



2023-2024  
**FALL & WINTER  
COURSES**

**Mondays at 7:30 pm**

**FALL TERM**  
18 September – 27 November

**WINTER TERM**  
8 January – 18 March

**All Saints Anglican Church Westboro**  
347 Richmond Road, Ottawa, ON K2A 0E7

*“... a wealth of inspiring leaders  
to give context and perspective  
to spiritual and religious practice  
past and present.”*

*– Ann Babin, President*

## 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

Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality

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/term per term, or \$140 for both terms (must be paid at the start of fall term)

### Student Fees

\$25/term with a valid student card.

### Registration

Online registration preferred:

**[www.osts.ca/registration](http://www.osts.ca/registration)**

### Payment by e-Transfer/Interac

is preferred to: **[tuitionfees@osts.ca](mailto:tuitionfees@osts.ca)**

### Cheques can be mailed to:

Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality  
c/o Ann Babin, President,  
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 during the end-of-term Closing Ceremony. There are no tests, homework assignments or exams given by the lecturers.

## For further information

Website: **[www.osts.ca](http://www.osts.ca)**

Overview: **[www.osts.ca/pdfs/general\\_osts.pdf](http://www.osts.ca/pdfs/general_osts.pdf)**

### Ann Babin, President

613-830-8826 | [osts.president@gmail.com](mailto:osts.president@gmail.com)

### Dean 2023-2024

**Rev. Christopher Clarke**

## FALL 2023 COURSES

### First Session: September 18 – October 23 (Choose ONE among A, B, C.)

**A. Storytime: Using Quality Children's Books to Teach the Seven Christian Virtues (In-Class)**  
| Rowena MacKeen & Rhonda Birenbaum

Experts agree that reading with children promotes emotional and cognitive development. It's also a way to share values and ethics. Focusing on quality children's books, this course will show how to share stories and talk about them to highlight the virtues. It will also suggest strategies for choosing engaging and meaningful books.

**B. The Book of Ezekiel and Congregational Renewal (Zoom Class)** | Rev. Paul Wu

Can the total obedience of a mere mortal—a faithful servant of God—change the course of history, transform the community of faith, and guide it from death to resurrection? This course explores the Book of Ezekiel, with emphasis placed on the theological messages of the prophet, and the task of interpreting them in the context of congregational renewal.

**C. Science and Theology Part I: The Galileo Affair (Zoom Class)** | Prof. Jarrett Carty

In this course we will examine the primary texts and historical contexts of the "Galileo Affair," including the controversial *Dialogue of the Two Chief World Systems*. Along the way, we will learn a little astronomy and physics, and some relevant Christian theology.

### Second Session: October 30 – November 27 (Choose ONE among D, E, F.)

**D. History of the United Church of Canada (Zoom Class)** | Rev. Dr. John Young

This course will examine the history of the United Church from the events leading to its creation in 1925 up to the present. It will look at key developments in various eras as the Church sought to respond to challenges in its own life and in the wider society.

**E. Sacramental Voices: Spiritual Themes in Poetry and Song (In-Class)** | Rev. Allan Budzin

This course explores various themes in spirituality as displayed in a selection of poetry, song, and film. Emphasis will be given to the theological significance on Incarnation and its creative expression in the religious imagination of several poets.

**F. The Bible: Who is Missing from the Story? (Zoom Class)** | Rev. Chung Yan Lam

How stories are told is just as important as which stories are being told. Our task will be to uncover marginalized and silenced voices within the stories and deconstructing our potential biases imposed on biblical studies. Let us explore the impact of context and worldviews on how we receive God's narratives.

## WINTER 2024 COURSES

### First Session: January 8 – February 5 (Choose ONE among G, H, I.)

**G. Interreligious Dialogue as a New Christian Path (Zoom Class)** | Prof. Fabrice Blée

Interreligious dialogue was considered a reality when John Paul II died, yet it remains unknown in its development and objectives today. Dialogue remains just as vital today as there can be no peace between nations and peoples without peace between religions. This raises concerns and questions, reviving debates on the future and role of religion.

**H. Science and Theology Part II: Darwin and Evolution (Zoom Class)** | Prof. Jarrett Carty

In this course we will examine Charles Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*. We will become familiar with the theory of evolution by "natural selection," its history and implications. We will learn a little about the divergent treatments of evolution in evangelical churches and in Roman Catholicism.

**I. Introduction to Orthodox Theology (In-Class)** | Rev. Dr. Maxym Lysack

The Christian East draws on centuries-old sources for its teaching. How does the Orthodox Church understand theology and Tradition? What are the basic teachings of the Ecumenical Councils? What is the Orthodox understanding of salvation? The aforementioned topics are some of those included in this course, which serves as an introduction to Orthodox dogmatic theology.

### Second Session: February 12 – March 18 (Choose ONE among J, K, L.)

**J. History and Theology of Ministry of the Churches (Zoom Class)** | Rev. Kevin Flynn

Jesus appears throughout the gospels as one who came "not to be served, but to serve." His earliest followers understood Jesus' actions, words, and person to be characterized by service. In turn, service became foundational to all ministries within the early Church. This course explores developments and changes in how ministry has been understood and practiced ever since.

**K. Church Revitalization and Growth (Zoom Class)** | Prof. Pierre-Alain Giffard

This course delves into the art of revitalizing and growing churches, equipping participants with a thorough understanding of key concepts such as the Church's mission, successful case studies of thriving churches, and their common practices. Students will also learn how to develop a tailored plan for revitalization and growth.

**L. Theological Elephants in the Room (In-Class limited to 10 participants)**  
| Dr. Teik Chye (TC) Ooi and Prof. Travis DeCook

Are you keen to discuss issues in a relaxed small group setting? Instead of listening to lectures, you will participate in facilitated conversations on challenging theological issues – different ones each week – such as theodicy and predestination. You will choose the topics for the later sessions. No prior knowledge is required, just a desire to discuss such issues.