



MERCER
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

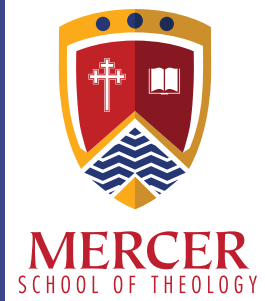
SCHOOL FOR MINISTRY CATALOG

FALL/
WINTER
2023

The George Mercer School of Theology

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 respond to the need for pastors for churches planted 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 provided at residential seminaries. The level of work and commitment were comparable to that of any advanced degree professional academic program.

CLASSES

For this academic year, 2023-2024, the School will meet online via Zoom on one Saturday each month, from September through June.

The Spring semester begins in February 2024.

The **Fall-Winter** semester dates are:

9/23; 10/21; 11/18; 12/16; 1/20/2024.

Class sizes are limited.

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

PHONE: 516-248-4800, ext. 117

EMAIL: tgerbracht@dioceseli.org

OT1 Torah

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Dr. Robert Owens

This course introduces the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy which comprise the section of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible termed “Torah” or “Pentateuch.” Attention is given to historical, literary, and theological issues pertinent to the narratives, law “codes,” and liturgical material in these books. Reading and exegeting scriptural texts for contemporary ministry are of central import.

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LT1 Liturgical Theology

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Very Rev. Dr. Michael Sniffen

In liturgical theology, we investigate the church at worship. This introductory study includes methodologies for liturgical theology as well as the history and origins of rituals, sacramental theology, and pastoral rites.

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



MERCER in the Early 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 was funded by the Mercer Scholarship fund, with laity paying \$25 per course.

CH1 The Early Christian Movement

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Canon Ted Gerbracht

Over the centuries, Anglicanism has especially valued the first 500 years of the Worldwide Christian Movement. It was during this seminal period that our patterns of worship, orders of ministry, creedal statements of belief and paths to Christian spirituality were hammered out. Join us as we review the major institutions, issues and personalities which dominate this critical time in the formation of our faith.

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OT3 Prophets

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Dr. Donn Morgan

This course introduces the prophetic books of the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, et al.). Special attention is given to historical, literary, and theological issues pertinent to prophecy. Reading and exegeting scriptural texts for contemporary ministry are of central import.

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CH3 Episcopal Church History

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Right Rev. Dr. R. William Franklin

An historical exploration of the development and form of Anglican Christianity that emerged in the American Episcopal Church from its initial planting in Jamestown in 1607 to the present day. We will consider the development of a new form of church governance, regional differences in practice and polity, missionary strategies, and the overall response of the Episcopal Church to the needs of Episcopal communities of the faithful in the diverse religious landscape of the United States.

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To Virtual classes following the COVID-19 virus pandemic



MERCER Now

Today's classes feel quite different. In mid-March 2020 we moved our classes online and have continued to teach and learn via Zoom, even as the need for physical separation has diminished. Travel time to Mercer has been cut substantially; and we can see and interact with each other in Gallery mode, before, during, and after class. While we will continue online through the 2023-24 academic year, we will be exploring ways to come together inperson. Keep checking our website for details!

TH1 Systematic Theology

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Joshua Samuel

The first of a two-course sequence for those without prior theological training and who wish to engage in a systematic study of Christian doctrines such as God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Trinity, Church, etc. Using Alister McGrath's Christian Theology: An Introduction (sixth edition) which is modeled on the Apostles Creed, this introductory (and preparatory) course will help the participants to read and reflect on themes fundamental to the life and witness of the Church. Taking into consideration the realities of religious pluralism and racism in our society, the course will end with discussion on theologies of religious diversity and Black liberation theology.

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LT3 The Book of Common Prayer: Rubrics, Rites and Resources - B

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sean Wallace

The structure, use and theology of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and all attendant resources. A continuation of LT2, this course will focus on Ordination, Confirmation, Matrimony, Reconciliation, Burial, Book of Occasional Services, all musical resources, and other selected topics.

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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)