SICS 2023 Course Description

**The Spirituality of Race: Untangling Some Knots of our Christian Heritage and Building Anew (Moral)**

Dr. Matthew Bagot

*Course Description*: In this class, we will explore Maureen O'Connell's recent attempt to traverse the "memory lane of American Catholic racism, American Catholic white dominance, and American Catholic white supremacy." As O'Connell writes, " The work of racial justice is certainly the work of white Catholics, but not when we are tied in knots." In this regard, O'Connell--a colleague of Dr. Bagot's in graduate school at Boston College--reckons with the history of five generations of her Irish-Catholic family in Philadelphia in order to address honestly the heritage plaguing not only her own family, but also our broader church and country. Thus, she seeks a "cathartic penance," which may inspire us to reflect on our own spiritual journeys and interconnectedness.

**Matthew Bagot**, is an associate professor of social ethics in the Department of Theology at Spring Hill College, where he has taught for fourteen years. He received his PhD in theological ethics from Boston College. In recent years, he has both presented and published academic papers in the realm of Catholic social thought, Islam, political theory and Luigi Sturzo. His article, "Another Vision of Integral Human Development: Luigi Sturzo and Christian Smith on Human Personality and Global Politics" appeared in the Summer 2020 edition of the Journal of Catholic Social Thought.

**“Learn from me for I am meek”**: **Jesus as Model of a Nonviolent God and Transformed Humanity (Biblical)**

Dr. Tim Carmody

*Course Description*: The course will examine discipleship in the Gospel of Matthew using the lens of human identity formation through imitation.  Simply put, Matthew presents Jesus as the model for becoming perfect as the Father is perfect.  Human society is terminally flawed with the sin and blindness of rivalry, violence, and judgment, with the result that all human identity is flawed by imitation of others.  Jesus, as God’s Son, is uniquely able to model the kingdom of God in his teaching and acting (especially in his nonviolent acceptance of his crucifixion).  Our study will focus on key texts in Matthew dealing with imitation, household, and reward that give insight into discipleship as transformation of human identity.

**Timothy Carmody**, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Alabama, is a graduate of The Catholic University of America and a long-time member of the Catholic Biblical Association.  In 2018 he was awarded a CCD/CBA Grant by the USCCB for developing and teaching Biblical courses in the Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of Jackson, MS.  His book, *Reading the Bible*(Paulist Press 2004), is a well-used textbook in college courses and Bible study groups. He is also the author of *The Gospel of Mark: Question by Question*(Paulist Press 2008).

**Creative Extremists: Jesuit Leadership in the American Civil Rights movement (Pastoral, Historical)**

Ryan Noble

*Course Description*: Although Jesuit priests throughout the country were involved in diverse Civil Rights activities and actions throughout the United States and, in particular, the South, this course will focus more intensely on the various Jesuit leaders at Spring Hill College who forged a path toward racial integration. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. paid tribute to this act in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail in 1963, pointing out that no other institution in the South had yet followed the lead of “the Jesuits” at Spring Hill College. It will also cover the nine black individuals who were admitted to the college in 1955, their stories as we know them and what became of their lives after leaving SHC.

**Ryan Noble**, Director/Producer/Writer, is an associate professor in the Department of Communication Arts at SHC. For over 25 years, Noble has been a filmmaker completing projects in the form of feature and short documentary films, television commercials and specials, and narrative feature films. His work has been screened at film festivals throughout the United States, regional cable broadcast networks, local PBS affiliates, and other outlets. Noble serves as producer and director of the entire *Project 110*documentary series, the first part of which is currently in post-production. His award-winning short documentary film, *A Day with Sheriff Joe*, was selected as an AZ INDIE 100, one of the 100 most important Arizona-based independent films for the Arizona centennial celebration in 2012. Noble completed an MFA in Dramatic Writing at Arizona State University in May 2013 and accepted his current position at Spring Hill College in August of the same year. Since joining the faculty at SHC, he has collaborated with his students to create a series of short documentary films centered on issues of racial justice as a part of the ongoing “Mobile in Black and White” media initiative.

**SPT525/425 & SPT526/426 Prayer & Discernment I & II (1 credit hour each) (Pastoral)**

Fr. Christopher Viscardi, SJ

*Course Description:* Both prayer and discernment play a central role in the spirituality of St. Ignatius, especially in the dynamics of *The Spiritual Exercises*. This course will examine the theology of prayer and the practice and theory of discernment as they have developed in the Christian tradition over the centuries. Part I will focus primarily on prayer and will be offered during an intensive weekend, with the option to join the class by video conference. Part II will focus primarily on discernment and will be offered fully online, with a flexible time frame, allowing students to complete the course over a 6-week period.

**SPT551/451 & 552/452 The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius I & II (1 credit hour each) (Pastoral, Historical)**

Fr. Christopher Viscardi, SJ

*Course Description:* A manual for directors rather than a book to be read, *The Spiritual Exercises* emerged out of St. Ignatius Loyola’s personal experience of conversion and has subsequently had a major impact on modern spirituality. Part I will focus on the conversion and life of Ignatius and will be offered during an intensive weekend, with the option to join the class by video conference. Part II will focus on the structure and dynamics of the Exercises and will be offered fully online, with a flexible time frame, allowing students to complete the course over a 6-week period.

**Fr. Christopher Viscardi, SJ,** completed his doctorate in theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, in the area of spirituality. His dissertation was a study of the conversion theology of Jonathan Edwards, the New England Puritan and spiritual leader. Since 1979 Fr. Viscardi has been at Spring Hill College, where he is currently chair of the department of theology. He developed the Certificate of Spiritual Direction at SHC and serves as director and major professor of the program.

**“The One Who Bears God”: Marian Spirituality through the Lens of Scripture and Art (Biblical, Historical)**

Dr. Naveros Córdova

*Course Description*: The course will examine the role of Mary as the *Theotokos* (she who bears God). Students will deepen their understanding of Mary as God’s servant in the life of the Church through an analysis of Scripture, other non-canonical literature, and the development of the various images of Mary in art. The student will gain a greater devotion and love for the Mother of Jesus as well as understand why this woman has become a figure of such popular and theological significance throughout the history of Catholicism.

**The Fifth Gospel: Origins of Christianity in the Land of Israel (Biblical)**

Dr. Naveros Córdova

*Course Description:* This course explores the events of Christian origins and the life of Jesus in the Holy Land. It promises to be an unforgettable academic/spiritual experience *in-situ* where significant historical events occurred during the first three decades of Christianity.

**La Virgen María: *Fiat* Ejemplo de un Dicipulado Fiel en la Fuente Bíblica y Arte**

Dr. Naveros Córdova

*Course Description*: Este curso es un seminaro sobre the Virgen María y su rol como modelo de un dicipulado fiel. Enfoca pasajes bíblicos e imágenes creadas a través de los tiempos dentro del cristianismo. El objectivo es que el participante adquierea un mejor conocimiento de quién fue la Madre de Jesús y cuál es su conección con el plan salvífico de Dios.

**Sr. Nélida Naveros Córdova**,is the Director of Graduate Programs and an Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies in the Department of Theology at Spring Hill College. Sr. Nélida earned a doctorate in New Testament and Early Christianity from Loyola University Chicago. She is the author of *God’s Presence in Creation: A Conversation with Philo, Paul, and Luke, Philo of Alexandria’s Ethical Discourse: Living in the Power of Piety, To Live in the Spirit: Paul and the Spirit of God,* and *Philo of Alexandria: A Sourcebook*. She has published some scholarly articles as well as presented academic papers at national and international conferences.