

2018-2019 Academic Year Catalog Listings



The following is a list of courses offered in the Official Course Catalog for Wesley Theological Seminary. If a course is listed here, there is not a guarantee that the course will be offered in the 2018-2019 year. If you are really interested in a particular course being offered in the future, please contact artsandreligion@welseyseminary.edu. Arts Practicum courses change each semester and are taught by our visiting Artists in Residence. Check the Bulletin Board by the Studio to find out more about the current Artists in Residence.

RA-108 Oxnam Chapel Visuals, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring Semester*

Work with other students and the Chapel Elder to plan, design, and execute paraments, banners and other visual materials for community worship in Oxnam Chapel, considering the liturgical calendar, lectionary readings and special celebrations that occur during the semester.

RA-112 The Holy in Washington, D.C. Art: Art as Embodiment, 2 credit hours

Theological themes and major styles of art encountered through studio lectures, slide presentations, and field trips to this city's painting, sculpture, manuscript illumination, icons, and stained glass. Application of learnings to local church.

RA-113 Art as Worship, Worship as Art, 2 credit hours

Exploration of the relationships between art-making as a spiritual discipline, using art as a focus for personal devotion, incorporating artforms into corporate worship, and seeing corporate worship itself as a form of art.

RA-121 Liturgical Dance as Spiritual Practice, 1 credit hour, *Offered Summer Semester*

The discovery and praxis of liturgical dance as a spiritual discipline. Emphasis on spiritual practices that assist the dancer in the creative process.

RA-122 Picturing the Church: Two Millennia of Art and Architecture, 2 credit hours, *Offered Fall Semester*

A survey of Christian art and architecture from the earliest evidence to present trends.

RA-128 The Arts and the Need of the World, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring Semester*

Exploration of how the arts are integral to individual and communal self-understanding and spiritual development; use of the arts in social movements; possibilities for congregations and individuals to include the arts in their service to the world.

RA-129 Creative Process as Spiritual Practice, 1 credit hour, *Offered Spring Semester*

Explores interplay between contemplative prayer, creativity and the act of making. Focuses on experiential nature of creative process and Benedictine spirituality. Exposes students to other traditions that incorporate making in prayer practices. No arts experience necessary.

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RA-130 Chapel Choir, 1 credit hour

Participation in singing for community worship: reflection on the role of church music in Christian worship. Requires participation in Tuesday community Chapel services. May be taken a maximum of six semesters for credit.

RA-133 Greatest Hits of Sacred Music, 2 credit hours

Focusing on some of the most popular works of sacred music including Handel's Messiah, masterpieces by Bach, Haydn and others, we will focus on the power of the music and the relationship between notes themselves and the biblical sources.

RA-135 Music Skills for the Local Church, 2 credit hours, *Offered Summer Semester*

The basics of music for pastors and others in local church ministry. Music reading, terminology, listening drills, singing of hymn tunes and basic sight reading. This course is intended for those who have little or no previous musical experience.

RA-136 Songs of Zion: Spirituals in the Life of The Church, 2 credit hours

The heritage of the African-American spiritual and its manifold presence in the contemporary church; theological themes of the spiritual and the nuances of translating those themes into music; strategies for the effective use of the Songs of Zion in contemporary worship.

RA-137 Lift Every Voice: Exploring Congregational Song, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring Semester*

Examines the United Methodist Hymnal and hymnals from other major Protestant denominations, focusing on diverse cultural traditions that are part of today's worship.

RA-138 Music and Social Justice, 2 credit hours, *Offered Fall Semester*

The role of music in causes of peace and justice and the particular works (from hymns to major oratorios) that address themselves to these issues.

RA-142 Language of Grace: Readings in Modern Literature, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring Semester*

Twentieth century literature's affirmation, criticism and revision of basic Christian themes: faith, love and family relationships, life and death, sin and grace, the church, clergy and scriptural teaching.

RA-144 Scripture in Literature, 2 credit hours

An exploration of how writers from different times, places, and cultural perspectives have retold and reinterpreted stories from scripture; including John Milton, Renita Williams, Frederick Buechner, Lucille Clifton, Denise Levertov, Margaret Atwood, James Weldon Johnson and others.

RA-146 Poetry as Spiritual Practice, 2 credit hours

The practices of reading and writing poetry as ways of seeing and of being in the world. Contemporary and classic Christian poetry, the poetry of the Psalms, and the relationship between reading, writing, form and discipline in poetic practice. Writing workshops, papers and presentations on particular poetic voices, experiments with reading and writing students' own poetry.

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RA-153 Art for God's Sake: Art, Visual Culture, and Christian Understanding, 2 credit hours

Investigate the ways that art has been used in shaping Christian faith, understandings and attitudes. Definitions and explorations of aesthetics, art theory, and the function of fine art, popular art and devotional art in the church and the wider society.

RA-173 Performing Scripture Bibliodrama, 2 credit hours

Hands-on exploration, experimentation, instruction, interpretation, comparison, and coaching in the internalization and performance of scripture for worship, education, pastoral care, Bible study, evangelism, missions, and spiritual formation.

RA-175 Biblical Storytelling, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring and Summer Semesters*

An exploration of biblical storytelling – traditional oral presentations, electronic renderings, and a combination of the two – in various ministry settings in the context of our digital culture, including the role and practice of biblical storytelling.

RA-176 The Rest of the Story: Parables and Parallel Stories, 2 credit hours, *Offered Fall Semester*

An exploration of the power of narrative in Hebrew and Christian scriptures, other complementary texts, and personal faith journeys – particularly when experienced as performance in tandem with each other – for biblical understanding and spiritual formation.

RA-177 The Word Made Flesh: Making Scripture Seen and Heard, 2 credit hours

An exploration of variations in scripture presentation for worship and education – embodied storytelling, photography, traditional visual arts, screen projection, music – as a visceral experience of these sacred stories.

RA-178 Drama for Ministry: Improvisation and Bibliodrama, 2 credit hours

Improvisational techniques and Bibliodrama exercises for use in church or ministry settings and for pastoral development. Includes imaginative exploration of biblical narratives and role playing from biblical and theological sources.

RA-188 Tools for Drama in Ministry, 2 credit hours

Basic theatre techniques for application in church and ministry settings. Includes improvisation, role playing from biblical sources, choral presentation of scripture, and performance of an original short liturgical drama. Reading includes essays in performance theory and biblical storytelling, as well as selected plays. No prior experience in drama necessary.

RA-189 Writing for Drama in Worship, 2 credit hours

Playwriting techniques for short dramas from biblical/theological texts designed for worship.

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RA-191 T.S. Eliot & the Search for God, 1 credit hour

This course explores the spiritual quest as depicted in the poems, plays, and essays of the twentieth century's greatest poet.

RA-196 Liturgical Dance Theory & Practice, 2 credit hours

The discovery and praxis of liturgical dance as a worshiping arts ministry. Emphasis on best practices for ministry that assist the dancer in the creative process and instill an ethos for discipleship.

RA-197 Embodied Theology: Shaping Transformative Liturgical Dance, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring Semester*

An introduction to body theology and its impact on sacred artistry. An opportunity to explore theological themes such as faith, reconciliation, love, and forgiveness as powerful shapers of liturgical dance.

RA-198 Embodied Prayer: Dancing into Wholeness with God, 2 credit hours, *Offered Fall Semester*

This course explores prayer practices that integrate the body with the heart, mind, and spirit for sustaining creative ministries.

RA-230 Elements of Design: Reaching a Visual Culture, 1 credit hour

Basic design for ministry in the local church for worship, Christian education, and church publications. Issues of effective communication, accessibility, and copyright in digital media, print media, photography, and other visual applications.

RA-241 Theological Reflection and Secular Twentieth-Century Dramatists, 2 credit hours, *Offered Spring Semester*

The course explores theological themes through the lens of selected modern playwrights such as August Wilson, Edward Albee, Athol Fugard, John Logan and Tennessee Williams.

RA-281 A Spiritual Journey Through the "Divine Comedy", 2 credit hours

Exploration of theological, moral, and social themes in the greatest poem in Christian literature, with specific application to the spiritual journeys of course participants.

RA-295 Arts Practicum, 1 credit hour, *Offered Fall and Spring Semester*

Individual projects with theological focus in student's choice of medium such as paint, fabric (vestments, banners, tapestry), clay, wood, calligraphy, photography, poetry, dance, etc. Students unacquainted with dynamics of creative process in relationship to spiritual formation (art as meditation) and unacquainted with non-verbal expressions of Christian proclamation encouraged to participate. May be repeated once for credit. Pass/Fail only.