economic structures, cultural movements, and social justice activism.

**ILF 3242 Reproductive Justice & Christianity:
A Feminist Perspective 3 credits**

This course explores reproductive justice through feminist, womanist, queer, and postcolonial Christian theological lenses. We will critically engage histories of reproductive control, theologies of embodiment, biblical interpretation, and global faith perspectives on abortion, contraception, fertility, parenting, and reproductive labor. Through ritual, storytelling, collaborative theological practices, and creative engagement, students will reflect on reproductive theologies that affirm dignity, life, and agency across difference.

ILF 3243 Spiritual Care in the Capitalocene 3 credits

Spiritual care is inherently contextual, emerging out of particular demands, crises, and relationships that ultimately shape care practices that can fundamentally meet the moment. Given the global context, spiritual care providers must critically reengage their own practices in light of the realities of the ecological crisis as driven by the global system of capitalism. This advanced course in spiritual care will ask students to analyze and then develop strategies within this greater context, drawing on interdisciplinary resources in theology, ethics, and ecology to cultivate practices of care that address ecological suffering, systemic injustices, and the possibilities of collective solidarity and transformation.

ILF 3245 Introduction to Cultural Trauma 3 credits

This course introduces students to foundational theories, frameworks, and key concepts related to cultural trauma in religion and psychology. This course takes seriously that Trauma is not only an individual experience; it also has a communal and societal dimension. This class explores the social and systemic dimensions of trauma, and considers the effects of historical, communal, and intergenerational trauma from multiple perspectives.

ILF 3254 Wake Work: An Introduction to Death Care Work 2 credits
**And a Conscious Awareness of the Life and Death Experiences of
African American Diasporic Communities**

This course is based on the work of Dr. Christa Sharpe and her book "In the Wake – On Blackness and Being" who asks the question: "how do you memorialize an event that is

still ongoing?" Dr. Sharpe contends that "blackness" becomes the symbol for those deemed less-than-human beings and are condemned to death. This six-week course delivered virtually will offer to those who are interested in Death Care Work and certification as a "Death Doula" an opportunity to begin to understand the lived experience of African and African diasporic people as they navigate life and death using the theory of "wake work".

"Wake Work", as a theory and a praxis of Black "being" in the African diaspora pays attention to mourning and the mourning work that takes place on local trans local and global levels. Similar to the ritual of holding a "wake" engaged in by many communities after a death, a wake and "wake work" allows the community to celebrate the life of someone that has died, honoring them by remembering their life story and involves caring for family members after the death assisting in their mourning process. "Wake Work" also means being conscious. Conscious of the lived experiences of a people that finds themselves in what is known as "protracted grief" and as it relates to African in America "Maafa" experience (trans-atlantic slave experience) "protracted slave syndrome" as noted by Dr. Lee Butler and how Dr. Sharpe understands Black Death. "Wake Work" gives those who are "awake" and those who are interested in understanding and enhancing their knowledge of death care work, the opportunity to re/see, re/inhabit, and re/image the world of care for a community and care for African and African Diasporic individuals before, during, and after death.

ILF 3255 Blue Minister, Red Culture Purple Congregation 1-2 credits

In a supercharged political environment, many pastors find themselves struggling with how to lead purple congregations. Many clergy feel a religious call to pursue and enact justice across an array of social issues, but the broader political environment of the United States often frames those issues in conservative terms defined by evangelical Christian theological stances, or tries to exclude them from the legitimate practice of Christianity altogether. What does congregational ministry look like in such circumstances? How can "blue" pastors speak to and lead "purple" congregations, when national policies and politicians are trending decidedly "red?" This interdisciplinary course draws from scholarship on biblical exegesis and proclamation, moral injury and spiritual care, budgeting and resource allocation, leadership studies, critical pedagogy, and sociology of religion to ask how clergy can serve with integrity in trying times. Auditors welcome and will do the same work.

ILF 3256 Theology in a Time of Fascism 3 credits

Fascism refers to a specific period of Italian history between 1919 and 1945. The elements of fascism: specific rhetorical moves, a particular relationship to the past, language of purity and fear of contamination, validating violence, mythologizing rather than governing or advancing policies, a masculine heroism, etc. reappear and coalesce in other historical settings. This course is an examination of the elements of fascism that will allow us to recognize its many manifestations, goals, and strategies. Fascism poses specific dangers and responsibilities for theologians and intellectual workers in general. This analysis of fascism can guide adaptation of strategies of awareness, resistance, and care of self and others from the experiences of people who have lived in fascist societies.

ILF 3257 Congregational Renewal: A Wesleyan Approach to Church 1 credit
Revitalization

This course is designed to equip clergy and lay leaders with the theological foundation, cultural awareness, and practical strategies needed to lead churches through renewal. Rooted in Wesleyan

principles, the course explores leadership, mission, church culture, and sustainable systems to foster lasting revitalization. Through readings, discussions, hands-on assessments, and a final project, students will begin to develop the skills necessary to guide a contextualized renewal strategy for any congregation.

ILF 3258 Pastoral Responses to Moral Injury 1-2 credit

This introductory seminar will present a foundational framework for understanding and responding to moral stress and injuries. We will read and discuss the theories and primary research that define Moral Injury, and we will apply our studies to current issues that produce moral stress. Our course will begin with a mandatory 3 hour zoom meeting to introduce individually paced modules that will provide material for participant posts on the course discussion board. Auditors are welcome. Credit will be determined by the quality of posts to the course discussion board and a (3-4 page) reflection paper that will be due at the end of the course.

ILF 3259 Public Policy: Design, Intersectionality & Praxis 1 credit

Public Policy is not a solo endeavor. Successful public policy design and implementation takes many actors whose unique skills come together at different stages of the public policy process. This course will help you develop skills that can be utilized in the chain of public policy development, particularly design and analysis, help you identify public policy issues that you care about, and help you learn to craft and write "deliverables" in different policy genres that will assist you to be highly sought after in the job market because of your ability to produce what policy makers need to be effective in policy making.

ILF 3260 Movies, Meaning-Making, & Identity 3 credit

This course is designed as an experiment. Set in a fictional dystopian America under a conservative government that has dismantled the U.S. Department of Education, this course will explore (a)merican identity through the lenses of 1) movies as education; 2) movies as religion, 3) movies as national identity; and 4) movies as imperial mission.

ILF 3261 Christian Contemplative Traditions 3 credit

Christian traditions of contemplation are quite varied in their expression, including individual and communal traditions of singing, movement, imagination, and internal silence. This course will explore and analyze both contemporary and historic traditions through a combination of practice, reflection on practice, and teaching of practice. Throughout the course we will be assessing how persons in the traditions use key terms, including "contemplation".

This 8 week long intensive course earns 3 semester credits by engaging students for 2 hours each day, 7 days a week. Students will spend 30 minutes daily in a contemplative practice, 60 minutes reading the assignment for the day, and 30 minutes writing a journal entry, a post for the course, or preparing their final project. DMin students will have an assignment that deepens course engagement to the doctoral level.

ILF 3311 Interreligious Dialogue 3 credits

This course exposes students to the theory and practice of interreligious dialogue and the issues raised by interreligious dialogue, such as the challenge of religious diversity, theologies of religious pluralism, secularism, religiously motivated violence, and religion and public life. Students have opportunity to read critical scholarship on these topics and study specific cases where points of contact occur between religious groups—either in mutually edifying endeavors (like dialogue or common work) or conflicts that have arisen between religious groups. Students also learn about prominent interreligious organizations, meet practitioners, engage in case studies, and embody practices that enable them to experience the transformative power of dialogue across difference.

ILF 3315 Social Enterprise & Emergent Ministries 3 credits

In the context of rapidly changing government social safety nets and shrinking denominational needs for leadership, many Iliff students will create the institutional framework for their ministries (broadly defined) and vocational pursuits themselves. This course is a practical how-to for building a social enterprise/church/nonprofit startup from concept to launch.

ILF 3999 Independent Study 1 - 3 credits

Independent Study

ILF 4000 Vocational Residency Seminar 3 credits

The purpose of this course is to further vocational formation through critical reflection on and consultation about your residency experience with peers and faculty within the seminar setting and course assignments. As a requirement of the MDiv degree, students complete a 400-hour Vocational Residency and concurrent 28-week VR Seminar during the Fall and Spring semesters of one academic year. Both semesters must be completed in sequence within a single academic year. Three credits per semester totaling six credits. Students will be given a letter grade by their VR Seminar Instructors. Prior to enrolling in VR, students will have completed at least 18 semester credits, including IPVC (or its equivalent), first-year interdisciplinary course, and Vocational Formation and Discernment.

ILF 4001 Vocational Residency Seminar 3 credits

The purpose of this course is to further vocational formation through critical reflection on and consultation about your residency experience with peers and faculty within the seminar setting and course assignments. As a requirement of the MDiv degree, students complete a 400-hour Vocational Residency and concurrent 28-week VR Seminar during the Fall and Spring semesters of one academic year. Both semesters must be completed in sequence within a single academic year. Three credits per semester totaling six credits. Students will be given a letter grade by their VR Seminar Instructors. Prior to enrolling in VR, students will have completed at least 18 semester credits, including IPVC (or its equivalent), first-year interdisciplinary course, and Vocational Formation and Discernment.

ILF 4004 Clinical Pastoral Education 6 credits

CPE is an experience available to MDiv students under supervision and directed by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education. Students making this course a part of their Residency requirement must submit a petition to the director of Vocational Formation before enrolling. 6 hours, Pass/Fail



ILF 4006 **CPE Integration Praxis** **0 credits**

This advanced course helps students integrate their completed CPE experience into their professional formation and vocational discernment process. Successful students will have taken Intro to Pastoral & Spiritual Care and have completed at least 1 CPE unit.

ILF 4995 **MA Final Research Project** **3 credits**

The MA final research project is an opportunity for the student to demonstrate integration of their learning related to their concentration through the completion of research and communication of knowledge related to a particular area of interest to them and helpful to their vocational trajectory. While the learning and research must be polished into a single final project, the genre of the project may vary based on student learning goals and vocational plans post-graduation. The final project should demonstrate significant research and engagement with rigorous academic resources within the bounds of their concentration, moving beyond texts engaged in prior coursework to explore an area of particular focus and concern.

ILF 5002 **Introduction to Pastoral & Spiritual Care** **3 credits**

This course introduces students to theologies, theories, and practices of pastoral & spiritual care. We will emphasize theological, psychological, and ethical perspectives of care necessary for grappling with everyday concerns, intersectional & contextualized human experiences, and social systems.

Throughout this course, we will acknowledge that the acquisition of practical wisdom as pastoral and/or spiritual care practitioners include a process of formation, not just the study of pastoral and spiritual care, but reflection on its practice and on oneself. Toward that end, learning opportunities will include readings, self-awareness exercises, discussions, role-plays, and opportunities to reflect on pastoral practices.

ILF 5010 **DMin Foundations Seminar** **3 credits**

This course is the foundational and introductory course for the Doctor of Ministry program. The course encourages students to attend to the professional identities of themselves and others, noticing how a professional life arises out of the intersections of intellectual interests, circumstances, communities, and education. Students spend time with works that resonate with the four themes of the DMin (Prophetic Leadership, Social Justice and Ethics, Religion Trauma and Healing, Embodied Spirituality), connect them to their own professional identities, and begin the work of imagining their own contributions in the form of a DMin Project.

ILF 5014 **Latine Theology and Ethics** **3 credits**

This course examines the emergence and development of Latinx religious faith and social protest thought from the U.S. Latinx communities. Special attention is given to texts and traditions as living changing heritages, in order to propose critical options that foster emancipatory practices in the contemporary struggle for race and ethnic justice. The course will concentrate on Latinx theology, ethics, and hermeneutics.

ILF 5021 **DMin Sem: Research in Living Religious Communities** **3 credits**

This collaborative seminar introduces students to rigorous scholarly approaches to researching ministry-related settings, living religious communities, and other organizational contexts as well as to the ethical challenges and questions that such approaches may elicit. Students will begin to refine the research questions they might pursue for their DMin or JDP project, begin to engage in contextual analysis of their research site/community of practice, and work together to refine appropriate research strategies and conceptual framing for their projects.

ILF 5022 **DMin Project Models** **1 credit**

This course familiarizes DMin students with the various approaches to DMin project design at Iliff and helps them begin to ground their own significant project in the context of their ministry. Students will identify and develop skills critical to the effective design of their project in relation to their concentration area and chosen project model.

ILF 5025 **DMin Project Proposal Seminar** **3 credits**

This required course in the Doctor of Ministry degree program will prepare students to submit their final project proposal. The course will help students define the scope and methodology of the project, create an annotated bibliography and literature review, and attend to the ethics and legality of qualitative research.

ILF 5028 **Native Women- Voices of the Matriarchy** **3 credits**

This course is a broad survey of Native American women's vital role within cultural, social, political, economic, and spiritual structures in Traditional and contemporary matriarchal systems. The writings of Native historians, scholars, and activists examine the ways in which the principles of Indigenous interdependence, radical relationality, theological anthropology, reciprocity and balance inform contemporary matriarchy's systems of leadership, governance, and spiritual worldview in Native communities. The student is asked to reflect on how practices of US feminism are challenged by and may be inspired to imagine new possibilities for justice and equity when listening to the voices and experiences of Native Women and their communities.

ILF 5030 **Library Research Skills** **1 credit**

Library Research Skills is a course that covers research at the graduate level. This class will cover searching in with the many resources of any academic library. In addition to learning how to use a library search engine and many academic databases, this class will teach students how to collect this research as well in programs like Zotero and other citation management systems. Finally, this class will look at how to properly cite research in different styles.

ILF 5057 **Sects, Cults and New Religious Movements** **3 credits**

An exploration of religious groups considered outside of the mainstream of a society. Specific topics include theories of religious group innovation and recruitment; controversies over identifying "cults"; sectarian Christianity, gender and sexuality; religious understandings of the paranormal; and religion and marginalized racial projects.

ILF 5065 **Empire and the Rise of Christianity** **3 credits**

Through the first 500 years of Christianity, this course traces the gradual confluence of Christianity and the Roman Empire as well as its role in the development of Christian beliefs,

practices, production of discourse, institutions, and strategies of social control. The course is a kind of hybrid of historical studies, religious studies, and post-colonial critique. Thus, the readings and discussions will include primary source texts, scholarship on the early history of Christianity in its Roman context, the nature and development of the Christian “religion,” and post-colonial analyses of various aspects of early Christianity. The flow of the course combines the temporal and the thematic. That is to say that I have attempted to proceed through the term in advancing chronological order in general, but that each week addresses specific themes or issues, some of which extend beyond the primary time period for that week.

ILF 5074 1 Corinthians 3 credits

This course is an upper-level seminar focused on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. We attend carefully to the work of interpretations from different perspectives and study important themes and issues the text raises, such as concepts of the body, sexuality, unity and diversity in community, slavery, and the role of women in early Christianity.

ILF 5126 Liberation Theologies 3 credits

This course examines the emergence and development of the different manifestations of Liberation Theologies and global social protest. Special attention is given to texts and traditions from different ethnic and racial communities, both domestic and international; treating them as living changing heritages, in order to propose critical options which foster emancipatory practices in the contemporary struggle for justice. The course will concentrate on Liberation theologies, ethics, and hermeneutics.

ILF 5151 Minoritized Interpretations of the New Testament 3 credits

Though the academic study of the New Testament has long been controlled by European and North American institutions and persons of European descent, recent decades have seen a surge of other perspectives that are sometimes collected under the heading of “minoritized.” These perspectives include postcolonial and decolonial approaches, and methods centered on racial or ethnic identities, geographies, cultures, shared historical experiences, and gender and sexuality, to name a few. This course considers these forms of interpretation together and separately, as ways of reading biblical texts outside of the field’s historical biases, and looks to the future of Biblical Studies.

ILF 5152 Sex and Gender in Premodern Christianities 3 credits

This course traces the development of Christian ideas about gender and sexuality from the first century of the Common Era to the medieval period. With special attention to the circumstances that shaped and influenced premodern Christians’ understandings of bodies, this course makes use of feminist, queer, and trans historiographies to understand how gender and sexuality were contested, presented, understood, and negotiated by Christians across place and time.

ILF 5164 Religious and Public Leadership 3 credits

This course introduces students to the form, function, and practice of religious and public leadership in complex organizations, including congregations, denominations, nonprofits, and community-based environments. The first part of the course focuses on frameworks and

capacities for leadership, helping students to assess their own leadership abilities and attending to how identities intersect within organizational cultures and systems. The latter part of the course explores the practice of leadership within complex organizations in the areas of planning, adaptation, conflict, human resources, decision making, and administration. Successful masters students in this course will have already taken IPDC and the First-Year Writing & Research Seminar. Also open to DMin students.

ILF 5187 Monotheism: A Comparative Approach 3 credits

This course explores and compares the three Abrahamic religions as responses to fundamental problems of human existence. Topics will be devoted to a particular stage of the human life-cycle and the problems, both practical and conceptual, which arise at that stage. The course will compare how religions present those problems, and how they develop practices and beliefs to “solve” or make sense of them. We also consider the limits of each belief system: aspects of each problem that are not addressed; possible incompatibilities between religious solutions; as well as the risks and costs that religious solutions can create for both individuals and societies.

This approach grounded in structural and functionalist traditions of the social sciences, will help us to formulate our own critical perspective of these religions and, at the same time, to appreciate their diversity, their convergences, and their cumulative wisdom about matters of universal human concerns.

ILF 5192 Settler Colonialism and Native American Identities 3 credits

This course critically investigates the intersections between settler colonial theory and Native American studies as they relate to Identity formation and the politics of cultural recognition. It allows the student to reflect on cultural assumptions about individual self-expression and communal belonging as compared and contrasted with Indigenous and Settler understandings. Research skills are developed by looking to Native voices and experiences to explore the dynamic and vital contemporary expression of sovereignty within the vastness of Native Communities.

ILF 5236 Inclusive Leadership & Local Politics Immersion Course 3 credits

Through this one-week immersion experience, students will engage with local leaders in Columbia, South Carolina, and focus on advocating for trans healthcare and fostering inclusion for transgender individuals in local communities. Utilizing theories of decolonial leadership, integrated ethical frameworks, and local epistemologies, students will explore ways to expand support and inclusion for transgender individuals, developing skills to analyze local political ecosystems and create strategies for effective communication and advocacy. Tuition and expenses during the immersion are paid for by grant funding; the only cost to students is transportation to and from Columbia, South Carolina. Open to master's and doctoral students.

ILF 5240 Spiritual Autobiography and Memoir 3 credits

Students will read and analyze both historical and contemporary spiritual autobiographies and memoirs. Students will work collaboratively to develop analytical tools for engaging these works as artifacts of individual experience connected to historical, social, political, and religious realities. We will practice writing our own spiritual stories through regular short writing exercises, seeking ways

to share these stories in ways that are compelling, honest/truthful, artistic, edifying, and ethical. Together we will explore and critically assess the potential uses of spiritual autobiography for personal reflection, educational use, spiritual care, spiritual formation, preaching/testimony, and organizational promotion and development.

**ILF 5242 Reproductive Justice & Christianity:
A Feminist Perspective 3 credits**

This course explores reproductive justice through feminist, womanist, queer, and postcolonial Christian theological lenses. We will critically engage histories of reproductive control, theologies of embodiment, biblical interpretation, and global faith perspectives on abortion, contraception, fertility, parenting, and reproductive labor. Through ritual, storytelling, collaborative theological practices, and creative engagement, students will reflect on reproductive theologies that affirm dignity, life, and agency across difference.

ILF 5243 Spiritual Care in the Capitalocene 3 credits

Spiritual care is inherently contextual, emerging out of particular demands, crises, and relationships that ultimately shape care practices that can fundamentally meet the moment. Given the global context, spiritual care providers must critically reengage their own practices in light of the realities of the ecological crisis as driven by the global system of capitalism. This advanced course in spiritual care will ask students to analyze and then develop strategies within this greater context, drawing on interdisciplinary resources in theology, ethics, and ecology to cultivate practices of care that address ecological suffering, systemic injustices, and the possibilities of collective solidarity and transformation.

**ILF 5254 Wake Work: An Introduction to Death Care Work 2-3 credits
And a Conscious Awareness of the Life and Death Experiences of
African American Diasporic Communities**

This course is based on the work of Dr. Christa Sharpe and her book “In the Wake – On Blackness and Being” who asks the question: “how do you memorialize an event that is still ongoing?” Dr. Sharpe contends that “blackness” becomes the symbol for those deemed less-than-human beings and are condemned to death. This six- week course delivered virtually will offer to those who are interested in Death Care Work and certification as a “Death Doula” an opportunity to begin to understand the lived experience of African and African diasporic people as they navigate life and death using the theory of “wake work”.

“Wake Work”, as a theory and a praxis of Black “being” in the African diaspora pays attention to mourning and the mourning work that takes place on local trans local and global levels. Similar to the ritual of holding a “wake” engaged in by many communities after a death, a wake and “wake work” allows the community to celebrate the life of someone that has died, honoring them by remembering their life story and involves caring for family members after the death assisting in their mourning process. “Wake Work” also means being conscious. Conscious of the lived experiences of a people that finds themselves in what is known as “protracted grief” and as it relates to African in America “Maafa” experience (trans-atlantic slave experience) “protracted slave syndrome” as noted by Dr. Lee Butler and how Dr. Sharpe understands Black Death. “Wake Work” gives those who are “awake” and those who are interested in understanding and enhancing

their knowledge of death care work, the opportunity to re/see, re/inhabit, and re/image the world of care for a community and care for African and African Diasporic individuals before, during, and after death.

ILF 5261 Christian Contemplative Traditions 3 credit

Christian traditions of contemplation are quite varied in their expression, including individual and communal traditions of singing, movement, imagination, and internal silence. This course will explore and analyze both contemporary and historic traditions through a combination of practice, reflection on practice, and teaching of practice. Throughout the course we will be assessing how persons in the traditions use key terms, including "contemplation".

This 8 week long intensive course earns 3 semester credits by engaging students for 2 hours each day, 7 days a week. Students will spend 30 minutes daily in a contemplative practice, 60 minutes reading the assignment for the day, and 30 minutes writing a journal entry, a post for the course, or preparing their final project. DMin students will have an assignment that deepens course engagement to the doctoral level.

ILF 5994 DMin Project Writing 2 credits

Students will conduct research and immerse in writing to complete their DMin work as effectively and efficiently as possible based on their schedules. The outline below provides a framework for research and writing that invites success. Professor and student support and accountability are essential aspects of this framework. The intention is for students to have completed writing within the year (2 semesters).

ILF 5999 Independent Study (DMin) 3 credits

Independent Study (DMin)