



**MERCER**  
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

# SCHOOL for MINISTRY CATALOG

## FALL/WINTER 2024

The George Mercer School of Theology  
Episcopal Diocese of Long Island  
65 Fourth Street, Garden City, NY 11530

[www.mercerschool.org](http://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

Through year end 2025, the School will meet online via Zoom on one Saturday each month, from September through June.

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

**9/21; 10/19; 11/23; 12/21; 1/18 2025.**

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](mailto:tgerbracht@dioceseli.org)**

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### OTI 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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### LTI Liturgical Theology

**REVISED**

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: The Rev. Jenn Pilat

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 is funded by the Mercer Scholarship fund.

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## CH1 **The Early Christian Movement** **REVISED**

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Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Clair McPherson

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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## NT2 **Gospel of John** **REVISED**

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Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am

Instructor: Dr. Ian Kinman

The course introduces the Gospel of John, often called the “Fourth Gospel” and seen as a diptych of the “Book of Signs” and the “Book of Glory.” The course looks to the Gospel’s background, literary structure, theological themes, and Christology. Selected passages of the Gospel are exegeted in detail. The course will also do a comparative study of the Epistles of John.

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## OT3 **Writings and Apocrypha** **NEW**

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Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Dr. Donn Morgan

This course introduces the Writings of the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible as well as the books of the Apocrypha. Special attention is given to historical, literary, and theological issues pertinent to liturgical (Psalms, etc.), narratological (Esther, etc.), historical (Chronicles, etc.), wisdom (Proverbs, etc.), and apocalyptic (Daniel) books. Reading and exegeting scriptural texts for contemporary ministry are of central import.

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To online classes  
in response to 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 2024-25 academic year, we will be exploring ways to come together in-person. Keep checking our website for details!

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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. Our purpose is to prepare you to use history pastorally in your various ministries.

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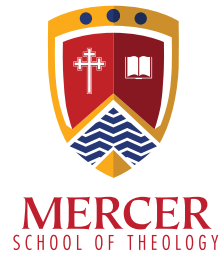
### TH1 Systematic Theology

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Joshua Samuel

The first of a two-course sequence for those who wish to engage in a systematic study of Christian doctrines such as God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Trinity, Church, etc. Modeled on the Apostles Creed, this introductory course will help 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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## **ETH Christian Ethics**

**NEW**

Time: 10:30 am – 11:45 am

Instructor: Dr. Laura Nelson

An introduction to ethics and moral theory from a distinctively Christian perspective. It will center on three crucial figures in the Christian tradition—Augustine, Aquinas, and Luther—but will also consider how this tradition relates to broader historical trends and philosophical movements and how contemporary figures have challenged and extended it. In conclusion, we will explore how Christian Ethics bears upon the moral perplexities of war and social/economic justice.

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## **LT3 The Book of Common Prayer: Rubrics, Rites and Resources**

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Sean M. 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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The School for Ministry invites  
your suggestions and feedback  
about our programs.

In addition to our scheduled meetings as a school,  
watch for the return of our popular mid-day short  
“Lunch and Learn” courses.



*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)*