

46th Series

THE STALCUP SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FOR THE LAITY

September 2023 through May 2024

The 46th series of the Stalcup School of Theology for the Laity continues the tradition of scheduling excellent programming by presenting a mixture of learning opportunities consisting of recorded lectures, interactive online sessions, two one-day in-person seminars, and 4-part courses from some of the most renowned current speakers on a range of topics from spiritual discernment, systematic theology, religion and the literary arts, ecotheology, religion and mental health and many more. The online seminars will be available for on-demand viewing after series completion.



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ONE-DAY SEMINARS

Poetry and Spiritual Discernment

Eighteenth Fay and Alfred C. Grosse Seminar on Religion and the Literary Arts

Saturday, September 9, 2023

9:30 to 11:00 a.m. CT

Online

"Happy are they who understand the words of Jesus, but happier still are they who listen to His silence." So remarks a spiritual theologian in evoking the peculiar silence of the Holy Spirit, what scripture describes as the still, small voice. Gifts of the Spirit include feelings of love, joy, and peace as well as a greater abundance of understanding and wisdom, a sense of connection to the world around us, and enhanced capacities to think and feel. So how can we become more discerning of the Spirit? This seminar will explore how the arts – in our case, poetry – can attune us more deeply to the Spirit by helping us attend more fully to nuances of spiritual meaning. We will discuss insights by scholars of Christian spirituality as well as poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Denise Levertov, R. S. Thomas, and others.



Dr. Matthew Wickman is Professor of English, Associate Coordinator of the Faith and Imagination Institute, and Founding Director (Emeritus) of the BYU Humanities Center at Brigham Young University, Utah. He also serves on the University Council for Interfaith

Engagement and hosts the ecumenical *Faith and Imagination* podcast. A scholar of Christian Spirituality, he is especially compelled by ways that literature accentuates the nuances and vitality of spiritual life. Related interests include the connection between religion and literature, post-secular criticism and theory, and literary and intellectual history. He is the author of more than forty scholarly articles and three books, most recently *Life to the Whole Being: The Spiritual Memoir of a Literature Professor* (2022). He and his wife, Kerry, are the parents of two adult children.

Queer Eye for the Parenting (In)Style: Supporting Parents of Queer Youth

Sixteenth Schubert M. Ogden Seminar on Systematic Theology

Saturday, October 21, 2023

9:30 to 11:00 a.m. CT

Online

This interactive webinar gathers parents of queer youth as they make sense of their lived experience accompanying these kids on their journey towards healing, self-acceptance, authenticity and belongingness. What personal and relational challenges and changes are they experiencing? What spiritual and theological shifts are they noticing within themselves as they come alongside their kids? What psychological and collective care work do they need so they can champion queer flourishing? These, among others, are the questions that will guide the conversation, and whose answers are drawn primarily from the parents' lived wisdom complemented by insights gleaned from liberative theology, critical psychology, affective neuroscience, and contemplative and embodied spirituality.



Dr. Rolf Nolasco is the Rueben P. Job Professor of spiritual formation and pastoral theology at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and director of the Rueben P. Job Institute for Spiritual Formation. He is an experienced professor, trained in pastoral and counseling psychology, mindfulness and contemplative

spirituality, and affective neuroscience. Nolasco is also a psychotherapist, published author, and has vast experience in cross-cultural communications from living and working across the world within varying social and cultural backgrounds. In addition to *Hearts Ablaze: Parables for the Queer Soul*, he is the author of *God's Beloved Queer* (Wipf & Stock, 2019), *The Contemplative Counselor: A Way of Being* (Fortress Press, 2011) and *Compassionate Presence: A Radical Response to Human Suffering* (Cascade Books, 2016). He is currently working on a manuscript entitled *Bluer than Blue: Depression, Dark Night of the Soul, and Joy* for Wipf & Stock.

ONE-DAY SEMINARS

Sharing the Good News with Evangelicals: Why and How to Talk (and Listen) to the Conserving Christians in Your Life about the Things that Matter Most

Sixteenth Jean and Parker Wilson Seminar

Saturday, January 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT

In Person - Bass Conference Center, Brite Divinity School

The rise of partisan news networks and the pervasive influence of social media have left our nation deeply divided. From the moment we wake and snatch our phones off the nightstand, we find ourselves marinating in words and images algorithmically tuned to confirm bias, stoke fear, provoke rage, and discourage nuance. Unsurprisingly, our public discourse is increasingly polarized (everyone must choose a side) and siloed (there is little occasion for genuine dialogue between sides).

As progressive Christians, how should we relate to our more conserving siblings in Christ who have aligned with the “other” side in this culture war? For many of us, the problem is intensely personal, affecting relationships with extended family, co-workers, and neighbors. Fearing conflict, we may be tempted to avoid the subject of faith altogether. But the path to respectful dialogue and authentic relationship is to dare to speak openly and listen attentively about the things that matter most to us. This lecture challenges progressive Christians to embrace the language of faith in their personal relationships with conserving Christians, becoming more biblically informed, more theologically articulate, and more boldly confessional.



Dr. Lance Pape is the Granville and Erline Walker Associate Professor of Homiletics at Brite Divinity School. He completed his B.A. at the Institute for Christian Studies (now Austin Graduate School of Theology). He holds an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School and a Ph.D.

from Emory University. Dr. Pape’s teaching and research are focused on homiletical theory, and biblical hermeneutics and preaching. An ordained minister, he has served congregations in Texas, Alabama, and New York.

Witnessing a Wounded World: Theology, Trauma, and the Ecological Crisis

Sixteenth W.A Welsh Seminar

Saturday, February 17, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CT

Online

Recent work in Christian trauma theology has offered profound insights into the nature of human suffering and appropriate theological responses. But what about the nonhuman? What about the suffering of the natural world? Can other species, or even the planet itself, be said to be capable of experiencing trauma? What might it mean to view climate change and mass extinction as traumatic events for creation? In this seminar, we will think theologically about the possibility of ecological trauma. Drawing on the methods and approaches of several leading trauma theologians, we will examine how we might mourn, lament, accompany, and bear witness to the trauma of the Earth. This is

an approach to ecotheology that is acutely aware of the severity and scale of current ecological suffering, and resolutely refuses naive or simplistic solutions, but still holds fast to the possibility of hope.



Dr. Tim Middleton is a Junior Research Fellow in Religion and the Frontier Challenges at Pembroke College, Oxford. His current work concerns religious attitudes to our contemporary ecological crisis, with a specific focus on Christian ecotheology. He also maintains an interest

in wider conversations in science and religion, and the environmental humanities. His current book project brings ecotheology into conversation with recent work in Christian trauma theology and he has published articles in both the *International Journal of Philosophy and Theology* and *Practical Theology*. Dr. Middleton is a Research Affiliate at the *Laudato Si’* Research Institute and an honorary Research Fellow at the William Temple Foundation—a think tank working on the role of religion and belief in public life.

American Christianity and Native Americans: Steps Toward Healing Churches from a Destructive Legacy

Seventeenth Jean and Patrick Henry, Jr. Seminar

Saturday, March 23, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT

In Person- Northway Christian Church, Dallas, Texas

In 1972, the Standing Rock Sioux scholar, Vine Deloria, Jr., wrote an open letter to the heads of the Christian churches of America. He briefly recounted the central role played by American Christianity in the colonization and genocide of Indigenous peoples. Asserting that our political institutions no longer serve us because our religious institutions have not called them to “a greater vision of humanity,” he asked, “At what point can we (i.e., Native Americans) become men and not mere appendages of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery?” In the fifty-one years since Deloria’s letter, American Christianity seems to have done little to address its destructive legacy. We will explore how American Christianity created this ongoing legacy through actions such as its framing of history, terminology choices, missionary activities, selective uses and suppression of biblical texts, and partnerships with governments. We will collaboratively seek to understand why Christians and their churches must heal from their legacy and how they might begin to do so in positive ways.



Dr. Scott M. Langston is Texas Christian University’s Native American Nations and Communities Liaison and recently retired faculty member in the Religion Department, having taught at TCU for nearly twenty years. He has published extensively on the reception

history of the biblical books of Exodus and Joshua, especially the role these texts have played in relations between Europeans, Americans, and Native Americans. Langston is a past president of the Southern Jewish Historical Society, current board member of the Texas Jewish Historical Society, and the current editor for the Primary Sources section of the journal, *Southern Jewish History*.

ONLINE SHORT COURSES

What's That You (Didn't) Say?: How the Essence of Pastoral Care Helps You Listen Better Within and Without

Ninth Betty Jo Hay – Religion and Mental Health

Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT

Sessions will be held on September 19, September 26, October 3, and October 17

Children hear directives like “put on your thinking cap” that help train them to shift from play, feelings and instinct to focus and cognition. In becoming adults, many of us lose agility in feelings, play and instincts. Slowing ourselves down and listening within can help us become more attune intra-personally with our environments, in interpersonal relationships, and with the Divine. In the context of chaplaincy and faith-based caregiving relationships, utilizing stories, case studies, evidence-based research, unearthed wisdom from hidden narratives and underrepresented populations, we will explore listening's effects on the listener; analyze and practice identifying what is not being said; examine influences of power in and on our ministry work, as well as within our own identities. This seminar will center the sacred art of listening - first to ourselves, then to others, in meaningful ways. The series will dive more deeply into the art and sacred act of listening, and participants will benefit from a readiness to practice identifying and exploring feelings, as listening is an embodied practice that demands engagement beyond cognition.



Kimberley Briana Gordy inherited the spirit of an educator from her foremothers. She hails from Snow Hill, Maryland, where the environment and familial network imbued the “village to raise a child” philosophy. She earned a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological

Seminary (NYC) in 2022. She completed a Chaplaincy Residency at The Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in West Philadelphia, PA in the fall of 2023. For Kimberley, chaplaincy merges faith and spiritual tools with facilitation, and engages her inherent contemplative and communication skills. Kimberley is a Womanist and LGBTQIA+ affirming spiritual caregiver whose identity as a multiple spiritual believer draws her to those in liminal spaces with a focus on liberation for each individual.

Exploring the Literary Characteristics of the Gospels and the Contemporary Church

Eighteenth Fred B. Craddock Seminar on the Gospels

Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT

Sessions will be held on October 24, October 31, November 7 and November 14

This 4-week seminar will explore the literary characteristic of the Gospels. Over the last ten years with the rise of white Christian nationalism and nativism, the global pandemic of Covid-19 and its exposure of economic and health disparities, anti-Black and Jewish hate crimes, the attack on the most vulnerable in relation to class, sexuality, and gender identities, the heightened xenophobic rhetoric and reaction to non-citizens, to name a few, understanding what is distinctive about each Gospel serves as a tool to refrain from reading back dangerous ideas into the Gospels but also as a tool to understand each Gospel's literary intent. Each seminar will focus on one Gospel. The primary aim of this

seminar is to strengthen participants' literary awareness, and to leave them with tools to read critically the use of Gospels in society and the church.



Dr. Francisco Lozada, Jr. joined Christian Theological Seminary as the Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty, and Professor New Testament Studies, effective July 1, 2023. Prior to joining CTS, Dr. Lozada served at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth,

Texas, as the Charles Fischer Catholic Professor of New Testament and Latinx Studies and the Director of the Borderlands Institute and Latinx Studies Program. During his time at Brite, he has been a leading voice in addressing hermeneutical and theological implications regarding how the Bible is employed and deployed in ethnic/racial communities. He currently serves on the board of the Hispanic Summer Program, guiding its efforts to shape the next generation of Latinx theological and ecclesial leaders, and served extensively in leadership roles for the Society of Biblical Literature. He is currently an associate editor for the Journal of Biblical Literature and the Catholic Biblical Quarterly. Dr. Lozada holds a Ph.D. in New Testament and Early Christianity from Vanderbilt University, an M.T.S. from Vanderbilt Divinity School, and a B.A. in Religious Studies from John Carroll University.

Comparative Theology: The Basics

Seventeenth Jean and Parker Wilson Seminar

Tuesdays, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. CT

Sessions will be held on April 9, April 16, April 23 and April 30

Comparative theology is a newer subfield within the wider field of theology. As a new subdiscipline, its aims and agenda are often misunderstood. Comparative theology is not about think about (or worse, against) other religions. Instead, it is about thinking with the religious other in ways that can transform one's own theology, faith, and devotional practice. It calls people, rooted in their particular tradition, to think with another tradition, allowing their faith to be read and transformed by the faith of the other. This course covers the basics of comparative theology and creates opportunities for participants to put this method into practice in renewing and transforming ways.



Rev. Dr. José Francisco Morales Torres is the Assistant Professor of Latinx Studies & Religion at Chicago Theological Seminary. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Theology and Philosophy from Claremont School of Theology. As a historical and comparative theologian,

Morales places historical voices into conversation with historically marginalized voices, within and beyond the Christian tradition, offering radical re-articulations of the Christian faith for today's realities. His areas of interest include: comparative approaches to historical theology; liberation theologies; theological anthropology; the development of Christian doctrines in global perspectives; history of Latin American philosophy; and Medieval philosophizing and theologizing across Abrahamic faiths. His first book, *Wonder as a New Starting Point for Theological Anthropology: Opened by the World*, proposes a new theological anthropology informed by the experience of wonder. He is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

A PROUD HERITAGE CONTINUES

The forty-sixth series seeks to combine the online format with in-person seminars as well. This series will provide five Saturday offerings – three online and two in person, then showcase three 4-part online courses on various Tuesdays. The School continues to offer adult lay persons a variety of opportunities to strengthen the basis of their commitment to Jesus Christ and the church, and to learn how to better understand the intersections of life and faith, and how to prepare more effectively for work in service to God and humanity. In addition, the 4-part courses offer the opportunity for certification and continuing education hours, provided participants contact their individual adjudicators for course/seminar approval for continuing education credit(s). The Stalcup School is made possible by SSTL's former dean, Joe Stalcup, and his wife, Nancy Vaughn Stalcup, and the gifts of others who share their commitment to theological education.

Registration Options

- A. INDIVIDUAL ONE-DAY SEMINARS @ \$15.00 each
- B. ONE-DAY SEMINARS ONLY SERIES SUBSCRIPTION (Three online and two in-person events) @\$50.00
- C. INDIVIDUAL 4-PART COURSE (1-4 part course offered online) @ \$50.00
- D. ALL THREE 4-PART COURSES (all 4-part courses offered online – 12 dates) @150.00
- E. COMPLETE SERIES SUBSCRIPTION (All seminars and courses -17 dates) @ \$200.00
- F. BRITE STUDENTS

***Note: The ONLINE seminars (only) will be available for on demand viewing afterward.*

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE REGISTERING?

Contact the Center for Lifelong Learning at (817) 257-7589 or visit our website at www.brite.edu/stalcup

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I register?

1. Register online at www.brite.edu/stalcup
2. Call (817) 257-7589

How much is the registration fee?

Individual one-day seminars are \$15.00. Individual 4-part courses are \$50.00. Or choose one of three money-saving subscriptions: All one-day seminars package only (Saturday seminars for \$50.00); All 4-part courses (12 online seminars for \$150.00); the Complete Series (all seventeen offerings of seminars and courses for \$200.00), or the Student Option.

Where are classes held?

For the 46th series, all seminars, classes, and courses will be held online with the exception of the following: Dr. Scott Langston will lecture in person at Northway Christian Church in Dallas, Texas.

Dr. Lance Pape will lecture at Brite's Bass Conference Center in Fort Worth, Texas.

In person events will offer catering (boxed lunches).

How do I access the classes on Zoom?

Instructions for accessing each session will be sent a few days prior to the class/seminar.

What computer equipment will I need to participate?

Classes and lectures will be available through Zoom and YouTube. Zoom can be accessed from any device: Phone, Mobile Phone, Tablet, Mac or PC with a camera and/or microphone. Or, you can call in on your phone but will not have access to the video. More information is available at www.brite.edu/stalcup/ or call 817-257-7589.

What if I have never used Zoom or YouTube?

The Center for Lifelong Learning will be available to assist you in learning to use the tools.

What about scholarships?

In keeping with the history of Stalcup and the mission of Brite Divinity School, we want to make the seminars available to all. If you would like to apply for financial aid, please contact our office and arrangements will be made to ensure your participation.



Brite Divinity School educates and inspires people to serve God's diverse world as leaders in churches, the academy, and public life.