

January Interim 2024 – Opportunities as of 7 September 2023

Wartburg Theological Seminary

This particular document is still a work in progress, to be updated as new information becomes known. It is also subject to change due to health and other safety concerns that remain possible with COVID-19 or conflicts in the world. Please contact the faculty leader/advisor listed for each J-Term opportunity for more information about that particular J-Term course, including questions of tentative dates and anticipated costs.

See the summary list below (Part B, starting on Page 2) for courses planned for this coming January (or arranged to have travel or be taught in May or August, but still registered for in January). Please follow all e-mailed instructions from the WTS Registrar on submitting the needed preference form to express a request for your interested J-Term course(s). January courses can normally be taken by all Masters students (both degree students and Discovery non-degree students), as well in the case of some travel courses sometimes including spouses or guests of students or the seminary.

For more detailed information on courses, as it becomes available, see Part C of this document.

PART A – J-TERM REQUIREMENT

The January Interim Requirement: All WTS degree students must complete one or more January Interim (aka “J-Term”) courses, one for each year of primary coursework as defined for their program. Master of Divinity degree students currently must complete three (3) J-Term courses. Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree students currently must complete two (2) J-Term courses. Students in the current one-year Master of Arts degree program (Fall 2019 and following) need to complete one (1) J-Term course.

The Cross-Cultural “January” Requirement: For students in the Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry degree programs, as well as students in the older two-year Master of Arts degree program (but not students in the new one-year degree program), one of your J-Terms currently must be reserved for completing the Cross-Cultural requirement. Normally the means of fulfilling the cross-cultural requirement is by completing a designated course that is designed as a group-based course that involves immersion activities (and often travel of some form). Most of these eligible cross-cultural courses are January courses. Independent studies are normally not allowed for meeting the cross-cultural requirement except in situations approved ahead of time by the Academic Dean upon petition.

J-Term Course Grading: All J-Term courses are graded with Credit/No-Credit grading only.

Limits to January Registration – One “J-Term” Course Per Year. Due to financial aid restrictions (by the U.S. Department of Education and their Title IV program), only one course per year can be registered for in each January Interim. This includes courses where travel occurs outside of January (such as in August or May) if they are considered meeting the January course requirement and/or the cross-cultural requirement. This restriction includes independent studies. January courses have their own tuition fee.

PART B – COURSE OFFERINGS

I. CROSS CULTURAL COURSES

The following courses all meet the MDiv/MADM (and older MA degree) cross-cultural degree requirement when completed as a cohort, including pre- and post-January meetings. The faculty person named is the local contact for the course, and in most cases the person you will work with in completing the pre- and post-trip requirements for the cross-cultural requirement, as well as sign off on the final grade. Please see that person for more information about the specific trip or course. All cross-cultural courses are usually numbered MN 398W unless noted otherwise.

These cross-cultural courses will have some number of cross-cultural travel subsidies available for that course as provided through Wartburg's Financial Aid Office, which can be used by students completing their first cross-cultural experience as required for their degree program to offset some of their travel expenses. (See Barb Roling, Financial Aid Office, for details on how these cross-cultural travel subsidies work and your eligibility.) The number of these travel subsidies is currently left unspecified, to allow for some flexibility in reassigning monies to a different trip if one is over- or under-subscribed as compared to another.

2024 International Cross-Cultural Travel Trips (travel and course in January):

FOR INTERNATIONAL TRIPS, PLEASE DIRECTLY CONTACT THE LEAD INSTRUCTOR LISTED FOR THE LATEST DETAILS ON SPACE AVAILABILITY.

- **Germany (Reformation and Holocaust)** (MN 398) - led by Prof. Jan R. Schnell, jrippentrop-schnell@wartburgseminary.edu *Details are still forthcoming, and will be added to Part C below when available.*
- **Nordic Lands – Iceland and Norway** (MN 398) – led by Prof. Samuel Giere, sgiere@wartburgseminary.edu **THIS COURSE IS FULL**
- ~~**Hong Kong, Macau, and Taipei** – *On Decolonization, Church, and Asia* (MN 398) – led by Man Hei Yip (myip@wartburgseminary.edu) – See Part C below for more trip details.~~ **THIS COURSE HAS BEEN CANCELLED**
- **Tanzania** (MN 398) – led by Prof. Beth Elness-Hanson (belness@wartburgseminary.edu) and Seminary President Kristin Largen (klargen@wartburgseminary.edu). Tentative dates January 3-14, 2024, departing from Chicago (with participants making their own way to/from O'Hare airport). **THIS COURSE IS FULL** See Part C below (page 6 and again starting on page 16) for more trip details.

2024 Domestic Cross-Cultural Courses (Travel and Course in January):

- **Civil Rights Pilgrimage** (MN 398) – A joint-seminary course co-led by Prof. Craig Nessian of WTS (cnessan@wartburgseminary.edu) and Prof. Maria Erling

of United Lutheran Seminary. Dates: January 21-26, 2024. Arrive in Atlanta by own transportation on Sunday, January 21 and depart on Friday, January 26 from Atlanta. Ground transportation will be by vans. Also pre- and post- meetings by Zoom. See Part C below for more trip and course details as known so far.

- **Indigenous People’s Immersion (previously known as the Pine Ridge course, as sponsored by the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota)** (MN 398) — **DATES: January 3-13**
Contact Kevin Anderson (Registrar, kanderson@wartburgseminary.edu or registrar@wartburgseminary.edu) for now for more information about this J-Term, including a needed application form you separately submit. This is a course annually taught by the staff of the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center (PRRC) and is a multi-seminary offering. Total enrollment of 24 students (living in a dormitory-like guest house) from all seminaries involved (which in the past has usually meant up to about 8-10 students possible from WTS). *See Part C below for more information on last year’s course (2023).*
- **Borderlands (of Texas/Mexico)** (MN 398) – Course to be led by Pastor Rachel Ringlaben, a bilingual ELCA pastor of Emanuel Lutheran church, a multicultural church in the Dallas area. (The on-campus contact for the course is Prof. Troy Troftgruben, ttroftgruben@wartburgseminary.edu, for more information.) For 8-12 participants. *See Part C below for more trip and course details as known so far.*

II. Other January-Held Courses that can meet other degree (or concentration) requirements:

- **MN 397W J-term Rural Immersion:** North Dakota, South Dakota, Western Iowa, and Shalom Hill Farm
Instructor: Mark Yackel-Juleen
Probable Dates: Tuesday, January 2 to Monday, January 15.
Fulfills: Open to all students; will fulfill the MDiv Rural Requirement
Course Description Students, together with clergy and lay persons from small town and rural congregations, study issues affecting America’s small town and rural (STaR) communities in a highly experiential learning environment. Clergy and lay persons from STaR congregations and communities are engaged as part of the course. Contexts include southwestern Minnesota, western Iowa, eastern South Dakota and North Dakota. The first week of the experience will be centered at Shalom Hill Farm www.shalomhillfarm.org. Implications for ministry and leadership in these contexts are explored.

III. ELECTIVE J-TERM COURSES

A. Elective Courses Held during January

- **Watch for more courses to be announced throughout the Fall semester.**
- **MN 387W Ministry With & Among People with Disabilities** – A course to be taught by LSTC and the folks at MOSAIC. Led by Brooke Petersen (LSTC, brooke.petersen@lstc.edu), and David deFreese and Jim Fruehling (of MOSAIC). Dates and costs yet to be determined. Dates: Overall from January 18 through 26, taught as a mixture of Synchronous Zoom and hopefully in-person teaching at LSTC in Chicago, including an expected one-day excursion to Rockford (Illinois) to visit a MOSAIC-managed facility. *See Part C below for what more details we have so far.*
- **MN 396W Ministry in a Digital World.** Led by Prof. Troftgruben, January 2–19, 2024, Available potentially as both a synchronous-Zoom and asynchronous online course (TBD, based on interest amount in each format). For many church leaders, ministry is becoming increasingly reliant upon, enhanced by, and expanded by digital resources. Many leaders struggle not just to keep up with new technologies, but also to find opportunity for critical reflection on the ethical implications to their use. In this class, we will reflect on the benefits (and downsides) of various forms of technology in ministry, learn about some best practices, and get a sense of where we as church might go from here. *See Part C below for more course details as known so far.*
- **MN 103W Pastoral-Diaconal Practicum** (arranged between you and a pastor/church, with a faculty member's oversight). A specialized independent study whereby the student focuses on ministry in a church setting (e.g., "shadowing" a pastor, or completing a specialized ministry project, etc.) Student must complete an independent study form as part of the registration process in order to outline the goals of their practicum. See the section below on independent studies for more information on the amount of work that needs to be arranged for.

B. Elective Courses that Actually Meet July-August (Summer 2023), before January, and can be registered for as your one "J-Term" option for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

- NONE SCHEDULED FOR THIS YEAR

C. Elective Courses that Actually Meet in May-June (Summer 2024), after January, and can be registered for as your one "J-Term" option for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

- Trip to **Hungary** with Dr Mark L. Yackel-Juleen (myackel-juleen@wartburgseminary.edu) Tentative dates May 14-28, 2024. Number of participants at this time unknown. This trip will still fall in the academic year, 2023-24. Having the trip in May rather than January is due to concern for unfavorable

winter weather. *More details will be shared as they become known; Please contact Mark Yackel-Juleen directly if you have questions in the meantime.*

IV. Known J-Term Opportunities that are offered by/through another ELCA seminary:

Each year there are courses are shared between the ELCA seminaries. Often times courses are shared through a long-standing cross-registration agreement between these seminaries that the student normally pays their home seminary the expected J-Term tuition fee, and then the student only pays the other host seminary any additional expenses needed for their local onsite participation.

Through Luther Seminary (Twin Cities area, Minnesota), in conjunction with the ELCA Deaconess Community:

- **Diaconal Ministry: History, Formation, and Spirituality (J-Term 2024)** To be held in-person at the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center (Carefree, AZ), from January 7 through 12, 2024. Current understanding is that students will pay WTS the normal J-Term tuition (as an ELCA seminary cross-registered exchange course), but that Deaconess Community also has a scholarship process to offset at least some of the costs. Besides the WTS Registrar sending Luther Seminary a cross-registration form, there is a separate application process with Luther Seminary also needed to be in this course. See this webpage: <https://deaconesscommunity.org/2024-j-term/> . Also see *Part C* starting on page 13 for a current copy of what is on the above webpage.

V. Other known January opportunities that are not part of the ELCA cross-registration program

J-Term HSP Offering. **WATCH FOR FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT STILL YET TO COME SOON FOR THE 2024 JANUARY (J-TERM) PROGRAM OFFERING.** In the meantime, you can learn more about the broader Hispanic Summer Program (HSP), from this web site, <https://hispanicsummerprogram.org/programs/hsp-exchange/> , as HSP is more than just a summer program. WTS is a supporting member of the program. Taking HSP courses involves a separate application process to the school offering the course, usually with a fairly quick deadline, with enrollment limited and no guarantee that you will be selected (although our being a member of our program does help somewhat). Taking HSP courses has its own tuition, which is usually minimal, and the student then arranges to transfer the credits back to Wartburg Seminary, at which time the completed course is applied to meet one of your J-Term requirements.

VI. INDEPENDENT STUDY or PASTORAL-DIACONAL PRACTICUM

For those students who do not complete one of the cross-cultural courses or specified organized activity courses listed above, your remaining option is to complete an independent study or a pastoral-diaconal practicum. *For students in the new curriculum (Fall 2016 and after) for MDiv, MA, and MA in Diaconal Ministry degree programs, all J-Term independent studies are expected to meet the requirements for a 2-credit course (which equates to a minimum of 90 to 95 hours of work).* There is an Independent Study Contract Form to be completed in conjunction with the faculty member who will oversee your independent study or pastoral-diaconal practicum, and the form is also signed by your faculty advisor. These contracts need to be finalized by the December registration week.

PART C

J-TERM 2024 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(Not all courses may have further detailed description available at this time;
See the Registrar or the faculty contact person/instructor for more details)

MN 398W HONG KONG, MACAU, AND TAIPEI

THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELLED.


MN 398W TANZANIA

THIS TRIP IS FULL

See initial details below from a June 29 email, plus even more details starting again on page 15 (as of 26 July) later in this catalog.

Dear 2024 J-Term Tanzania interest group,
(And deposited students, as I'm copying the 9 of you who have already made a deposit, because after June 30, you can make a deposit for a family member to travel with you.)

Karibuni! ("Welcome you all" in Kiswahili)

This email is a reminder to those that have an interest—or at least curiosity—in the 2024 J-Term course to Tanzania. To help you have an overview of our course, I have a link to a short video:  [J-Term Tanzania 2024.mp4](#). Also, attached is more information about the trip.

Remember, **June 30 is the last day for students to have priority** for securing a spot in the group of 18 for the 2024 J-Term to Tanzania. Then, all the alumni and family members of students/alumni can submit their deposits. We currently have 9 places available.

If you want to make a deposit, here's the process.

1. Make a **\$350 down payment** to reserve your spot on a first-come-first-served basis.
 - Email Sherry Driscoll in the Business Office by email or phone
 - sdriscoll@wartburgseminary.edu
 - Ph: (563) 589-0218
 - Sherry **can** take payment over the phone or charge your student account for this deposit.
 - She **cannot** take payment via email, and you **cannot** sign up for this by logging on to MyWTS and making a payment on your student account.
 - Down payment is refundable until **August 15, 2023**.
2. Submit a picture of your **passport picture page** (valid through *August 2024*) to Beth Elness-Hanson by **Aug 15, 2023** (need information from airlines). Earlier is better! (Passport renewal is taking 5-7 weeks currently.)

Email me if you have any questions!

With blessings,
Beth

Travel Tip: I just took family members around Stockholm and other cities in Sweden, so I'm reminding you to make walking a habit. Working up to 10,000 steps per day (about 4.5 miles) rather regularly will help you optimize your investment in this J-term course and increase the joy of discovering a new place at a walking pace—besides being good for health! (There can be arrangements made for some car transport or taxis that you would pay for.)

MN 398W CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

Instructors: Craig L. Nesson (WTS) and Maria Erling (ULS)

Cross Cultural or Elective.

Open to all.

2 Credit; credit/no credit

Dates: January 21-26, 2024. Arrive in Atlanta by own transportation on Sunday, January 21 and depart on Friday, January 26 from Atlanta. Ground transportation will be by vans.

This immersion course travels to Tuskegee, Selma, Montgomery, and Atlanta to experience the geography of repression and resistance that encompasses the rich and living history of the Civil Rights Movement. Students will visit sites of memory that recall the agency of those who have endured disparagement and dismissal in their struggle for civil and human rights. The Equal Justice Initiative and other Civil Rights sites of conscience and memory in Montgomery provide a focal point for this immersion course that both lays bare the ongoing racism in the system of incarceration and that issues a call to an ongoing ministry of reconciliation and repair in our own places and lives.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To explore the Civil Rights Movement through readings, films, and immersion experiences.
2. To instill commitment to anti-racism as a spiritual practice, both personal and communal.
3. To foster leadership practices that empower communities to see and act differently.
4. To participate together as Beloved Community in the activities of the course.

PROCEDURE: The course centers on an immersion at Civil Rights sites in Georgia and Alabama. Thus the participants will travel to Atlanta, GA, Tuskegee, Selma, Montgomery, AL, and other sites to encounter and reflect upon Civil Rights history and its ongoing significance for understanding systemic racism and advocating for civil rights today. The course will include pre- and post-sessions on Zoom to prepare and process the immersion.

EVALUATION: 1) Completion of assigned readings. 2) Active engagement in discussion at pre- and post-sessions. 3) Collegial and respectful involvement in immersion activities on site. 4) Completion and presentation of a final project based on the immersion course materials.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required:

Thomas C. Holt. *The Civil Rights Movement: A Very Short Introduction*. 2023.
Martin Luther King, Jr. *A Testament of Hope: The Essential Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Edited by James M. Washington. 1986/2003.
Jon Meacham and John Lewis. *His Truth Is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope*. 2020.
Bryan Stevenson. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*. 2015.

Recommended:

Michelle Alexander. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. 2020.
James Baldwin. *The Price of the Ticket: Collected Nonfiction 1948-1985*. 2021.
Julian Bond. *Time to Teach: A History of the Southern Civil Rights Movement*. 2021.
John J. Hanrahan. *Traveling Freedom's Road: A Guide to Exploring Our Civil Rights History*. 2022.

SCHEDULE

Day 1: Sunday Arrival

Arrival at Atlanta (participants make their own travel arrangements to Atlanta)
Group travel from Atlanta will be by vans.
Overnight at Koinonia Farm, Americus, Georgia

Day 2:

Tuskegee, Alabama
Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site
Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site—Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver
Selma, Alabama
Lowndes Interpretive Center
Edmund Pettus Bridge
First Baptist Church
Selma Interpretive Center
Overnight in Montgomery

Day 3:

Montgomery, Alabama
Dexter Avenue Baptist Church
Rosa Parks Museum
Southern Poverty Law Center
Bill Traylor
White House of the Confederacy
Other sites
Overnight in Montgomery

Day 4:

Montgomery, Alabama
Equal Justice Museum
National Memorial for Peace and Justice (National Lynching Memorial)
Overnight at Koinonia Farm, Americus, Georgia

Day 5:

Atlanta
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park (King Home Tour)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Change
Ebenezer Baptist Church

Overnight in Atlanta

Day 6:

Departure from Atlanta

MN 398W BORDERLANDS (of Texas/Mexico)

Our "Borderlands Encuentro" cross-cultural course will take place January 5-15, 2024. The course is an exploration and exposure to life and ministry in the Texas/Mexico "borderlands," with intentional learning about the political, social, and ministerial issues around immigration, cultural tensions, and life among Spanish-speaking communities in southern Texas. The course is based out of the [immersion program of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey](#) (Christ the King Lutheran Church) in El Paso, which is coordinated by Pastor Rose Mary Sánchez-Guzmán. The experience involves trips to various ecumenical ministries and service organizations in the El Paso area, as well as a border crossing day trip to Ciudad Juárez. Students learn about the history, culture and contemporary realities of Latino/as to gain skills in intercultural dialogue and ministry that are applicable to other cultural settings.

Dates: January 5-15, 2024

Cost: \$1650/student, excluding travel to/from El Paso, TX. This cost includes all mid-course travel, accommodations, and most meals. The accommodations will be in shared rooms (with 2-5 other students) in space either at Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey or at a nearby Episcopalian church.

Accompanying Instructor: [Pastor Rachel Ringlaben](#), a bilingual ELCA pastor of [Emanuel Lutheran church](#), a multicultural church in the Dallas area. She has spent significant time in many global contexts, especially in Latin America, and has served as the ELCA's YAGM (Young Adults in Global Mission) coordinator for Argentina and Uruguay. Pastor Rachel's church houses office space for Pastor Violeta Siguenza, who oversees Wartburg's [Centro Teológico Luterano Multicultural](#) program.

Instructor Point Person: Troy Troftgruben, who is coordinating orientation and debriefing meetings, communication, and answering questions.

Estimated Group Size: 8-12 people. ...Spouses may go, but priority will be given to Wartburg students.

More information will be offered at a J-term information session during Prolog Week (Thursday, 5:30pm). Please contact our Registrar, Kevin Anderson, if you would like to register for the course. Please email Troy if you would like more information. (Other current Wartburg students & staff who participated last time (Jan 2022) whom you may ask about the experience are Alana Harms, Yesenia Morales Bahena, Kellie Escovy, and Jeanette Perrault.)

**MN 398W INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S IMMERSION (Pine Ridge, South Dakota)
2024 DATES – January 3-13**

The following is from the 2023 (last year's) Pine Ridge J-Term, and is for illustration only. The information below will be updated to this year's information as soon as it is received. In the meantime, anticipate that the 2024 course will be very similar in scope and costs.



Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center

51 East Highway 18
PO Box 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

605-867-5262

email: pineridge.center@gmail.com

website: <https://www.pineridgereconciliationcenter.org/>

The ministry of the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center is to foster mutual trust, respect, and understanding while addressing the poverty that exists on the reservation. This J-term course seeks to offer a cross-cultural opportunity for seminary students that will shed light on the role the Christian Church has played in the development of our shared story with the Lakota people both for harm and for healing. This will help students to explore their calling in ministry in this age of racial and spiritual reckoning.

PROGRAM FEE: **NOTE: The following is Last Year's Costs:** \$700.00 per student. Half the fees are due December 1, 2022, with the remaining \$350 due the first day of class. (For WTS, this payment is usually coordinated by the Business Office and paid through your student account, with a full payment made to the PRRC on your behalf.)

SCHEDULE: Each day will consist of 2-3 presentations/activities and conclude with a talking circle. Students will be expected to participate in the presentations and talking circles. A more detailed schedule for the course will be provided as the dates get closer.

Presenters will share their experiences of life on the Reservation, hopes and views about economic and housing issues, the impact of the Wounded Knee Massacre of 1890, and generational trauma. Activities will include visits to local historical sites and ministries as well as conversations around video clips and articles including topics of boarding schools, accompaniment, and advocacy.

REQUIREMENTS: Fill out and return the application form (AVAILABLE FROM THE REGISTRAR) to the email above to receive the list of the required readings and be invited to the online course. This course is based primarily on participation in

cultural guide presentations and group discussions with some reading/video requirements and a couple reflection papers.

MN 387W MINISTRY WITH & AMONG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Instructors: Brooke Petersen, David deFreese, and Jim Fruehling

A joint course taught by LSTC in Chicago and by folks with MOSAIC, with WTS involved in the sponsorship and planning. Will be registered as a cross-registered course at LSTC and completed as a 3-credit course.

Dates: January 18 through 26, with the following hybrid schedule of modes and locations:

- January 18 & 19, Everyone Zooms
- January 22-26, Preference for all students to meet at LSTC if possible (but Zoom could still be an option; LSTC is exploring housing options for WTS students)
- Included will be a one-day excursion expected of all students to Rockford (Illinois) to visit the MOSAIC facility there.

Description: The need continues unabated for good compassionate pastoral care that propels congregations into transformational ministry with individuals, communities and society. Such pastoral care includes awakening and leading the community of faith to embrace and partner with those who have disabilities.

The gifts that persons with disabilities bring to the faith community invigorate deeper understanding of the Theology of the Cross, a greater realization of what it means to be the Body of Christ, and a heightened sense of community.

This course is intended to alert students to the realities of disability, to the challenges involved in working for justice, and to the manifold opportunities for ministry with and among persons of differing abilities.

Objectives:

1. Examine Western attitudes toward people with intellectual and other disabilities, as attitudes have changed over the centuries.
2. Reflect on prior experiences with individuals with disabilities, and how their presence informs current perceptions and the congregation life. Reflect on disability as a social construct.
3. Examine how the Lutheran Church, and other church bodies, have historically responded to persons with developmental disabilities.
4. Discuss the application of the ELCA's message, "People Living with Disabilities."
5. Develop skills in listening and responding to the unique needs of various persons with disabilities.
6. Begin to accumulate tools and resources that enable leaders to serve the particular concerns of people with disabilities and their families, as well as to influence societal responses.

Ministry in a Digital World (as MN 396W)

Name of Instructor: Troy Troftgruben

Semester and Year: January 2–19, 2024

Elective. Open to all students. Fifteen students.

2 credit hours, Letter Grade or Credit.

Available potentially as both a synchronous-Zoom and asynchronous online course (TBD, based on interest amount in each format).

COURSE DESCRIPTION: For many church leaders, ministry is becoming increasingly reliant upon, enhanced by, and expanded by digital resources. Many leaders struggle not just to keep up with new technologies, but also to find opportunity for critical reflection on the ethical implications to their use. In this class, we will reflect on the benefits (and downsides) of various forms of technology in ministry, learn about some best practices, and get a sense of where we as church might go from here.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To reflect biblically and theologically on the motivations and goals that guide our discernment in using digital resources in ministry (*Practices of Complex Analysis and of Biblical and Theological Wisdom*).
- To explore models, practices, and resources for fostering spirituality in community by digital means (*Practice of Missio Dei in Word and Sacrament*)
- To experiment with a specific area of digital ministry as a project of research and ongoing practice in service to the Gospel (*Practice of Evangelical Listening and Speaking the Faith to Others*).

PROCEDURE:

We will engage daily presentations from the instructor and from guest speakers, followed by conversation and communal discernment about their relevance for our ministries. Using selected readings, we will also learn from experts and resources in the field of digital ministry. Finally, we will work deliberately at setting policies and procedures that guide our use of and engagement with digital resources for the sake of Christ's mission in the world.

EVALUATION:

Besides readings and class participation, all students will write a theological assessment of digital ministry. In addition, all class members will choose an area to which to devote more extensive research, culminating in a brief presentation to the class (10–15 minutes) and a submitted research project.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: (not yet updated for 2024)

COURSES OFFERED THROUGH OTHER ELCA SEMINARIES
(that are not already part of a joint course with Wartburg Theological Seminary):

Through Luther Seminary (Twin Cities area, Minnesota), in conjunction with the ELCA Deaconess Community:

Diaconal Ministry: History, Formation, and Spirituality (J-Term 2024) To be held in-person at the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center (Carefree, AZ), from January 7 through 12, 2024.

The following is from the webpage, <https://deaconesscommunity.org/2024-j-term/>

January 7-12, 2024

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, Carefree, AZ



Diaconal Ministry: History, Formation, and Spirituality Servant leadership, Word and Service, and diaconal ministry are all synonyms for the ancient Greek word, diakonia, the call of Christ to serve others for the sake of the gospel. We invite you to accompany others interested in learning more through our January seminary elective course.

The Course:

- Introduces students to the historical, theological, and social contexts in which the work of diaconal ministry has been expressed through the church's history.
- Provides a particular focus on ways in which that history continues to impact the present.
- The course provides significant opportunity for the development of spiritual disciplines and vocational discernment.

- This course meets the formation requirements for those entering the Word and Service Roster.
- Pre-work is required.

Course Goals:

- To present a theological grounding for discernment.
- To learn about the ministry of Word and Service throughout the Church's history.
- To experience and talk about intentional community.

Instructors:

- Susan Wilds McArver is the H. George Anderson Professor of Church History at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Dr. McArver has been involved in the education of diaconal ministers and deaconesses for over 20 years.
- The Rev. Gary Dreier has over 25 years of ministry experience as a spiritual director, congregational pastor and campus pastor. Pastor Dreier will lead the class in exploring and participating in spiritual practices.

This course is offered through Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and available for cross registration for all ELCA Seminary students. It is also open to non-degree students. For further information please contact Sister Sarah Hausken at Sarah.Hausken@elca.org. 320-579-0838

This course was created by the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, also serving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada to share the history, spirituality, and impact of diaconal ministry with the whole church. Students who take this course in 2024 will receive up to \$1900 towards tuition or travel/housing costs paid by the Deaconess Community. This gift is for all students, not only students interested in Word and Service Ministry or joining the Deaconess Community

Through LSTC (the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago)

- **See the listing above (in Wartburg's offerings) for the MN 387W Disabilities course.**

J-TERM OFFERING IN THE HISPANIC SUMMER PROGRAM (HSP)

(Note: The following is NOT part of the ELCA cross-registration agreement, but may still be of interest to you as a substitute J-Term option that can be transferred back to WTS; also expenses would need to be your own. Follow the links embedded in the notice on how to apply.)

NOTE: As of 1 August 2023, the following website is still listing last year's (January 2023) J-Term HSP offering. Watch for that web page to be updated to the January 2024 offering as soon as it is announced.)

[J-Term - Hispanic Summer Program \(https://hispanicsummerprogram.org/programs/j-term/ \)](https://hispanicsummerprogram.org/programs/j-term/)

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