



# INSTITUTE FOR BLACK CATHOLIC STUDIES

*Xavier University of Louisiana*

## 2021 Master of Theology Degree Program Associate Director, C. Vanessa White, D.Min.

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the only graduate theology program in the USA taught from a Black Catholic perspective. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary; courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, youth and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 in historic New Orleans on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to academic learning, prayer, worship and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black community and church. The IBCS welcomes graduates seeking on-going study, graduate students of other programs and ministers who desire to expand, enhance and enrich their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic theological tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond. In 2020, the IBCS transitioned to an online learning platform in response to the current pandemic. The teaching format for IBCS Summer 2021 has not yet been determined.

## 2021 Degree Course Offerings JUNE 25 - JULY 16, 2021

**IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology.** Stresses the nature, methods and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. **Requirement for all new students** (1:30-4:45pm/3 units). **Craig A. Ford, Jr., Ph.D.**

**IBTH 5020 History of Black Catholicism.** Explores the role played by Blacks in Catholicism from the beginning of the Church, with special emphasis on the presence and contributions of Blacks to Roman Catholicism in the United States. **Core Course** (8:30-11:45am/3 units). **Cecilia A. Moore, Ph.D.**

**IBTH 5060 Black Psychology.** Constructs effective pastoral communication with Black congregations by review of major interpersonal, social, and systematic issues from a perspective based upon sound analysis stemming from recognition of cultural differences. **Core Course** (1:30-4:45pm/3 units). **Brian Turner, Ph.D.**

**IBTH 5081 Christology.** Studies the Kingdom of God as announced in the teaching, healing ministry, passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, particularly as these are understood from the perspective of liberation and black theologies. **Area Requirement** (8:30-11:45am/3 units). **Modeste Malu Nyimi, Ph.D.**

**IBTH 5440 The Spirituals.** Studies a broad range of the black sacred songs known as the "Spirituals." Focus is placed upon a study of their origins, meanings, and purposes. Emphasis is also given to understanding their importance in the foundation of African American culture and Christianity; and their possible uses in Catholic worship, and pastoral ministry. **Area Requirement** (1:30-4:45pm/3 units). **Dwight Webster, Ph.D.**

**IBTH 5670 Spiritual Direction and Formation in the Black Community.** Explores the unique characters of Christian spiritual and faith formation specifically addressing issues of culture, family, personal and communal history, social location and discipleship in the context of the Black community. **Elective** (8:30-11:45am/3 units) **Valerie Lewis-Mosley, D.Min.**

**IBTH 5999 Qualifying Examination.**

**IBTH 6000 Practicum (Major Research Paper and Project).**

**IBTH 7000 Comprehensive.**

To access the 2021 IBCS Degree application, use this link <https://gradapply.xula.edu/apply/> and complete the **APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE PROGRAM**, selecting IBCS Masters of Theology as the Field of Study (Major) on the **ACADEMIC and INTENDED MAJOR PAGE**.

For more information: (504) 520-7691 [ibcs@xula.edu](mailto:ibcs@xula.edu) [www.xula.edu/ibcs](http://www.xula.edu/ibcs)  
Dana Lockett, Program Specialist  
Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min., Director

