2020 DEGREE COURSE OFFERINGS
JUNE 26 - JULY 17, 2020

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. Required for all new students. (3 units) Modeste Malu Nyimi, Ph.D.

IBTH 5430 Black Spirituality. Engages students in a critical examination of the roots, development and characteristics of the spirituality of Black peoples in the United States as well as a participative experience of Black spirituality as found in the religious expression of the community. (3 units) C. Vanessa White, D. Min.

IBTH 5050 Catechetics. Exposes students to contemporary catechetical theories, principles and practices relevant to faith formation in a diverse Church. Particular attention is given to the development of effective catechetical ministry with African-American adults, youth, and children in domestic, parish and school environments. (3 units) Fr. J. Derran Combs, Ph.D.

IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community. Establishes a dialogue between African American and Roman Catholic approaches to ethical issues, focusing on matters of particular concern to African Americans. (3 units) Shawnee Daniels-Sykes, Ph.D.

IBTH 5625 Catholic Education in the Black Community. Looks at learning styles among Black children and provides methodologies for a culturally inclusive curriculum. (3 units) Kirk Gaddy, Ed.D.

IBTH 5997 Integrative Colloquium. Assists students to enter more deeply into a way of thinking, reflecting, conversing, and writing about questions and issues that emerge from their ministry and ministerial research. (3 units) Albertina Walker-Hughey, Ph.D.

Th.M. Program Application: https://gradapply.xula.edu/apply.

Greetings on behalf of the IBCS! As you check out the offerings for 2020 presented here, consider yourself invited to join us! Help spread the word that the IBCS is a school of ministry that meets in the summer at Xavier University of Louisiana. The Institute’s focus is God’s gift of Blackness, its mission to form spiritually and culturally competent Christian disciples for the work of evangelizing families, parishes, schools, neighborhoods, workplaces, the marketplace, Church and community-at-large. Explore the IBCS website or contact us to learn more. We look forward to hearing from you and ask your prayerful support of the IBCS and Xavier University!

Kathleen Dorsey Bellow, D.Min., IBCS Director
The Catholic Church: Forging a Path to Racial Justice. The US Bishops’ 2017 pastoral on racism calls for “a genuine conversion of heart... that will compel change, and the reform of our institutions and society.” This course aims to prepare students to constructively engage on issues of race and racial justice in parishes, dioceses, and the broader community. It will draw on community organizing principles and frameworks to unpack the consequences of institutional/structural racism and discern a way forward for the African American Catholic community. Megan Black, M.Div. (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

Preaching from the Pews. We often hear that ineffective preaching is a challenge in our communities. This course will offer approaches for laity to help clergy become better preachers and strategies to help clergy reinforce their preaching skills! We hope to rekindle the fire in the pulpit with the fire in the pew! Fr. Manuel Williams, CR, Th.M. (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

A Theology of ‘Black Lives Matter’ – Initiating the Conversation. This course explores the emergence and development of ‘Black Lives Matter’ into the new Civil Rights Movement. Drawing on a broad interdisciplinary team of Black leaders in theology, psychology, pastoral ministry and community activism, course participants will ponder the personal and communal potential of ‘Black Lives Matter’ in an effort to garner meaningful resources and strategies that address challenges of today. Diana Hayes, PhD, Brian Turner, PhD, Manuel Williams, CR, Th.M., Heather Malveaux, MPH. (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM)

Steppin’ in the Name of Love: Journeying with African American Youth. This course proposes culturally relevant and practical strategies for assisting African American youth to identify their gifts, to make life-giving choices and to embrace their call as part of the heritage and the potential of the Christian community. Both new and veteran youth ministers, catechists and teachers will find engaging ways to effectively accompany their youthful sojourners on the road of faith. Valerie Shields (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM)

Resistance and the Scriptures. In the spirit of Sr. Thea Bowman - “Yall walkin’ wid us, Church? Are you with us?" - and a reverent nod to history, social context, and language, we will search Scripture for meaning, import, and relevance for the Black Catholic community. Our interpretations will celebrate “Y'all walkin’ wid us, Church? Are you with us?” - and a reverent nod to history, social context, and language, we will search Scripture for meaning, import, and relevance for the Black Catholic community. Our interpretations will celebrate — “Black Lives Matter in an effort to garner meaningful resources and/or create new ones based on these goals. Sharon Winchester (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM)

Liturgy for Lay Ministers. Whether you serve as a Eucharistic minister, choir member in another role at Mass, understanding Liturgy will enhance your spiritual experience and that of the community. In this session, students will explore the spirituality of Liturgy and its role in liturgical service, focusing on skills and resources required to serve well. We will examine Catholic guidelines and directives for eucharistic and non-eucharistic worship and the necessity of attending to cultural diversity. Rawn Harbor, M.T.S. (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

The Mission of Discipleship—Lay Leaders in the 21st Century. The goal of this course is to develop and enhance ministry skills in parish lay ministers. Students will become familiar with the various elements of the Church’s hierarchy and parish administrative processes, including: setting and achieving goals, organization, delegation, human relations, group dynamics, supervision and the training of other leaders. The objective of the course is to develop a strategic plan for implementation in the student’s local parish community. Carey Dabney, Ph.D. Cand. (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

Building Multicultural Competency in Ministry. This seminar addresses issues of particular interest for cross-cultural ministry. For example: how to reach Black Catholics in multicultural contexts, what are best practices for ministry in the African diaspora, and appreciating the Catholic experience through the culture and spirituality of others. Donna Grimes and Fr. Gerard Marable, Th.M. (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM)

African American Spirituality. This course will survey African American spirituality; from its origin during slavery through its Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow African American spirituality; from its origin during slavery through its Civil War, Reconstruction, Jim Crow and Civil Rights Movements evolutions. The course will explore the spirituality of liturgy and its role in liturgical service, focusing on skills and resources required to serve well. We will examine Catholic guidelines and directives for eucharistic and non-eucharistic worship and the necessity of attending to cultural diversity. Rawn Harbor, M.T.S. (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

The Elders Retreat. African American Elders (age 55+) are invited to a week of prayer, reflection, discussion, recreation, and renewal. Come celebrate the legacy of elders in the Black Catholic community. Let the Spirit revive, renew, and keep you ready to share the wisdom that continues to sustain our community. Chaplain Thelma Lucas, Th.M. (M-F, 9:00-11:45AM; 2:00-4:00PM - Limited Registration)

Race and the Catholic Imagination. This course will focus on the four documents on racism written by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops. Students will analyze the advancements and limitations of each and discuss ways that communities might respond with strategies to address the persistent presence and pressure of racism today. Carey Dabney, Ph.D. Cand. (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM)

Going PPLACESS with Catechesis. This course reviews LACES, the foundational goals of Africentric catechesis (Liberation, Affirming Blackness, Conversion, Evangelization and Synthesizing the Sacred and Secular). We will explore how to incorporate LACES into parish programs, as well as how to use LACES to evaluate existing catechetical strategies and resources and/or create new ones based on these goals. Debra Britteman (M-F, 8:45-11:45AM)

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The African Diaspora: Finding a Way Beyond “Us and Them”. This seminar will focus on the diversity of black cultures in our U.S. communities and how differences often complicate relations among people of African descent. We will explore Black experiences of racial colonialization in Africa and slavery in America to better understand how these shape African and African American cultural identity. This is an important and timely conversation for the future of black Catholicism in the USA. Rev. Kwame Asseney, Ph.D. Cand. (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

The Arts and Christian Ministry. In this course, students will explore the role of the arts in the ongoing dialogue between culture and faith that finds expression in daily life, worship and ministry. Louise Mouton Johnson, MFA (M-F, 1:45-4:45PM)

2020 Master of Theology Degree (Th.M.) Program Associate Director, Kirk P. Gaddly, Ed.D.

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the only graduate theology program in the western hemisphere taught from a Black Catholic perspective. Established in 1980, its curriculum features interdisciplinary courses that incorporate Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, youth and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Set in the context of IBCS academics, prayer, worship and community-life, the Degree program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black Catholic Church at-large. The Degree program also attracts transient graduate students and ministers seeking to expand, enrich and sharpen their understandings of culture and faith by exploring Black Catholic traditions and their particular meanings for Black Life in the U.S. and Pan African world.