

Northeast Ohio School of Ministry (NEOSOM)
Fall Term 2020

Course Schedule

History and Polity of the United Church of Christ

Fee \$100

Certification Track Course

Description:

Who are we in this wonderful, wacky world of church we call home? Where did the UCC come from, why was it formed, who are we now, who do we believe God is calling us to be? And how do we get there? These are the sorts of questions we'll explore as we learn about our history and our polity.

Facilitator and Instructor: Gene McAfee

Other Instructors: Geoffrey Black, David Hill, Robert P. "Rip" Noble, Mindy Quellhorst

Dates: Thursdays, Sept. 17 - Nov. 5, and Saturday, Nov. 7, Association Annual Meeting

Time: 6:30 - 8:40 p.m., plus Association Meeting times TBD

*(This course will **NOT**, as earlier advertised, be held on Saturdays in October)*

Text(s):

1. Constitution and Bylaws of the United Church of Christ (available online at https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/UCC_Constitution.pdf)
2. Post, Margaret Rowland, and Tom Dipko (rev.) History and Program of the United Church of Christ. (United Church Press, 2007)
3. Gunnemann, Louis, The Shaping of the United Church of Christ. (Pilgrim Press, 1977, expanded 1999)
4. Johnson, Daniel, and Hambrick-Stowe, Charles, editors, Theology and Identity: Traditions, Movements and Polity in the UCC (United Church Press, 1990)
5. Zikmund, Barbara Brown, editor, Hidden Histories in the United Church, volumes I and II (United Church Press, 1984, 1987)

Homiletics

Fee \$100

Audit \$65

Accreditation Path Course

Description:

Many of us have been called on, from time to time, to preach -- how do we do it? This course introduces the art and craft of preaching, from the initial encounter with the texts of Scripture, to the research and construction of sermons, to the delivery in worship that makes sermons what they are intended to be.

Instructor: Jeff Nelson

Dates: Wednesdays, Sept. 9 - Oct. 28

Time: 6:30 - 8:40 p.m.

Text(s): Long, Thomas. The Witness of Preaching (3rd edition strongly recommended, Westminster John Knox, 2016)

Introduction to Biblical Studies

Fee \$100

Audit \$65

Certification Track Course

Description:

The Bible comes to us, we believe, through the divine inspiration of God's Holy Spirit -- but how? That's just one of the questions this course will address. For centuries, scholars have devoted their lives to a close reading of Scripture, noting its curiosities, redundancies, and inconsistencies -- where did these come from? Why are they still there? What do we mean by the word "Bible" anyway? When we look for the sources of Scripture, the literary forms we find in our Bibles, and the ways the text has been put together, we're doing Biblical Studies. Come and join us.

Instructor: David Cleaver-Bartholomew

Dates: Saturdays, Sept. 12, 19 (skipping Sept. 26), Oct. 3, 10, 17 (skipping Oct. 24), Oct. 31 (skipping Nov. 7), Nov. 14, 21

Time: 9:30 - 11:40 a.m.

Text(s): Moyise, Steve. Introduction to Biblical Studies (3rd ed., Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2013)

Old Testament 3A-B: The Theology of the Old Testament

Part A Fee \$100

Ordination Track Course

Description:

Once we have a basic grasp of the vast body of material Christians know as the Old (or First) Testament, then what do we do? Scripture is fundamentally theological, and this course will introduce students to the discipline of Old Testament Theology, examining the magnum opus of the UCC's most prolific and renowned biblical scholar, Walter Brueggemann. **This advanced double course, spanning the fall and winter terms (for a total of 16 online sessions)**, will be devoted to reading Prof. Brueggemann's Theology of the Old Testament as an example and inspiration for our own theological engagement with the largest portion of the Christian Bible.

Instructor: Gene McAfee

Dates: Wednesdays, Oct. 7 - 28, Nov. 4 - 25, 2020 (*Part A*); Jan. 6 - 27, Feb. 3 - 24, 2021 (*Part B*)

Time: 6:30 - 8:40 p.m.

Text: Brueggemann, Walter. Theology of the Old Testament (Fortress, 1997, 2012)

Prerequisite: Old Testament 1 and 2

Personal Ethics

Fee \$100

Audit \$65

Certification Track Course

Description:

As people of faith, how do we make ethical decisions in a complex and uncertain world? How does the Bible help us do that? What role does community play in living ethically? What do thinkers from the past have to teach us? What are the differences between personal and professional/public ethics? These and many other questions will shape the sustained conversation we'll have together about making tough decisions in tough times.

Instructor: Sharon Alberson

Dates: Tuesdays, Sept. 8 - Oct. 13

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Text(s): Birch, Bruce C., et al. Bible and Ethics in the Christian Life (Fortress, 2018)

All courses are taught online via Zoom and require a minimum of six students. Tuition is \$100 per course. For questions or for more information, please contact Gene McAfee, Dean, at deanofschools@livingwaterone.org.