

HSP Summer Session June 15-28, 2025
Course Offerings
Duke Divinity School

Biblical Studies – New Testament

Reading Paul Latinamente:

Aspects of Empire, Race & Religion

Dr. Efraín Agosto,

Croghan Bicentennial Professor in Biblical and Early Christian Studies

Williams College

A highly contested figure in Biblical Studies, who was the Apostle Paul and how can/should we as Latine readers of the Christian New Testament study and analyze his writings? This course seeks to understand Paul in light of our 21st century Latina/Latino/Latinx reality. In the first place, we will address issues of the immediate context of Paul's letter-writing and ministry in the early first century CE Jesus movement, including aspects of the Roman Imperial order that dominated all spheres of life in that period, including the religious. Nonetheless, correspondences with empire, colonization, and religion today will critically inform that exploration of the past. Second, we will turn our attention to questions of interpretative approaches to these ancient religious texts, specifically from current day Latinx contexts. How do the traditional historical-critical approaches to understanding Paul's letters relate to sociological and post-colonial readings that connect the documents to religious and political realities today, especially among Latinx communities? Finally, the course confronts difficulties in understanding and misunderstanding Paul considering religious, social, and political challenges our communities face. For example, how do current phenomena like Christian Nationalism, challenges to LGBTQ rights, and gender inequality relate to Paul's writings and their interpretation for today? These and other current issues will inform our reaching back to these important documents from first century Christian history, theology, and religious practice, as Latinx communities of faith and practice.

Intercultural/Feminist Studies – Estudios interculturales/feministas
Bilingual Class/Clase Bilingüe

Latina Feminist Theology: Intercultural Possibilities

Teología Feminista Latina: Posibilidades Interculturales

Dr. María Pilar Aquino

Professor Emerita of Theology and Religious Studies

University of San Diego

The contribution of Latina Feminist Theology to intercultural transformation will be explored, including approaches from decolonial, ecofeminist, and Abya Yala's indigenous-community feminisms, and resources for intervention in crucial realities of concern, such as sexual violence, feminicide, undocumented migration, interreligious

dialogue and peacebuilding. This is a bilingual class with readings, lectures, and discussion in Spanish and English.

Se explorará la contribución de la Teología Feminista Latina a la transformación intercultural, incluyendo enfoques de los feminismos decolonial, ecofeminista e indígena-comunitario de Abya Yala, y recursos para la intervención en realidades cruciales de interés, como la violencia sexual, el feminicidio, la migración indocumentada, el diálogo interreligioso y la construcción de la paz. Se trata de una clase bilingüe con lecturas, presentaciones y discusiones en español e inglés.

Liturgical Studies

Liberation Theologies and Rituals

Rev. Dr. Cláudio Carvalhaes

Professor of Worship

Union Theological Seminary in NY

In this course we will read basic texts of various liberation theologies in Latin American and across the globe, finding ways to shape and inform our spiritualities and theologies through rituals, always from the perspective of marginalized people. Along with these texts, the class will create liturgies/worship services that will help articulate Liturgical Liberation Theologies.

Sociology of Religion

Sociology of Latine Religions

Dr. Jonathan Calvillo

Assistant Professor of Latinx Communities

Candler School of Theology, Emory University

This course draws on the tools of Sociology of Religion to analyze and theorize about the lived religious experiences of Latines. The place of religion in the private and public lives of Latines remains a hotly debated topic. Often, Latine religious traditions are discussed as marginal religions of newcomers — traditions newly transplanted from foreign homelands to the US or traditions of recent converts outside the US mainstream. Pushing beyond such narratives, this course contextualizes Latine religion as a longstanding presence in the US with ongoing transnational ties and continued influence in the US religious landscape. Furthermore, this course examines how particular assumptions about religion and spirituality limit understanding of what religion looks like in the lives of Latines. Course materials will introduce key scholars engaging Latinx spiritualities, primarily from a social scientific perspective. Likewise, students will be introduced to concepts and theories from the broader field of sociology of religion. Through the course, students will design a project around a topic of their own interest related to Latine religion and spirituality with the aim of employing resources from sociology of religion to better engage the diversity of Latine spiritualities.

The course is especially designed to encourage the accompaniment of Latine communities through qualitative methods of social scientific research.

Philosophical Theology

Being Luminously Dark: Exploring Latinidad in Philosophical Theologies

Dr. Elaine Padilla

Professor of Philosophy and Religion, Latinx/Latin American Studies

La Verne University

This class delves into philosophical, Latin American, and Latinx theologies that contemplate on the boundary line (“/”) between darkness and luminosity and that serve as alternatives to Western metaphysical constructs that set the basis for invisibility or negation of personhood (being not human enough). Students will learn about the development of symbolic language which impact on interiority or the soul has resulted in what is known as the colonial wound or the subjugation of cultural, ethno-racial, gender, and religious differences. We will also discuss acts such as protest, lament, and defiance as potential components in the cultivation of personhood. The purpose is to expose the effects of coloniality and to study spiritualities of *luminous darkness* that aid in processes of dwelling in-between spaces of sharp oppositions such as nonperson/darkness and true-person/light and of becoming authentically visible through the nodal points that the boundary line creates. The biographies of and diagrams, paintings, diaries, and theatrical pieces created by or based on several figures--mostly religious women--in history or legend will serve as the philosophical and theological starting points in our class discussions.

Theological Studies

Liberation Theologies in the U.S

Dr. Robert Rivera

Associate Professor of Theology

St. John's University

This course is an interdisciplinary and intersectional examination of liberation theologies in the context of the United States. Analyzing the emergence and development of liberation theologies in the United States, this course focuses on methods, socio-political contexts, and key themes and figures in U.S. liberation theologies.