



2024-2025
FALL & WINTER

Mondays at 7:30 pm

FALL TERM
23 September – 2 December

WINTER TERM
6 January – 17 March

Most courses on-line by Zoom
Visit www.osts.ca

Some courses held at
All Saints Anglican Church Westboro
347 Richmond Road, Ottawa, ON

Course Overview

The School offers six courses in the fall term and six in the winter term. Each term is divided into two five-week sessions. Students may choose two courses per term, totaling four courses for the year.

Aims and Objectives

1. To develop theologically and spiritually alert laity who are informed about what the Christian Church has believed and taught throughout the ages and is teaching at the present.
2. To work out carefully the meaning of faith and spirituality in our lives and for our times.
3. To aid and encourage dialogue with members of different faiths.

About OSTS

The OSTS was founded in 1964 to provide theological formation for lay Christians. Today, seekers of all faiths are welcome and warmly invited to attend the courses. The School's non-denominational, ecumenical and inter-faith approach helps its students to appreciate the meaning of faith and spirituality in their lives. It is currently sponsored by the United, Anglican, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic churches of Ottawa.

Fees & Registration

Regular Fees

\$75 for each of Fall and Winter terms or \$140 for both terms if paid at the start of the academic year

Student Fees

\$25/term with a valid student card.

Registration

Online registration preferred:

www.osts.ca/registration

Payment by e-Transfer/Interac

is preferred to: tuitionfees@osts.ca

Cheques can be mailed to:

Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality
P.O. Box 62030 Convent Glen,
Orleans, ON K1C 2S0

Certificates

Upon completing 12 courses (*equivalent to three years of study*), students are awarded a Certificate at the end of the term. There are no tests, homework assignments or exams given by the lecturers.

For further information

Website: www.osts.ca

Overview: www.osts.ca/pdfs/general_osts.pdf

Secretary

osts.secretary@gmail.com

Dean 2024-2025

Rev. Christopher Clarke

FALL TERM 2024 COURSES

First Half: September 23 – October 28 (Choose ONE among A, B, C)

A. An Introduction to the Baha'i Faith (In-Class) Jóhanna Jochumsdóttir

This course explores the history and teachings of the Bahá'í Faith, the youngest of the world's global religions. We will look into the spiritual teachings, perspectives on human nature and the divine, and how the principle of oneness of humanity shapes community life, commitment to social and economic development, and the administrative structures of the global Bahá'í community.

B. "Just Wars": A Brief History of a Lure and a Trap (Zoom Class) Rev. Maxime Allard, OP

These lectures will present briefly propositions concerning "just" war theories as people seem to need them to justify violence, killings, destructions, etc. It is an important topic today as different types of wars are raging... and peace seems to be a distant dream and ideal.

C. From the Heart: Indigenous Spirituality, Culture and Identity (Zoom Class) Carole Brazeau, Prof. Richard Budgell, Rev. Mary Fontaine and Dr. Rev. Teresa Burnett-Cole

Indigenous speakers from different communities in Canada will share their knowledge. They will speak about their work, their passions and their identity from their own lived experience and desire to make the world a better place.

Second Half: November 4 – December 2 (Choose ONE among D, E, F.)

D. Introduction to the Gospel of John (In-Class) Jason Lamantia

This course is an introduction to the study of the Gospel of John – its structure, cultural setting, and major theological themes. It will include exegesis of selected passages in the Gospel of John; with special attention given to the meaning of "light", "life", and "signs".

E. Why Advent? Christmas is Almost Here (Zoom Class) Rev. Martin Malina

Advent is the unsung hero of the church calendar even though it is what our world most desperately needs. When everyone is already celebrating Christmas, we do something else in the four weeks before December 25th. In the gentle pacing of Advent, we discover what hope really means.

F. Cultural Hermeneutics with Reformation Artists (Zoom Class) Pastor Andy Brubacher-Kaethler

Great painters are not simply masters of mediums, technique, and color, but are also keen observers of cultural, political, and religious contexts. This course explores works of four Reformation Era artists who painted during a period of dramatic cultural change, political unrest, and religious fervor and who can help us understand the world we live in centuries later.

WINTER TERM 2025 COURSES

First Half: January 6 – February 3 (Choose ONE among G, H, I.)

G. The Journey to Forgiveness (Zoom Class) Rev. Carol Penner

Why can it be so hard to forgive someone who hurt you? What can we do if someone will not forgive us for the harm we've done? Using stories, we will explore the stages along the way that make forgiveness more likely to happen for individuals and communities.

H. Preference and Power in Congregational Song (Zoom Class) Anneli Thiessen

Why do we feel such strong reactions to new kinds of music? Is all congregational music suitable for church? Who gets to decide which music is "best"? Participants will explore cultural bias, canonization processes, and questions of race, gender, and class in order to nuance what are often contentious debates about congregational song.

I. 2SLGBTQIA+ - Journey to Full Inclusion (Zoom Class) Rev. Canon Gary Van Der Meer

Topics include: the process of welcome over the past 50 years in church denominations, including arguments made for and against, and stories from congregations and clergy. There will be guest appearances from Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders and we will review the acronym 2SLGBTQIA+, and discuss the challenges of becoming inclusive and welcoming.

Second Half: February 10 – March 17 (Choose ONE among J, K, L.)

J. The Reformation: Is it Relevant Today? (Zoom Class) Prof. Jarrett Carty

Is the Reformation relevant to contemporary Christians? How did it form modern Christian ethics and worship practices? This course will help answer these questions with an overview of Reformation history, how it has been understood since the 16th century, its effects upon society and politics, and how deeply influential it continues to be.

K. Christian Responses to Earth's Fragility – Scripture, Liturgy and Movements for Change (Zoom Class) Dr. Anthony G. Seigrist

This course addresses key issues around the current ecological crisis: including climate change, biodiversity loss, and human impact on water quality and land use. We will explore relevant parts of Christian scripture and theological tradition. Each class will look at new liturgical expressions prompted by this crisis and emerging movements for change.

L. Cultural Appropriation and Sacred Song (Zoom Class) Anneli Thiessen

Cultural appropriation is a growing topic of concern, but discerning how to sing across cultural difference remains complicated. What is the line between cultural borrowing and stealing, sharing and appropriation? This course will help participants explore differences between cultural appreciation and appropriation in order to empower justice-oriented congregational singing.