

## SICS 2026: Course Description and Faculty Bio

### **SPT 536/436 Spirituality and the Psalms: A Way of Life**

Donald Berry, Ph.D.

*Course Description:* This course looks at the origins of the Psalms as well as their place in the daily life of the Hebrew people. The focus is on the use of the Psalms by Christians in developing personal spirituality.

**Donald Berry** served as Professor of Religion at University of Mobile from 1987 to 2003. He attended Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky where he earned an MDiv (1978) and a PhD in biblical studies in 1987. Through the years he has taught several courses for the Spring Hill College Theology Department. He holds a special interest in the wisdom and poetry of the Old Testament. His dissertation was published as *The Psalms and Their Readers: Traditional Approaches and a Reader-Oriented Analysis of Psalm 18* (Sheffield Press). He also authored a college textbook: *An Introduction to Wisdom and Poetry of the Old Testament*.

### **SPT 562/462 or THL572 The Spirituality of Ministry**

Dr. Michael Martocchio, Ph.D.

*Course Description:* Spiritual self-care is unfortunately a much-neglected aspect of life among those active in ministry. In this course, we will consider the elements of a healthy spirituality of ministry. In particular, we will explore the peculiar characteristics of the lay apostolate and the particular calling of various ministry within the life of the Church.

**Michael Martocchio** is Director of Catechesis and Christian Initiation for the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina. In the past, he has worked as a parish Director of Religious Education, Youth Minister, Pastoral Associate, and Music Director. He has also taught courses in Theology at Spring Hill College, Duquesne University, and Saint Leo University. In addition to evangelization and catechetics, his research interests include the theology of Raimon Pannikar, Christology, ecclesiology, and soteriology.

### **SPT532/432 Spirituality of Creation in St. Paul and Luke**

Sr. Nélica Naveros Córdova, Ph.D.

*Course Description:* This course explores selected passages from Paul's letters and the Gospel of Luke and the authors' understanding of creation. We will read my book, *God's Presence in Creation* to enrich our spiritual understanding of four ecological themes: creation, world, providence, and stewardship. Paul and Luke will offer us a fresh look at the Catholic Principle of the Care for Creation.

**Sr. Nélica Naveros Córdoba** joined the SHC faculty in 2019. Her research focuses on Paul, the Gospels, and Philo of Alexandria within the larger Greco-Roman traditions. She is the author of several articles and books, and her recent publication is *The Power of Transformation: Re-Imagining the Parables of Jesus*. She has also presented scholarly papers in national and international conferences.

### **553/453 or THL 574 The Spirituality of Migration**

Matthew Bagot, Ph.D.

*Course Description:* This course explores the ethical issues arising from the migration of peoples. We will read David Hollenbach's book, *Humanity in Crisis* given its focus on the dignity of the human person, the rights of refugees and other themes of Catholic Social Teaching.

**Matthew Bagot** is an associate professor of social ethics in the Department of Theology at Spring Hill College, where he has taught for seventeen years. He received his PhD in theological ethics from Boston College. In recent years, he has both published and presented academic papers on state sovereignty and global governance, Luigi Sturzo, and comparative Catholic and Islamic ethics. He recently published an article on Catholic and Islamic contributions to democracy, and, last summer, presented a paper in Sweden on the confluence between Catholic Social Teaching and Reformist Islam on human rights.

### **SPT 525/425 & SPT 526/426 Prayer and Discernment, I & II**

Fr. Christopher Viscardi, STD

*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.

### **SPT 551/451 & SPT 552/452 The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius I & II**

Fr. Christopher Viscardi, STD

*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.