



MERCER
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY



SPRING 2021

School for Ministry Catalog

Episcopal Diocese of Long Island • 65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530
www.mercerschool.org



**From a "School
of Theology"
forming men for
the priesthood ...**



Mercer the early days

The Mercer School began in the post-WWII period to encourage men employed full-time to become Episcopal priests to fill the need for pastors for churches growing in the new communities springing up during the postwar period. The model for the School was a four-year version of the curriculum offered in three-year courses of study at residential seminaries. The level of work and commitment were comparable to that of any advanced degree professional academic program.

VIRTUAL LUNCH & LEARN

We are expanding this program of mid-day short courses in scripture, liturgy, history or theology designed for laity. Offering the classes via Zoom allows us to eliminate the commute! Each course meets for one hour on one weekday over a four- or five-week period. Programs offered at Advent, Lent, and Eastertide have been linked to the themes of those segments of our liturgical calendar.

Check our website periodically for announcements!

CLASSES

Through Spring semester 2021, the School will meet online via Zoom on one Saturday each month, from February through June.

The spring semester dates are: **2/20; 3/20; 4/17; 5/15; 6/19.**
Class sizes are limited.

Follow the School for Ministry tab on the Mercer website, or contact Canon Ted Gerbracht, Director of Academic Studies

phone: 516-248-4800, ext. 117

email: tgerbracht@dioceseli.org

OT2 The Deuteronomist History and the Writings

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

The course introduces the books of Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, as well as the Psalms and Proverbs including synopses of their outlooks, ideologies, and theologies. The course pays close attention to their literary traditions, historical and cultural contexts, and thematic structures. Selected passages are exegeted in detail.

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To a “School for Ministry” preparing all for 21st century ministries



Mercer in the 21st century

Until a global pandemic disrupted academic life, we gathered around a table seminar-style, or for larger classes in a horseshoe arrangement. Some students interacted with their instructor via video conference. Lay learners and men and women preparing for ordination engaged in the class side by side. In some classes lay students significantly outnumbered ordinands. As in the early days of Mercer, tuition for classes is funded by the Mercer Scholarship fund, with laity paying \$25 per course.

TH4 The Content of Theology

NEW

Time: Section A (no prior TH courses)
9:00 am – 10:15 am
Section B (if you took TH1&2)
10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructors: Rev. Dr. Joshua Samuel (Section A)
Rev. Canon Dr. Bruce Griffith (Section B)

The second of a two-term course covering the traditional doctrines associated with theology. Spring term we will cover humanity, the Christian community and its sacraments, sin and salvation, and eternal life. This class is taught in two sections. Students with no prior theological course work at Mercer should register for Section A; those who have taken TH1 and TH2 should register for Section B.

Section A

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

Section B

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

CH2 Anglican Christianity

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Canon Ted Gerbracht

A broad historical overview of Anglican Christianity. We will briefly look at early British religious history and then gradually widen our scope as the English Church followed British traders, entrepreneurs, adventurers and missionaries around the globe, planting the seeds of what would become a loose Anglican Communion and a unique American Episcopal Church.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)



To virtual classes in response to the COVID-19 virus pandemic



Mercer now

Today's classes feel quite different. In mid-March 2020 we scrambled to move our instructors and classes online over seven hectic days. Now we routinely speak of Zoom fatigue, wrestle with IDs and passwords, and fuss with sound and video settings. But travel time to Mercer has been cut substantially; we still can move easily from class to class, and we can see and interact with each other in Gallery mode.

NT3 Acts and Pauline Epistles

NEW

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

The course introduces the “Gospel according to Paul” and the Acts of the Apostles. It begins with an exposition of St. Paul as he speaks of himself in his letters and as he is spoken of in Acts within his Jewish and Hellenistic milieu. The focus of the course is an introduction to the thirteen letters of the *corpus Paulinum*. Selected passages from Paul's letters and Acts are exegeted in detail.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

NT1 Synoptic Gospels

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Michael Hull

The course introduces the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). The course looks to their structural similarities and to the meaning(s) of various synoptic pericopes with due regard to their geographical, socio-political, and religious contexts to expose and explain themes and issues in the Synoptics. Selected passages from each of the Synoptic Gospels are exegeted in detail.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)

LT2 History of the Book of Common Prayer

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Right Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin

In this course we will explore our current Book of Common Prayer in light of the evolution of Anglican Worship. Having established the context for our conversation, we will cover the spirituality and practicality of the book. With “Prayer Book Reform” discussion and forums active on social media, we will also consider which parts of our Prayer Book tradition should be retained as well as what might be discarded.

[TO REGISTER CLICK HERE](#)



**The School for
Ministry invites
your suggestions
and feedback
about our
programs.**

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PR1 Proclamation *(Ordination Track Only)*

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Very Rev. Dr. Michael Sniffen,
Rev. Dr. Cecily Broderick y Guerra

The practice of preaching from the inside out. Students will listen to sermons preached by some of the great preachers of the 20th (and 21st) century, reflect on the impact of preaching in their own lives as well as preach and critique sermons in a supportive environment.

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PT6 Practical Theology *(Ordination Track Only)*

Time: 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Joseph Diele

The final course in ministry style and technique. Over a three-year period, the student will study methods of pastoral care using Theological Reflection, Case Presentation, Role Play, Peer Supervision and Individual Supervision.

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE

Capstone Seminar *(Ordination Track Only)*

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Right Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin and
Rev. Dr. Cecily Broderick y Guerra

Provides ordination track students in the final semester of their academic formation an opportunity to reflect on and integrate prior learning and ministerial experiences. Emphasis will be placed on understanding ministerial challenges, surveying various leadership frameworks, and developing one's own leadership model. Guided readings discussion, and guest speakers, will enliven the conversation as the students transition from the lay order to ordained ministry.

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O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

— *Prayer for the Diversity of Races and Cultures,*
Book of Common Prayer (1979)