

Graduate Religious Studies Program
Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles

Summer 2017 and Fall 2017



Summer 2017

RST 250 Sojourners & Strangers (3 Units)

Instructor: TBA

Traditional Format: Tuesday evenings, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

From the catalog: An examination of immigration as a site of inquiry for students of religion, investigating what immigrants do together religiously in the United States “(Warner 1998:9) rather than immigration politics/policy that so often frames the issues. An integrated inter-area course.”

RST 223 Christology (3 Units)

Instructor: Fr. Guillermo Garcia, PhD

Graduate WEC Format: Saturdays, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

A historical, critical, theological reflection on the Christian confession that Jesus of Nazareth is Christ and Savior. The course will begin with a survey of the development of the Christian understandings of Jesus of Galilee as the Christ and the Divine Son of God from the Pre-New Testament traditions to the present. It will examine current interpretations of Jesus, especially when identified as “the Galilean” by contemporary theologians.

RST 203 Special Topics in Hebrew Bible: Scriptures, Identity and Power (1 Unit)

Instructor: Robin L. Owens, PhD

Graduate WEC Format: Saturday and Sunday, August 19-20

From the catalog: An exploration of particular issues, approaches and texts within the New Testament. Course may be repeated for credit.

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RST 249 Special Topics in Ethics: Resistance (3 Units)

Instructor: Dirk von der Horst, PhD

Traditional Format: Tuesday evenings, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Justice is at the core of several ethical traditions. At what point does injustice require not simply redress, but resistance? This class will explore biblical and theological reasons for resisting unjust states, and look at the variety of strategies people have used to pursue justice in the face of the stubbornness of power. Finally, we will explore what groups in Los Angeles are building opportunities for a more democratic, inclusive society.

RST 200 Scripture and Social Justice (3 Units)

Instructor: Robin L. Owens, PhD

Graduate WEC Format: Saturdays, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm

From the catalog: An introduction to standard methodologies for critical understanding of biblical texts including historical, literary, rhetorical, and social criticisms, and emphasizes themes of social justice in contemporary interpretive methodologies.

RST 253 Special Topics in Integrated Studies: Process Ethics (1 Unit)

Instructor: Sara Frykenberg, PhD

Graduate WEC Format: Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3

Theologian Carol Christ writes of process theology, "it also offers what is to me the only satisfying answer to the problem of evil, arguing that divine power is good and ever present but not omnipotent in the traditional sense, because all creation is co-creation" (She Who Changes, 2003, 3-4). In an introductory exploration of process ethics, students will explore the foundations of relational theology, and its application for interpreting post 9/11 political action and the possibilities of "counter-apocalypse." How does a religious philosophy of co-creation help us to avoid the "self-an-nihilation" of working towards justice through the repetition of creatio ex nihilo? Can God be God without omnipotent power, and what does this mean for human responsibility in ethics? This course will introduce students to a pantheistic vision of ethics in light of God as/and the world.