CROSS-CULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS at Virginia Theological Seminary

Prepared by

March 2015 edition
I. Introduction

Virginia Theological Seminary offers a context and an education that is ecumenical, international and cross-cultural. VTS exists to form leaders for the Church, to provide continuing theological education for all and to serve the World Church and Anglican Communion. VTS exists to form leaders who will continue to discern means for deeper participation in the mission of God.

Developing such missional discernment is well served through taking part in VTS’s Cross-Cultural Education Programs (CCEPs). For an openness to the perspectives and cultures of others is often an openness to hear more deeply the voice of God. An ability to communicate and relate well across diverse cultural boundaries is an increasingly valuable skill for ministry. CCEPs, especially those taking place beyond the Global North, make internationalist leaders and that means better leaders for the local church, the wider church and the Anglican Communion.

VTS requires all candidates for the M.Div. degree to take at least three credit hours in the Department of Global Christianity and Mission (GCM). Students can fulfill these credits hours in a traditional classroom setting or through a CCEP which is a combination of both VTS classroom work and work done beyond the VTS classroom. That is to say, a CCEP is a combination of a Study Tour, Immersion, World Mission Internship, Independent Study or Semester Abroad (see below) and GCM 710 (Crossing Cultures Well: CCEP Preparation, Reflection, Integration).

Cross-Cultural Education as Study Tour
A Study Tour can, but does not necessarily, take students beyond the geographical boundaries of the Global North. Study Tours should, however, begin to deal with issues of marginalized voices and perspectives in terms of, for example, exegesis, history, politics, culture, race, and/or socio-economics. The time commitment can be as little as one week but is often more.

Cross-Cultural Education as Immersion
Immersion is study in “another culture about that culture and/or mission of the church in that culture”. The task of the participant is to live in the culture and engage “its people and institutions broadly in the role of a student who is an observer/participant in the culture”. The time commitment can be as little as ten days but is often more.

Cross-Cultural Education as World Mission Internship
World Mission Internships take the student to a context outside the Global North thus enabling the student to face the realities of the Global South in terms of radically different socio-economic, cultural, and linguistic configurations. Internships place the student in a ministry setting with supervision of a local minister or mission partner for at least three weeks.¹

¹ Based on the Seminary Consultation on Mission’s, Guidelines for Cross-Cultural Experiences in Episcopal Seminaries (2000).
Cross-Cultural Education in Semesters Abroad
Semester Abroad opportunities are being identified in partnership with theological institutions across the world. As early as Fall 2015-2016 VTS Seminarians will have the opportunity of spending a semester continuing their studies in another cultural context and location with credit recognition assured through VTS.

Programs highlighted in this document are sponsored by VTS as well as other seminaries and organizations. We invite you to learn more about the exciting CCEP opportunities and the financial aid resources that can make these trips a reality this academic year.

Rev. Dr. Robert S. Heaney Ph.D, D.Phil
Assistant Professor of Christian Mission
Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies
II. CCEP Cycle

VTS will seek to offer a balance of Study Tour, Immersions and Internships each year on a three-year cycle. Though subject to change, the following cycle is beginning to evolve. Annual CCEPs include the Immersion on Urban Ministry (DC), and biennial CCEPs include the World Mission Internship to Myanmar.

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Note on timing: January term CCEPs begin wherever possible after GOEs are completed and students will return at least 4 days before the beginning of the Spring semester.

*as independent study only in 2015
**in development
III. Registration Information

If you plan on participating in any of the VTS-sponsored CCEPs during January, please register for those with VTS course numbers through the myVTS website. For all other January opportunities, please email Ms. Tami Shepherd the name of the program and register directly with the program sponsor. The registration deadline for January term courses is generally September or early October. The registration deadline for summer courses is early March. Registrations may be dropped if financial aid applications are not approved. Submission of a “Release of Liability” form is required for all Cross-Cultural Education Programs. This form can be found in the myVTS website: select the “Students” tab (located at the top of the page), then select the “Academic Information” option (located on the left hand side of the page). The form is in the “Cross Cultural Programs - Release of Liability form (REQUIRED) and Scholarship/Grant programs” area.

Academic programs count as January Term credit. Students who complete a minimum three-week Cross-Cultural Education Program in January on a non-credit basis can receive a waiver for three hours of January term credits. These hours will not count toward the number of credits needed for graduation. A Waiver Form (Supplement D, available on MyVTS) must be completed. For further information about individual courses, contact the faculty member named in the program description.

Register for independent study using Independent Study Form (Supplement B) which is available on myVTS by April at the latest (for summer study). Students may opt to exchange the 1.5 independent study for 1.5 GCM credit hours by completing a Waiver of Course Requirement form (Supplement D) available on myVTS, in “Academic Information.”

For information about credit and registration related to those courses led by VTS faculty, contact Ms. Tami Shepherd, Registrar, at 703-461-1723 or tshepherd@vts.edu.

Deposit payments or questions should be directed to Ms. Nancy Siridavong, in the Student Billing Office at 703-461-1708, or NSiridavong@vts.edu.
IV. GCM 710: "Crossing Cultures Well: CCEP Preparation, Reflection, Integration"

Fall Semester, Second Quarter - 1.5 credit hours

This course will be compulsory beginning in 2015-2016 for all students participating in Cross-Cultural Education Programs.

**Description:** Many congregations, dioceses and ministries have strong ties with World Christianity. As a consequence, opportunities for cross-cultural visits and/or immersions arise. Despite such opportunities, doing immersions and cross-cultural partnerships well is fraught with difficulties. The purpose of this course is to examine what good Cross-Cultural Education preparation is, how to do theological reflection during CCEPs, and how to integrate CCEP experiences into ongoing ministry.

After completion of GCM 710 and the Study Tour, Immersion or World Mission, students are required to make a short presentation on their experiences to the VTS community at a Center for Anglican Communion Studies sponsored event.

This applies also to independent study courses of an international or cross-cultural nature and Semesters abroad.
V. Financial Aid Information

Internal VTS funding opportunities:

Scholarships for International Programs (SIP)
SIP offers VTS-funded grants to a maximum of $2,500 to support students who enroll in immersion programs taken for academic credit. These funds are available only to full-time students. To apply, submit a letter of request to the Director of Financial Aid according to the SIP Guidelines available on myVTS. The letter should indicate the immersion experience in which you wish to enroll, the budget of expenses for the trip, and a listing of other money you have raised or resources you expect to receive for the trip. Selection is based on the number of people who apply, total funds available, and students’ financial circumstances; students who do not qualify for standard need-based aid from the Seminary are eligible to apply for SIP. Priority will be given to first-time applicants. It is expected that a recipient of a grant will find ways to share the cross-cultural experience with the Seminary community.

- Proposals for January – April are due October 15; decisions will be made by November 14.
- Proposals for May – August, 2015 are due by March 15; decisions will be made by April 1.

Please contact the VTS Director of Financial Aid for more information.

Funding Sources External to VTS:

Seminary Consultation on Mission (SCOM) Grants
The Seminary Consultation on Mission, which is composed of the eleven accredited Episcopal Seminaries in the USA, invites students, individually or in groups, to apply for funds up to $5,000 to support creative projects in cross-cultural theological learning that will have an effect on seminary life and education. Contact the Ms. Claire Haymes at the Center for Anglican Communion Studies (chaymes@vts.edu) for more information. The SCOM application guidelines are available on the MyVTS “Academic Information” page. Projects must be planned for the period January 1 of the year following application through August 31 of the subsequent year.

- The absolute deadline for submitting SCOM applications for initial VTS Faculty review is October 1.
- Proposals endorsed by VTS Dean and Faculty may then be submitted to SCOM Administrator, Ms. Laurel Schlueder (scomgrants@ssw.edu), no later than November 1. Decisions are announced at the end of November by SCOM.
Evangelical Education Society (EES) Grants

EES awards *Evangelism for the 21st Century* grants to Episcopal students, faculty, staff and their families who are members of ATS-accredited seminary communities. *E-21* grants support innovative ministry projects that take the gospel to the unchurched, empower lay and ordained ministers to bring new evangelical vigor to parish churches, and help believers to understand and articulate the Christian faith. Projects must include an immediate element of evangelism through teaching, preaching, or other means of delivery; strictly pilgrimage or cross-cultural immersion trips do not qualify. **The grants are up to $5,000.** Additional information and applications can be obtained from the EES website, [http://ees1862.org/](http://ees1862.org/).

- **Fall Cycle:** Applications typically due in late September, notification mid-November and disbursement any time from December to the March 18 months later.

- **Spring Cycle:** Applications typically due in early February from projects from May of the same year through August of the subsequent year. Notification is mid-April.

Questions to: Ms. Day Smith Pritchatt, Executive Director, Evangelical Education Society (EES), P.O. Box 7297, Arlington, VA 22207, Tel. 703-807-1862. Email: office@ees1862.org

Look for the “Eligible for:” section under each CCEP below for available funding options.
VI. STUDY TOURS

January Term

St. George’s College, Jerusalem
“Walking in the Land of the Holy One”

Dates: xxx, 2016

Description: The St. George’s CCEP provides the best introduction to the Holy Land, in a 14-day study tour with both academic and devotional aspects. Aims of the course are: to study the life and ministry of Jesus in their historical contexts; to appreciate more fully the roots and traditions of Christian faith; to explore the Bible lands as students and as pilgrims; to integrate academic biblical study with personal Christian faith; to begin to understand some of the contemporary issues in Israel and Palestine; and to begin to relate our experience to our lives and ministries back home. Course members visit major sites connected with the Gospel accounts: Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Jordan River, the Sea of Galilee, Mount Tabor and the Judean Desert. They trace the Passion Narratives through visits to Bethpage, the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher). They visit the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) and the Dome of the Rock in the contexts of paying attention to interfaith issues regarding Judaism and Islam. Students will also hear the voices of Palestinians and Israelis as they struggle for justice and peace in their land.

St. George’s will supply a bibliography for reading prior to the journey to Jerusalem. Students will write reflection papers during and after the course, referring to the readings from the bibliography. Papers will be read by an Adjunct Instructor at St. George’s who is involved with VTS students during the course. VTS course number: GCM 857-01.

Credit: 1.5 GCM Credit hours on a Pass/Fail basis plus 1.5 RCL Credit hours on a Pass/Fail basis.

Student numbers: limited to 20 students

Registration deadline: October 2, 2015

Cost to Student: Travel (~$1,500), incidentals (including $100 gratuity, $30 internet usage at college, transportation to/from airport, optional $100 excursion to Masada/Dead Sea) and nonrefundable $300 tuition deposit that is due at registration. The remaining tuition, room, board, field site transportation and admission fees (total value ~ $3,000), are covered by VTS under its partnership agreement with St. George’s. Because VTS already covers a significant portion of the cost, this course is not eligible for SIP or SCOM financial aid. However, do note that the following prizes are available:

Eligible for:
The Jean B. Tachau Memorial Biblical Languages Prize is awarded at the end of each academic year to a student of the Seminary who shall, during the academic year, have shown the most progress or
proficiency in the study of the Biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek. To be eligible for the Prize, the student must be in his or her second academic year, and a candidate for the Masters of Divinity degree. Additionally, the student, shall, at the time the Prize is awarded, occupy the status of either Postulant or Candidate for the Holy Orders in some Diocese of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, or an equivalent status in some other Diocese of the world-wide Anglican Communion. The funds are to be used for study at St. George’s College in Jerusalem, for independent travel and study of biblical languages in the Holy Land or for additional graduate study of biblical languages. To the extent it is not possible to use the Fund for this purpose, the Dean and President of the Seminary may designate the use of the Fund for another purpose consistent with the above.

The Armistead Boothe Grant for Scholarships for Study in Israel (The Holy Land Study Fund) is awarded to students of the biblical languages for the St. George’s College, Jerusalem Study Tour. The guidelines for the Boothe Grant follow those established for the same guidelines as the Jean B. Tachau Memorial Biblical Languages Prize. The Boothe Grant may be used to supplement the Tachau Prize. They may also be awarded to students who apply for the Tachau Prize but do not receive it, if they meet the Tachau Guidelines. The Biblical Languages/St. George’s Study-Tour Committee (appointed by the Dean) will make the final decisions in all cases.

Jane A. Morse scholarship for Old Testament Languages supports the January trip to Israel for a qualified student of Virginia Seminary. The scholarship of $2,000 is awarded to a VTS student who has taken at least one semester of a dedicated Hebrew language course at VTS (or is deemed to be proficient by the faculty) and be recommended by the Faculty on the basis of merit. Additionally, please note, every year the St. George’s Prize is awarded by the North American Committee for St. George’s College, Jerusalem to a senior graduating student who has demonstrated commitment to interfaith dialogue. The award funds the student to attend one course at the college including airfare.

Register for this course by completing the following steps:

1) Register through myVTS and pay VTS a nonrefundable deposit of $300 by September 26, 2014. Deposit payments should be directed to Nancy Siridavong, in the Student Billing Office at 703-461-1708, or NSiridavong@vts.edu.

2) Register with St. George’s College in Jerusalem online at http://www.sgcjerusalem.org. Follow the registration steps for the “Palestine of Jesus” course, which occurs on the dates listed above.

3) All fees should be paid to VTS. (NO fees are to be paid directly to St. George’s.)

4) Refrain from booking flights until the VTS Registrar has confirmed your registration.

Plan to arrive at the College by 6:00 pm the night before the course begins and stay until breakfast the day following the course.

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Rodney Aist, St. George's College

Past Participants: Justin Ivatts ’15, Annalise Castro ’16, Alan Bentrup ’16, Jeremy Froyen ’16, Rachel Shows ’16
January Term

Encountering the Church catholic in Rome,
Past and Present

Dates: xx, 2017

Description: This CCEP in Rome, Italy is offered in partnership between VTS and the Anglican Centre in Rome. Through lectures, readings, on-site experiences and conversations, students will reflect on the importance of Rome for the early church and current ecumenical dialogue. The course is designed around the Benedictine way of prayer, study, and service in community. During the first week in Rome, we will explore the shared foundations of our faith: the ancient world of the Roman Empire and the early church, focusing on the Forum and Coliseum, the Catacombs, and major basilicas. We will also spend time in prayer with the Benedictine community at the Monastery of San Gregorio and in service with the Missionary Sisters of Charity. The second week will explore catholicity amid diversity by engaging the Anglican Centre in Rome and the Vatican. We will encounter the ministries of the interdenominational Community of Sant’Egidio. An additional benefit to students will be the opportunity to encounter some of the art of Rome, such as the Sistine Chapel. The trip will include a spiritual retreat to Assisi, a place dedicated to prayer and to peace.

Student numbers: Limited to 12 students; shared accommodations, 2 per room.

Credit: Course number is RCL 859-01 and is 3.0 RCL credit hours. Students may opt to exchange 1.5 RCL credit hours (of the 3.0 total credit hours) for 1.5 GCM credit hours by completing a Waiver of Course Requirement form (Supplement D) available on myVTS, in “Academic Information.”

Registration Deadline: typically early October

Cost to Student: travel and expenses approximately $3,500

Instructors: Dr. Mitzi J. Budde, mbudde@vts.edu, and Dr. Katherine Grieb, kgrieb@vts.edu
Summer 2015

Engaging in a World of Difference – Study Tour to Istanbul, Turkey

Dates: June 3–15, 2015

Description: This CCEP aims to provide students a first-hand experience of a Muslim-majority country and to expand their awareness of a different culture. Participants will attend lectures by Muslim and non-Muslim scholars. They will visit historic churches, mosques, and museums in Istanbul and meet leading figures of religious minority groups (viz., Jewish and Christian). The group will also make a trip to the cities of Nicea (Iznik) of Ephesus (Efes). Throughout, participants will have the opportunity to engage in conversations with Muslims in order to enhance their knowledge of Islam in its living dimension. The participants will stay at the guesthouse of the Foundation, located in the historic central district of Istanbul. Space is limited to 12 participants.

Credit: Course number is WCM 800-01 and is 3.0 WCM credit hours. Students may opt to exchange 1.5 WCM credit hours (of the 3.0 total credit hours) for 1.5 GCM credit hours by completing a Waiver of Course Requirement form (Supplement D) available on myVTS, in “Academic Information.”

Applications must be received by the end of January.

Costs to Student & Financial Aid: The estimated cost for the study tour is $1600 plus tuition to VTS for 3 Credit hours. This amount will cover the cost of all transportation within Istanbul, accommodation, meals, and entrance fees to various cultural/historical sites. The cost does not include the cost of roundtrip travel between Washington, D.C. and Istanbul.

Eligible for: SCOM

Contacts: Mr. Salih Sayilgan, mss249@georgetown.edu and Dr. Robert Heaney rheaney@vts.edu

Past participants: Dr. Rich Jones; Dr. Robert Heaney; Jeff Hual ’15; Bryan Spoon ‘15.
External program opportunities:

January Term 2015

Student Seminars on World Mission
(Overseas Ministries Study Center, New Haven, CT)

The OMSC, co-sponsored by 30 seminaries, offers four courses during the month of January. Each week stands independently as a unit, or may be joined with one, two, or three other weeks with minimal overlap. As a guide, the 2015 courses included:

January 6-9: Caribbean Encounters with Protestant Missions. Dr. Elmer Lavastida Alfonso, Second Baptist Church, Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, considers how, since 1900, Cuba, Jamaica, and other nearby islands have encountered Protestant missions. $175.

January 13-16: The Holy Spirit and Korea, North and South. Rev. Ben Torrey, The Fourth River Project and Jesus Abbey, Taebaek, Kangwon Do, South Korea, examines the impact of four generations of his family in Korea, beginning with evangelist R. A. Torrey's sowing of seeds for revival. $175.


January 26-30: Missionaries in the Movies. Dr. Dwight P. Baker, Overseas Ministries Study Center, utilizes both video clips and full-length feature films to examine the way missionaries have been represented in the movies over the past century. $175.

Registration deadline: VTS deadline – October 2, 2015

Cost to Student: Costs vary according to participation.

Credit: 1.5 independent study credit per week. The Independent Study form (Supplement B) is available on myVTS and must be completed with a VTS faculty member as the advisor.

Website: www.OMSC.org
Summer 2016
Canterbury Cathedral
The Anglican Pilgrimage:
A Conference for Seminarians and Clergy
in the Early Years of Ordained Ministry

Description: The conference program focuses on the rich traditions of cultures and contexts of mission and ministry in the Anglican Communion. Guided by an international faculty, students are encouraged to share their own experiences of the Anglican Communion and reflect on these against the background of the life and worship of Canterbury Cathedral.

The conference has two pillars:

- Academic input and group reflection on ordained life and ministry
- Participating in the pattern of prayer at the Cathedral.

The conference aims to enable students to explore the rich diversity of ministry within the Anglican Communion. Students come from all over the Anglican Communion and have an intensive experience of community life during their time in Canterbury.

The overall purpose of the conference is to broaden horizons by discovering the strength of Anglicanism as a living communion in a diversity of cultures. Course credit may be available for this programme for US and Canadian students, by arrangement with your college.

Registration Deadline: Typically early February together with deposit payment of £600. The residual balance should be paid by May xx.

Cost to Students: for full details of costs please contact the Director of Education at Canterbury Cathedral directly. The fee for the 2012 conference was £1,200 (approximately $2000 USD). This covered board, accommodation, tuition and organized outings. Air fares are not included. Scholarships may be available for some students.

Contact: directorofeducation@canterbury-cathedral.org for application and further details.

Past Participants: Dr. Kathy Grieb; Annalise Castro ’16; Rachel Shows ’16.

Credit: 1.5 independent study credits. The Independent Study form (Supplement B) is available on myVTS and must be completed with a VTS faculty member as the advisor. Students may opt to exchange the 1.5 independent study for 1.5 GCM credit hours by completing a Waiver of Course Requirement form (Supplement D) available on myVTS, in “Academic Information.”
VII. IMMERSIONS

January Term

Immersion in Urban Ministry: Christian Social Ministry

Dates: (15 days), 2016

Description: This course of study is to prepare students to acquaint themselves with the comprehensive social caring for indigent humanity by Jesus Christ, and to acquire the skills to be effective Christian caregivers. In addition, this course encourages the students to seek God’s favor outside of the comfort of the structured sanctuary by attending to the disallowed and disavowed where they are. In connection with an appreciable amount of Bible study and relevant textual engagement, the student enters immersion assignments in real service to the homeless, hungry, incarcerated, elderly, and city social services resource programs.

Registration deadline: October 2, 2015

Cost to Student: None for full-time VTS students. The course takes place at VTS and in local community settings.

Student numbers: maximum 15 students

Credit: Course number is CTS 629-01 and is for 3.0 credit hours. Students may opt to exchange 1.5 CTS credit hours (of the 3.0 total credit hours) for 1.5 GCM credit hours by completing a Waiver of Course Requirement form (Supplement D) available on myVTS, in “Academic Information.”

Instructor: Dr. Elbert Ransom, Jr. and guest lecturers (At least three different visiting lecturers will address the students on the topics of governmental intervention and resources, community organization efforts, and church involvement in the lives of indigent persons.)

Contact: Dr. Elbert Ransom, Jr., ReachCultures36@comcast.net
Summer 2015

College of the Transfiguration, Grahamstown, South Africa

Contextual Theology Program
Dates: August 20 – September 6, 2015*

The Christian Church has been a powerful force in Southern African for many centuries. Although, by her own admission, the Church has not always been faithful to her Gospel calling; nevertheless, her role in facilitating change and her efforts to reconcile divided communities in South Africa continue.

The 2015 Contextual Theology Programme of the College of the Transfiguration offers students an extensive and in-depth examination and experience of various contextual endeavours to forge reconciliation and a hopeful future from the deep division, despair, and often violent conflict of South Africa’s recent past.

The 2015 Contextual Theology Programme enables students to visit sites of terror and of hope, to learn about South Africa’s divisive past, and to participate in, and to contribute to, the practice of Contextual Theology.

From a tour of the early mission stations in the Eastern Cape to discussions and dialogue with leaders of established projects of reconciliation, as well as engagement and interaction with members of the communities in Oudtshoorn and Worcester, students will be informed of the difficult transition from “colonial church” to “indigenous church”, and of the continual challenges involved in the efforts to reconcile South Africans. They will hear of the fears, dashed promises, and setbacks of many Good Fridays, as well as the glimmers of light and increasing hope of the Easter dawn of the Resurrection, which is evident in the ongoing work of transforming a nation from a racial oligarchy to a democracy.

Students will be encouraged to discuss and dialogue with the faculty lecturers and facilitators of the program, and to engage with the members of the communities that they will visit. Many of the “live stories” will tell of the determined efforts of those who, although many remain deeply scarred, nevertheless continue to seek reconciliation and unity.

Contact Claire Haymes, Program Coordinator, Center for Anglican Communion Studies, for more details.

*Offered as Independent Study only in 2015.
Summer 2016

In development: El Salvador

Custom courses in Social Justice, Mission Theology combined with service and parish ministry opportunities in partnership with Foundation Cristosal.

Contact Claire Haymes, Program Coordinator, Center for Anglican Communion Studies, for more details.
External program opportunities:

January Term

"Fierce Landscapes: Listening to the People of Appalachia"
(Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center)

Dates: xx

This 12-day immersion is followed by 3-4 interactive distance learning sessions and a 15-20 page integrative paper. The immersion finds its home among the people of Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia, beginning at High Pastures Christian Retreat Center, Burnsville, NC. Students will enjoy on-site interactions with congregations, and religious and community leaders. Time for spiritual development, worship, and reflection provide the framework for the immersions. Participants will be aided by readings prior to the immersion experience. This course is sponsored by the Wake Forest University School of Divinity, Winston-Salem, NC.

Registration Deadline: November 1 (VTS October for January)

Cost to Student: $1,000.
Payment Deadline: December xx

Credit: VTS Course number is RCL 401-01 and is for 3.0 credit hours. Students may opt to exchange 1.5 RCL credit hours (of the 3.0 total credit hours) for 1.5 GCM credit hours by completing a Waiver of Course Requirement form (Supplement D) available on myVTS, in “Academic Information.”
Faculty: Dr. Bill J. Leonard Wake Forest University School of Divinity P.O. Box 7719 Reynolds Station Winston-Salem, NC 27109, 336-758-4315, leonabj@wfu.edu

Summer 2015

"Environment and Religion in Appalachia: Immersion Seminar"
(Appalachian Ministries Educational Resource Center)

Dates: June 7-12, 2015

Description: Northern Appalachia is home to deeply-rooted local cultures in a beautiful landscape. Conflicts defined by environmental and economic issues are fierce for both communities and churches. This seminar will give students an inside look and an opportunity to consider strategies for dealing with conflict in and around ministry. The environmental history of the landscape’s use and abuse, the shape of human cultures, and the history of tightly held religious
traditions will frame discussions with religious, environmental, and industrial leaders from the region. This course is sponsored by Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gettysburg, PA.

Cost to Student: TBD  
Payment Deadline: April 1, 2015  
Credit: 1.5 GCM credit.

Registration Deadline: March 1, 2015 (VTS Deadline March)

To Register: Send application to AMERC, using form found here:  

Contact: Dr. Gilson Waldkoenig, Lutheran Theological Seminary, gwaldkoenig@ltsg.edu

Summer 2015

Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context*  
5 July 2014 - 10 July 2015 (1 week)

The course offers an introduction to Old Catholic theology in an ecumenical context. Old Catholic theology is understood as the main theological currents as they exist in Union of Utrecht of Old Catholic Churches. The topics covered by the course include the following aspect of Old Catholic theology and tradition: History of Old Catholicism, spirituality, ecumenism, canon law and ecclesiology, liturgy, and systematic theology. The course includes excursions to a major collection of related religious art (Museum Catharijneconvent), to a liturgical celebration (Utrecht), and to the traces of Catholic presence and history in the episcopal city of Utrecht.

Course information: http://www.utrechtxsummerschool.nl/courses/culture/old-catholic-theology-in-its-ecumenical-context

Course location: Utrecht (Utrecht city campus), The Netherlands  
Organizing institution: Oud-Katholiek Seminarie  
Course fee (incl. housing): € 600  
Contact information: Peter-Ben Smit, p.b.a.smit@uu.nl, +31 6 11 75 78 51

REGISTRATION: Deadline for registration: 01 May 2015 VTS independent study deadline
The Philippines World Mission Internship immerses students in a three-week opportunity for study, cultural and relational encounter, service, and theological reflection in one of Asia’s economically poorest countries. The Philippines is a nation of stunning beauty as a southeast Asian country made up of some 7,000 islands and different ethnic groups where over 700 languages are spoken. While Christians make up the majority of its population, there is also a significant Muslim population particularly in the southern Philippines.

The story of Christianity in the Philippines is rich and multifaceted, deeply entwined with the country’s colonial and missionary history, and with its relationships with other religions of the land. In this archipelago nation, frequent natural disasters, war, land degradation, and political corruption give cause for despair, yet Christians in the Philippines continually witness to a God of hope and transformation.

This course offers an introduction to Filipino contextual theologies and the life of the church ecumenical in the Philippines, inviting participants to explore their own understanding of how context matters for theology, liturgy, practice and mission. Participants will learn through study and experiential encounter about the cultural, historical, political, and socioeconomic context of Christianity in the Philippines. We also will give special attention to the impact of colonialism and globalization on mission, cultural identities, theologies, and the shape of the Christian churches in the Philippines today.

This internship will include time in metro Manila, with churches and NGO’s involved in ministry among the urban poor communities there. We will visit and accompany seminarians at St. Andrew's Seminary, the Episcopal Church in the Philippines' center for theological education in Manila. Participants will meet with lay and ordained church leaders from the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, which became an autonomous province within the Anglican Communion in 1990. Traveling north to the Cordillera mountains, we will go trekking through rice terraces as we participate in parish life in small villages to be involved with ministries such as vacation bible school, church-based organic farming, and land rights activism. In Mindanao and the south, we will learn from NGO’s, interfaith organizations, and peacebuilders about interfaith relations and the peace process, and encounter the National Council of Churches in the Philippines’ ecumenical disaster response work.

The various locations of this internship within the Philippines are designed to give participants broad exposure to the country’s diverse contexts. Course participants will share responsibility for leadership of brief daily worship and reflection time and a shared journaling process across the
three week travel period. Each student will complete a final project, to be shared in a culminating, end of course retreat for home-based reflection on her/his own theology-in-context, in light of the encounter with the mission and ministry of the church in the Philippines.

**For further information contact:** Dr. Joyce Ann Mercer [JMercer@vts.edu](mailto:JMercer@vts.edu)

**Credit:** 1.5 GCM (GCM 859-01) plus 1.5 RCL (RCL 858-01) Credit hours.

**Student numbers:** limited to 15 students

**Cost to student:** $3,000 for 2015. Tuition free.

**Eligible for:** SIP, SCOM, EES

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**January 2016**

**Dominican Republic Parish Internship**

**Description:** Seminarians will be in residence at the Spanish-speaking Centro de Estudios Teológicos, Santo Domingo Monday-Friday, and work under the supervision of a parish priest in the Diocese of the Dominican Republic for three weekends. There are two possible tracks for student participation. Students who do not yet have sufficient ability in Spanish meet on a daily basis during the academic week with a one-on-one Spanish language tutor. Students who are already competent in Spanish attend the classes offered at CET for Dominican students in the equivalent year of study. The Spanish language tutor will work with each student and build on their levels of competency.

**Credit:** 3.0 credit hours: 1.5 for GCM 855-01 plus 1.5 for RCL 855-01

**Student numbers:** Max 6 US seminarians

**Registration deadline:** October 2, 2015

**Cost to Student:** $1500 plus international travel, immunizations, medical insurance, and (if needed) Spanish language tuition. ($2500-3500 Total)

**Eligible for:** SIP, SCOM, EES

**Instructor:** The Rev. Dr. Prichard

**Past participants:** Eileen O’Brien ‘14, Sarah Colvin ‘14, Dr. Prichard (Faculty)
January 2017

Myanmar World Mission Internship

Dates: xx

Description: The Myanmar World Mission Internship immerses students for a month of focused study, cultural and community experience, and theological reflection in Myanmar (formerly Burma). An intensely Asian, majority Buddhist, comparatively undeveloped and poorly understood country now in the process of dramatic political and economic change, Myanmar presents students with a radically different context within which to discover, test and better articulate their own vocation to live, learn and lead others in the discovery and commitment to share in God's mission of reconciliation and redemption of the world. Meetings with principals of significant non-governmental organizations (NGO's) long at work in Myanmar; a meeting with Buddhist leaders at Yangon's National Buddhist University; time spent with fellow students at Yangon’s Holy Cross Theological College; focused visitations with ordained and lay leaders of several Anglican Province of Myanmar’s six dioceses; and together with native student colleagues, shared responsibility for delivery of the Fourth Ecumenical, Inter-seminary Retreat in Toungoo, Myanmar, are designed to help students appreciate their native religious companions’ response to what is culturally kin to them, but religiously other – and in relationship with them, to better understand and measure their own. Rotational responsibility for leading daily prayer and reflection, and an end of course retreat for summary theological reflection guide and help focus students’ in-country experience. A final project response seals the course by requiring students to offer their insight into the nature of God’s mission discovered in Myanmar to those who joined the mission at a distance through their support, interest and prayer.

Contact: VTS Adjunct Faculty: The Reverend Katharine E. Babson ’92;

Student numbers: limited to 8 students

Cost to student: approx. $4,000

Eligible for: SIP, SCOM, EES

Credit: GCM 860-01 (1.5 Credit hours) and RCL 860-01 (1.5 Credit hours) corequisites.

Past Participants: Sarah Taylor ’15
January xx

World Mission Internship: The Ecuador Project

Dates: xx

The Ecuador Project offers Episcopal seminary students the opportunity to spend three weeks in the South American country of Ecuador working with a multi-denominational mission organization, Youth World, and interfacing with the Episcopal Diocese of Central Ecuador. Youth World is committed to youth ministry and leadership development through a variety of ministries including a home for former street boys (Casa Gabriel), nature and outdoor adventure education (El Refugio), a skate-boarding church (LA Roca), both English and Spanish speaking youth ministries, as well as micro-enterprise training for those coming out of modern day slavery. An outstanding feature of the program is orientation to and engagement with the on-going ministries and lives of the team of Youth World missionaries, including Episcopal missionaries, as well as lives and ministry of local parish clergy. The program would be invaluable to students interested in Hispanic ministries or long term missions. Spanish language acquisition may be added if desired.

The Ecuador Project is structured as follows:

- Orientation to Ecuadorian culture, the people and ministries of Youth World, and their interfacing with the Diocese of Central Ecuador (TEC).
- Field assignments in vibrant, urban Episcopal congregations, and or ministries of Youth World, usually lasting ten days to 2 weeks
- Evaluation, debrief and reflection in the final days of the Project

Credit: 1.5 GCM plus 1.5 RCL credit hours
Eligible for: SIP, SCOM, EES
For further information and cost contact: The Rev. Dorian DelPriore, mdorian.delpriore@gmail.com, or The Rev. Sue von Rautenkranz, rev.suevon@gmail.com
External program opportunities:

Summer 2015

The Panama Project

Dates: July 11 - August 1, 2015

Description: The Panama Project offers four Episcopal seminary students the opportunity to spend three weeks in the Episcopal Diocese of Panama. An outstanding feature of the program is orientation to and engagement with the social, economic and political dimensions of life in Panama, including the country's complex relationship with the USA. Thus, in addition to offering experience in grassroots pastoral ministry, the program explores the dynamics of colonialism and imperialism between North America and Latin America. The program has proven invaluable to students interested in Hispanic ministries.

The Panama Project is structured as follows:
- Orientation to the people and diocese of Panama, held at the Diocesan Conference Center in Panama City in the first days of the Project
- Field assignments in rural or city congregations, diocesan schools or Episcopal Church sponsored social programs, usually lasting a week to ten days
- Evaluation and reflection at the Diocesan Camp in Santa Clara, Panama in the final days of the Project

Registration Deadline: February 1 (VTS Deadline March 6, 2015)

For further information and cost contact: The Rev. L. Ann Hallisey, Dean of Students, CDSP, ahallisey@cdsp.edu

Credit: 1.5 GCM credit hours plus 1.5 RCL credit hours

Eligible for: SCOM, EES
IX. INDEPENDENT STUDY

VTS has a long and distinguished history of sending mission partners into the world. VTS also enjoys rich mutual partnerships and relationships with various institutions and programs across the world (including Msalato theological College, Dodoma, Tanzania; Holy Cross, Yangon, Myanmar; College of the Resurrection, Grahamstown, South Africa) where students could serve and learn effectively, reinforcing the relationships forged by earlier faculty or student exchanges and visits. There are, as a result, numerous possibilities to craft independent studies combining aspects of study tours, immersions and internships in one individualized program. Individual students and groups of students have done independent study programs in places such as South Africa, Uganda, and Tanzania. For further information contact: Ms. Claire Haymes, Center for Anglican Communion Studies chaymes@vts.edu

Recent examples of such independent study programs include: Church of Ireland as mission in today's Europe; Guatemala parish and social ministry.

Eligible for: SIP, SCOM and EES
X. SEMESTERS ABROAD

VTS is currently formulating new Semester Abroad opportunities in partnership with a variety of institutions, including:

Oxford, UK - Rippon Cuddesdon and Christ Church College

Edinburgh, UK - Center for World Christianity at the University of Edinburgh

Beirut, Lebanon – Near East School of Theology

Yangon, Myanmar – Myanmar Institute of Theology and Holy Cross Theological College

Ripon College Cuddeston/Christ Church Oxford

RCC is an Anglican residential college of approximately 60 full-time students, with many more part-time. It is the largest provider of residential training in the UK, and located 7 miles outside Oxford in a bucolic reflective setting. Students pray together twice a day and take all meals together. They also go into Oxford at least 1/week to take theology classes at Oxford University through Ripon, and recent VTS students heard lectures from Rowan Williams and Diarmaid MacCulloch, among others.

Students can also elect to extend their time in England for 3 weeks and serve as a Dean’s Resident, staying at the Deanery of Christ Church Oxford and assisting the vergers and sacristans in the Cathedral with the daily services.

Timeframe: Students can elect to study at RCC in either the Sept-Dec semester (Michaelmas Term), or the one that runs Jan-March (Hilary Term). For those electing to extend their time at Christ Church as a Dean’s Resident, the three-week period would run either late August thru mid-September (prior to Michaelmas Term) or mid-March thru early April (following Hilary Term).

Academic credit: Classes at Ripon College Cuddesdon that meet for 1.5 hours/week for 10 weeks will receive 1.5 VTS credits. These will usually count as electives, but may, in some circumstances transfer in for required courses. Once the student knows which courses will be offered, she/he must consult with the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the relevant faculty in order that a final determination can be made.

The Dean’s Resident, Christ Church Oxford internship, consisting of 3 weeks at 20 hours/week, counts as a 3.0 independent study credit, taken Pass/Fail.

Credits received in this semester abroad can fulfill the Washington Theological Consortium requirement.

Cost and Scholarship: details on request.
Any VTS scholarship funds that the student has for room & board will be transferred to RCC to defray costs. In addition, VTS will give one qualified student $2000 from SIP funds.

Application: A proposal from the student laying out a rationale for spending a semester at Ripon College Cuddesdon (and additionally, if relevant, the additional 3 weeks at Christ Church), accompanied by an unofficial VTS transcript is due to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of the Center for Anglican Communion Studies by April 15. A determination and announcement will be made by May 1.

Past students: Charles Smith (with spouse) for Hilary Term in 2011; Shannon Preston for Michaelmas and Hilary Terms in 2013-14.

**Course code and credit:** RCL 800-01 for 12.0 credit hours

If you are interested in one of the abovementioned Semester Abroad programs, contact Dr. Robert Heaney or Ms. Claire Haymes in the Center for Anglican Communion Studies to discuss the detailed terms, conditions and eligibility.
## Overview of Cross-Cultural Education Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timing</th>
<th>Title/Institution</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Category - Study Tour, Semester, Internship, World Mission, Immersion</th>
<th>Max. participants</th>
<th>VTS-sponsored programs</th>
<th>External funding available</th>
<th>Meets SCOM criteria</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan term</td>
<td>St. George's College</td>
<td>Jerusalem, Israel</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>Max. 20</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>Istanbul, turkey</td>
<td>ST</td>
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<td>Jan term</td>
<td>Rome</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td>ST</td>
<td>Max. 12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Canterbury</td>
<td>Canterbury, UK</td>
<td>ST/IS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan term</td>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Overseas Ministries Study Center</td>
<td>New Haven, CT</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>The Philippines</td>
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<td>Location</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>Panama Course</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>Old Catholic Theology</td>
<td>Utrecht, The Netherlands</td>
<td>Im</td>
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<td>Jan term</td>
<td>Urban America</td>
<td>Alexandria/DC</td>
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<td>Max. 15</td>
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<td>Appalachia</td>
<td>North Carolina</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
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