

WINTER

SPRING

February 1-March 1

Leading Women: Religion, Reform and Renewal in America

This course tells the stories of Christian women who changed American society. Each session will highlight at least one woman who put faith into action to change American society. Harriet Beecher Stowe was an author who used her literary talent to persuade Americans that slavery was wrong. Anna Howard Shaw was a physician and a Methodist pastor; she fought for women's rights to vote. Aimee Semple McPherson was a Pentecostal minister who gave people hope during the Great Depression. Dorothy Day was a journalist and labor leader who organized Catholic Workers to fight for better wages. Gospel and folk singers Mahalia Jackson, Odetta Holmes and Fannie Lou Hamer used their voices to sing America closer to justice and freedom for all. All of these women helped us have a freer and more open society—and all of them were inspired by faith.

Instructor

Nancy Koester, *adjunct instructor of church history*

Course Hours: Noon-2 p.m.

Making Sense of Scripture

Based on David Lose's new book, "Making Sense of Scripture—Inviting People to Think about the Bible," this course will introduce themes, exercises and practical resources that invite all Christians to read the Bible with both heart and mind. We'll explore major questions Christians have about their book of faith.

Instructor

David Lose, *The Marbury E. Anderson Professor of Biblical Preaching*

Course Hours: 7-9 p.m.

Evil and the Bible

All humans face the reality of evil and believers perhaps doubly so, since they are confronted with the question of how to understand the presence of evil in a world created good by a loving God. The Bible addresses the question of evil—and evil itself—in a variety of ways. We will explore significant biblical texts and attempt to find ways to speak of evil and endure it while retaining faith in God.

Instructor

Fred Gaiser, *professor of Old Testament*

Course Hours: 7-9 p.m.

March 22-April 19

Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffy Introduction to Theology

Back by popular demand!

When people heard that Humor and Theology had started dating each other, they whispered, "It'll never work. The two are just not a good match for each other." When Humor and Theology got engaged...and then married, the skepticism only grew more intense. "Can these two really live together?" But it turns out that Humor and Theology, in fact, are great partners. In the tradition of Martin Luther, who both knew a good joke and a good theological distinction, this course will draw on humor to explore many of the basic concepts of the Christian faith, focusing on what the church has found most important in its central theological concepts.

Instructor

Rolf Jacobson, *associate professor of Old Testament*

Course Hours: Noon-2 p.m.

A Walk Through the New Testament

Most churchgoers say they would like to be more familiar with the Bible. Many feel embarrassed at not knowing as much as they think they're supposed to know. Some find the Bible intimidating and difficult to understand. Sound familiar? If so, then join us for an overview of the New Testament. You'll come away with a framework for becoming a better, more knowledgeable reader of Christian Scripture. We'll explore the content of these books and the world from which they came. Why were these books written and to whom? Why do they still matter? Whether you are just setting out on your journey as a Bible reader, need a roadmap of the big picture or need to ask directions to refresh your memory, these sessions will help you set a course into the story of the God who saves us and claims us through Jesus Christ.

Instructor

Matthew Skinner, *professor of New Testament*

Course Hours: 7-9 p.m.

The Dead Sea Scrolls

Since their discovery in 1947, the Dead Sea Scrolls have been the object of intense interest on the part of scholars and lay people. Dating from second century BCE to first century CE, these scrolls provide a fascinating glimpse into the history of Judaism and into the background of early Christianity. In conjunction with a special exhibition of the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Bible faculty of Luther Seminary will address topics like: What do the Scrolls tell us about the formation of the Bible? and What do they tell us about messianic hopes in the time of Christ? The third class session will be held at the Science Museum, in order to view the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition. This will require an additional charge at the museum's group rate.

Instructor

Kathryn Schifferdecker, *assistant professor of Old Testament*

Course Hours: 7-9 p.m.

 LUTHER SEMINARY

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LAY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

COURSE OFFERINGS
2009-2010

Strengthening
people for
their work in
God's world

REGISTRATION LAY SCHOOL FALL

OF THEOLOGY 2009-2010

Lay School of Theology

Mail To: Lay School of Theology, Luther Seminary
2481 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108

Online: www.luthersem.edu/layschool

Questions: Call the Center for Lifelong Learning at 651.641.3416 or e-mail kairos@luthersem.edu

Full Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone

E-Mail (used to confirm registration)

Course Name

Course Name

Course Name

Cost: The fee for each course is \$60, or \$55 per course (includes webcast courses) when registering for three or more courses per person at one time. Congregation rate for webcast is \$100 per course. **Please register online if you are attending via an interactive webcast class.**

New to Lay School? Choose your first class for just \$25!

My tuition payment of _____ is enclosed.
(payable to Lay School of Theology, participant's name and course date on check.)

Or Charge to: Mastercard Visa

Card # Exp. Date

Signature

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Lay School of Theology is a program of informal, non-credit classes taught by seminary professors for laypersons who want to learn more about matters that relate to their Christian faith and life.

Curriculum

The Lay School curriculum for 2009-2010 includes courses in Bible—portions of the Old and New Testaments—as well as a variety of other topics, such as making sense of Scripture, myths about religion and Christian women leaders.

Location and Schedule

Classes usually meet on the Luther Seminary campus during five consecutive Mondays. Evening classes meet from 7-9 p.m. in Northwestern Hall, 1501 Fulham St. Daytime classes meet from Noon-2 p.m. in Stub Hall, 2329 Hendon Ave.

Registration and Costs

Please register online at www.luthersem.edu/layschool or complete and mail the registration form in this brochure along with payment in full to Luther Seminary before the first class session. Early registration is encouraged.

The fee per course is \$60. Those who register for three or more courses at one time pay \$55 per course.

Webcast

Three courses are also available via interactive webcast. To attend a course via webcast you will need a high-speed Internet connection. Instructions on how to access the webcast class will be emailed to participants prior to class. **Please register online if you are attending via an interactive webcast class.** Congregation rate for webcast is \$100 per course. Courses are archived for one week for those who are registered.

Additional Information

For additional information, call the Center for Lifelong Learning at 651.641.3416, or e-mail us at kairos@luthersem.edu.

September 14-October 12

To Be a Pilgrim: The Journey from This World to the Next

The Christian life is a journey. Jesus asked us to follow him; he was the way to eternal life. Some of the greatest literature in the West emerges from that image of the Christian pilgrimage—Dante, Chaucer, Bunyan, Cervantes, etc. This course will consider William Langland's "Piers Plowman," John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" and C. S. Lewis' "Pilgrim's Regress." We'll conclude with modern Swedish novel "Lewis' Journey," about the pilgrimage of the founder of Swedish Pentecostalism, Lewis Pethrus.

Instructor

Gracia Grindal, professor of rhetoric

Course Hours: Noon-2 p.m.

10 Myths about Religion in America

Religion in America is an extremely varied and complicated thing. America contains almost every possible religious tradition on earth, and if that weren't enough, Americans are continually creating new religions. It is very hard to get a clear picture of religion in America, and this task is magnified because of long held but false notions about this subject. This course will examine 10 ideas that most Americans have about American religion—ideas that are widespread but not really true.

Instructor

Mark Granquist, professor of church history

Course Hours: 7-9 p.m.

"These classes open my eyes and help me think about my faith and relating to others."

Gospel of Luke

Luke's Gospel tells the story of Jesus from conception to ascension. So many of Luke's memorable parables and stories come from this Gospel alone: the good samaritan, the prodigal son, the steward of unrighteousness. In this class we will follow Jesus' story as carefully as Luke wrote it. We will seek greater understanding of how the parables and narrative highlight the great themes of salvation and service that permeate this Gospel.

Instructor

Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament

Course Hours: 7-9 p.m.

Web: www.luthersem.edu/layschool • Phone: 651.641.3416 • Email: kairos@luthersem.edu

What past participants had to say about Lay School classes:

"Thank you for providing these wonderful learning experiences for lay people!"

"This is a terrific program that provides study opportunities I don't get often enough in my congregation."

"The classes have always been very well done—The instructors are always well prepared and use a variety of teaching styles."

"Each of the instructors this year were very different from each other. All were excellent!"

"I have taken evening and noon classes for three years and enjoyed them all!"

"Thank you so much for such a fabulous class. I learned so much in such a short time. I will never look at the Old Testament the same way again!"

"Offering webcast versions of the classes is a wonderful option to have."

"It's great to be here and be part of the Lay School of Theology. I'm waiting to see what next year has for us!"

"The professor integrated lecture, small-group conversation and plenary discussion to promote each individual's opportunity for learning."

"The teacher's enthusiasm and excitement are infectious."