



Transformational Justice Certificate

Course Descriptions

THEO 6334 – Peace, Justice, and Restorative Practices (3 credit hours)

This course explores the theological and historical emergence of transformative justice and the pastoral dimensions of practices that are restorative for both individuals and communities. Transformative justice seeks to overcome such paradigms as victim/offender paradigm with a more complex understanding of relationships rooted in love of God/love of neighbor/love of enemy. It examines and critiques social systems of domination (such as race, gender, class) as they lead to trauma. It focuses on healing from conflict and violence through practices that transform individuals and communities, including conflict transformation, non-violent communication, de-institutionalization (in the ways various institutions such as prisons define people), de-escalation, and attention to others in one's community.

MNST 6400 – Mobilizing for Justice: Methods & Practice of Justice (3 credit hours)

This course explores a variety of approaches and methodologies to justice ministry. The relationship of ethics to community building and transformation is discussed. Practical ministry skills, how teaching on justice ministry can be part of the liturgical work of the church, and the role of preaching in that formation is emphasized.

MNST 6150 – God's Global Vision: Mission as Biblical Theme (3 credit hours)

What is God's mission in the world? How is it different from what we call 'missions'? What are the Biblical and theological foundations for the role of the church in the world? This mission theology course provides a biblical overview following the theme of God's vision for all peoples through the Old and New Testaments. Particular attention is given to thematic models of God's call and redemptive activity sending God's people as instruments of blessing to people of all cultures and nations wherever God sends us. This course geared specifically for those desiring a deeper biblical hermeneutic of scripture's overarching narrative for use in teaching, preaching and kingdom service wherever that may lead.

THEO 6420 – Saints, Radicals, and Heretics: Critical Voices in Christian Theology (3 credit hours)

This course will focus on various liberation theologies as they work from a biblical standpoint of God's preferential option for those who are poor, underserved, or dominated. Students will challenge dominant narratives in Christianity by interacting with thinkers such as Kelly Brown Douglas, James Cone, Gustavo Gutierrez, Letty Russell, Willie Jennings, Ivone Gebara, and Renita Weems.