



**YEAR B  
2015-2016**

**FALL SEMESTER 2015  
September 28 – December 1**

### **Opening Retreat**

**Date: September 26 [Saturday] 10-4**

**Professor: Chaplain Charles Marks and Faculty**

The Opening Retreat will introduce students to the distinctive NTS West emphasis of theological education as spiritual formation. In our student-centered seminary, the retreat is an opportunity for students to get to know one another at the beginning of their course work. Various faculty and staff will present the learning/teaching strategies of the seminary, especially our emphasis on continually connecting the dots between theory and practice. Come prepared to participate with fellow students in the discernment of God's presence in this new chapter in your life.

The Opening Retreat is required for M. Div. and M.A. students and encouraged for all 2015 entering students.

---

### **Theology in Ecumenical Context (2)**

**Date/Time: Monday evening 6:45 – 9:30**

**Professor: Michael Kinnamon**

**Location: Orange County**

This course is designed to help you think theologically—that is, to understand more fully the Christian faith and the church that confesses it and to reflect critically on this faith in light of contemporary issues—not only as members of particular church traditions but as members of the one, universal church of Jesus Christ. To this end, the course includes 1) an introduction to Christianity's major theological traditions, 2) an opportunity to explore your own ecclesial (church) tradition as part of the larger body, 3) an introduction to ecumenical dialogue and to several significant theological texts that have resulted from it, and 4) an introduction to interfaith relations. Running throughout the quarter will be opportunities to think theologically

in the presence of persons from other theological traditions about pressing issues of the day (e.g., peace, ecology, cultural and religious diversity), and to examine theological statements written by others “in an ecumenical context.”

---

### **Church History I (2)**

**Date/Time: Tuesday evening 7:00 – 9:30**

**Professor: Jane Atkins Vasquez**

**Location: Pasadena-Burbank area**

The history of Christianity from the second to the sixteenth century will focus on the beliefs and practices of significant individuals, movements, and institutions. We will explore Christianity in the West (Europe and North Africa) and in the East (Eastern Mediterranean, Slavic peoples, Asia). We will ask about Christianity’s engagement with Islam before 1500.

Special attention will be given to: (1) The authority and role of the Bible; (2) Early Christian missions in the Americas and Asia.

This is a seminar where each participant’s life and faith experience is valued. The goal is that through our immersion in Christian History we can live into a more informed participation in our respective faith communities, locally and globally.

---

### **I Corinthians (2)**

**Date/Time: Tuesday evening 6:45 – 9:15**

**Professor: Peter Hintzoglou**

**Location: Orange County**

Our study of 1 Corinthians will be to help us become acquainted with the content of the letter in its cultural, socioeconomic, and historical context. We will consider Paul’s teaching on the person of Christ, the nature and unity of the church, his theology of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts and the leadership of the church. Our purpose will be to examine what the text says, and also what it means, that is, how does it apply to the church’s ministry and witness today. A component of our study will involve reflection on how to study the text (principles of Biblical interpretation) and how to apply the ancient text with relevance to the context of today.

---

## **Psalms (2)**

**Date/Time: Monday evening 6:45 – 9:15**

**Professor: Jeff McCrory Jr.**

**Location: La Canada Presbyterian Church**

The Old Testament Book of Psalms is perhaps the most important book of the Bible for ministry. The New Testament quotes the Psalms more than any Old Testament book. Jesus shapes his Kingdom work from the Psalms. The church's worship and spiritual formation takes root in the Psalms. In this class we will learn (1) the content, literary features, and theological message of the Psalms, (2) the historical and cultural setting of the Book of Psalms (3) how to interpret various psalms moving from a psalm text to whole Bible context and then to our context (4) to pray and sing the Psalms for worship and spiritual growth.

---

## **Shadowing the Bible Teacher (2)**

How do you teach the Bible in a congregation? Would you like to learn from a master teacher? Believing learning and teaching the Bible is crucial for the renewal of the church, NTSWest has invited a number of master pastor-teachers to work with students on the content and strategy at the heart of their Bible teaching.

- Pastor-Teacher: Jerry Tankersley  
Location: Laguna Presbyterian Church  
Date/Time: Tuesday 9:15-10:30 a.m. *Women*, Wednesday 7-8:15 a.m. *Men & Women*

---

- Pastor-Teacher: Alexia Salvatierra  
Location: Hope Lutheran Church, Hollywood  
Date/Time: Sunday 12 noon

---

- Pastor-Teacher: Ivan Pitts  
Location: Second Baptist, Santa Ana  
Date/Time: Wednesday 7-8:15 p.m.

---

- Pastor-Teacher: Gareth Icenogle  
Location: La Canada Presbyterian Church  
Date/Time: Wednesday 6:30-7:30 a.m.

\*Customized Courses

[Requested by a Congregation]

---

**Reading and Teaching the Bible in a Multicultural World (1)****Date/Time: Saturday 10-12 September 26 – November 14****Professor: Christine Blair****Location: 2nd Baptist Church, Santa Ana**

In reading the Bible, our native cultures are lenses through which we read and understand God's Word for us. In Southern California, our congregations have members from diverse cultures. How do their cultural differences shape biblical interpretation? How do we read and teach the Bible faithfully while honoring cultural differences? In this seminar we will deepen our appreciation of the Bible and our understanding of the role of culture in shaping our reading and teaching of biblical texts. Our goal is to work together to develop strategies for finding unity amid diversity.