



FALL 2026 Courses

Certificate courses are 8 weeks and graduate courses are 12 weeks.

Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?

RGC 113: Certificate Course; THEO 6352: Graduate Course

The Gospels as Communal Pastoral Responses

Faculty: Dr. Greg Zuschlag

Time: 6:30-8:00 PM, Thursdays, beginning September 24

Seldom do we dwell on the question, “Why do we have four differing accounts of Jesus when one would do just fine?” This course seeks to answer that question for the purpose of enhancing the practice of Christian communal discipleship and pastoral care, especially for preaching and teaching.

The course adopts an uncommon exegetical approach neither taught nor employed that presupposes that the four canonical Gospels “tailored” their portrait of Jesus to meet the pastoral issues and crises threatening the very fabric of each Gospel community’s Christian life together. Reconstructing the Gospel communities’ contexts through a close literary analysis, predominantly through comparing the Gospels side-by-side--especially with the Synoptics--and then re-reading each through this community contextual hermeneutic subsequently provides fresh and illuminating insights into how each Gospel understands who Jesus is and how to follow Him. Such an approach not only allows us to know and love Him better but affords new opportunities for both better understanding and responding to the pastoral issues plaguing our church communities historically and today and enhance and increase our communities’ faith in Jesus the Christ.

Coaching and a New Kind of Christian Leadership in Ministry

RGC 135: Certificate Course; SPFM 6312: Graduate Course

Faculty: Brian Harfst

Time: 6:30 - 8 PM Central Time, Mondays, beginning October 5

This course explores the necessity for a different kind of Christian leader in our time—one that is more thinking partner and guide than top-down, hierarchical “expert.” Drawing on concepts like the Imago Dei (Image of God) in all people and the power of curiosity and questions, it will introduce ways to apply mindsets and skills of life coaching to a variety of ministry circumstances. Classes will incorporate instructional and practical elements, including opportunities to design, apply, and reflect on new learnings in real ministry settings during the timeframe of the course.

Some of the goals of this course include:

- Understanding different images of ministry, including different ways for ministers to see themselves and those with whom they minister
- Understanding what coaching is and is not and when to wear the coach’s hat versus other ministry hats

- Understanding and applying the two “hands” of coaching goals (nonjudgemental presence and growth mindset) and the two “legs” of coaching skills (powerful questions and deep listening)
- Applying coaching to practical ministry matters such as preaching and teaching, equipping the saints, and navigating conflict
- Applying what is learned through weekly case study presentations followed by instructor coaching and peer-to-peer learning

Compassionate Conversations

CCL 111: Certificate Course; SPFM 6304: Graduate Course

Faculty: Louwrens and Gerda Scheepers, Integer Network

Time: 11 AM – 1 PM Central Time, Saturdays beginning October 3, 2026

Communication is a crucial part of life and ministry. In every moment of everyday we are bombarded by incoming messages and the expectation to respond. And while we are part of conversations daily, it certainly does not mean we do it well. We are all fully aware of the pain caused by how words are used – we experience it at home, at work, on social media, in the efforts for political justice and advocacy, and in our faith communities. At Integer Network we believe that a different mindset about communication can help you create safer spaces everywhere you go, and in this course, we are exploring different tools that will help you to grow in your ability to do that.

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a deeper understanding of the impact of our self-connection on the spaces between people and encounter other factors that affect our conversations and interactions.
- Have grown in their self-awareness and their desire to create safe spaces everywhere they go.
- Have discovered tools to deepen their connection with self and others.
- Have experienced the power of listening and responding with empathy.

Graduate Courses

SMIN 6307 Ministry Supervision II

Enrollment restricted to current senior students.

Faculty: Rev. Chance Martinez-Colon and Dr. Dan R. Stiver

Experience in an approved ministry setting where the student will demonstrate leadership experience in the ministry setting throughout an entire academic year. Through field supervision, faculty direction, and peer interaction the student is challenged to grow in the capacity for theological reflection, the mastery of ministry skills, the development of personal spiritual maturity, and the ability to nurture healthy interpersonal relationships.

THEO 6304 Denominational History and Polity

Enrollment restricted to current senior students.

Faculty: Dr. Toni Hawkins and Dr. Dan R. Stiver

A study of the student’s own denomination and/or tradition with attention to its history, development, and current issues.