

*** January Interim 2024 - First announcement of course options & now collecting preference forms

Registrar

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Masters Students (including new incoming degree students for fall):

Initial List of January 2024 Options

The faculty now announce the initial selection of courses being offered during the January Interim of 2024 (aka "J-Term") in our graduate Masters curriculum. The following planned trips and courses as identified so far:

Those January 2024 options that happen in January and can fulfill the Cross-Cultural requirement:

Involving Overseas Travel:

- Trip to **Hong Kong** with Dr. Man Hei Yip; 10-12 participants.
- Trip to **Germany** with Dr. Jan R. Schnell; 20-25 participants.
- Trip to **Nordic Lands—Iceland and Norway**—with Dr. Samuel D. Giere; 6-8 participants.
- **Tanzania** trip with Dr. Beth Elness-Hanson and President Kristin Johnston Largen; 18 participants.

Involving Domestic Travel:

- **Pine Ridge Indian Reservation** (South Dakota), with Dr. Craig L. Nesson (advisor); 12+ participants.
- **Borderlands (of Texas/Mexico)** trip with Dr. Troy M. Troftgruben (advisor); 10 participants.
- **Civil Rights Pilgrimage** (Dr. Craig L. Nesson) is a possibility, in conjunction with United Lutheran Seminary.

Cross-Cultural Course in the month of May 2024 that is still considered part of "January 2024" for purposes of registration, billing, and financial aid, but with travel happening later:

- Trip to **Hungary** with Dr Mark L. Yackel-Juleen (number of participants at this time unknown), 14-28 May. 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.

All J-Term course offerings, but especially travel trips, remain subject to cancellation or adjustment as needed based on health and safety concerns.

All degree-seeking students are required to complete one or more January Interim courses depending on your degree program. For Master of Divinity students, this is Three (3) J-Terms, including one course that must be among those options that meet the cross-cultural requirement. For Master of Arts in Diaconal Ministry students, this is Two (2) J-Terms, including one course that must be among those options that meet the cross-cultural requirement. For Master of Arts students admitted to current one-year MA program, which began Fall

2019 and later, you are to complete one January Interim course, which is totally elective in your choice (and does not need to be cross-cultural, although courses are certainly an option). For all other Masters students (such as Discovery students), the January Interim is optional according to your specific needs.

Courses that meet the cross-cultural requirement normally involve required travel, either for as short as a week to two or more weeks, or at least involve short field trips and possibility of an overnight stay or two. Those students completing a January Interim course to meet their cross-cultural requirement are also eligible to receive a travel subsidy for the completion of your first course that you are designating to meet this requirement (and have not previously received a travel subsidy). Students travelling, whether internationally or domestically, will need to meet all travel requirements necessary, both for identification (e.g., passport or other appropriate identification) and health conditions (including as needed vaccinations and proof of those vaccinations).

The January 2024 options being shared are a preliminary list. Further courses (including those not designed for the cross-cultural requirement) will be announced later when they become known, as well as adjustments made to courses being planned as might be needed due to evolving conditions.

The registrar is now collecting preference forms in selecting your January 2024 course desires.

To file your preferences for these J-Term course options, please complete the online form found here on the MyWTS web portal:

https://mywts.wartburgseminary.edu/ICS/Student/J-Term_Preference_Form.jnz

You do need to be logged into the MyWTS portal in order to access the form. This means a valid WTS-assigned e-mail/network account and its associated password.

Instructions: When you fill out your preference form, for each option that you are requesting, please **type** enough of the trip/course name (usually the **bolded** text) to identify what you are asking for. Please **do not copy-and-paste text** into the form from this email, as that usually does not work well and causes the form submission to fail. Also, select the "cross-cultural" option on the form for a particular trip/course only if you are asking also for the travel subsidy; select "elective" for all else, including for cross-cultural-eligible options that you are not requesting the travel subsidy for.)

This request for early preferences on your J-Term choices also extends to our new incoming students. Most J-Term course registrations are ultimately determined on a first-come/first-assigned basis (with a few possible exceptions), so the earlier you can first state your preference(s), the better. This is especially the case for travel courses.

If you have questions about a particular J-Term option (including likely dates and overall costs), please contact directly the person named for that course.

For questions on specifically the cross-cultural travel subsidy only, ask the Financial Aid Office.

For questions in general about the January Interim (including the J-Term requirement(s) that might apply to your degree program), please contact your faculty advisor and/or the Registrar.

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