



SPRING & SUMMER 2009 ONLINE COURSES

Starr King School offers 15-week (fourteen weeks of instruction and a one week mid-semester break) graduate-level online courses for fall, spring and summer sessions. Classes cover a variety of themes, from the study of Unitarian Universalist Theology; to stories of meaning, life, and death in Children's Literature; to the fascinating intersections of religions in Andalusian Spain.

Anyone who has an interest may apply. Online classes are well suited for students from non-Unitarian Universalist schools, ministers seeking continuing education opportunities and laypersons involved in congregational and community work. In addition, people contemplating seminary may now enroll in Starr King online courses before committing to a degree program at SKSM. Upon application and admission to the M.Div. or the M.A. in Religious Leadership for Social Change (MASC), fees paid since January 2008 and credits earned in online courses will transfer towards the completion of the degree program. Spring and Summer 2009 course descriptions follow (syllabi can be seen at <http://online.skism.edu/courses09.php>).

Spring 2009 courses begin Feb. 2 and the semester ends May 22. Please see below for Summer 2009. Tuition for a 3-unit course is \$1,513. Please visit http://online.skism.edu/requirements_and_fees.php for more information or contact Cathleen Young at cyoung@skism.edu.

SPRING 2009

■ **Our Theological House: Introduction to Theology for Unitarian Universalists / ST 8402 / Holly Horn**

Traversing the classical topics of systematic theology (the nature of God, humanity, Christ, Spirit, sin and salvation, and the purpose of the church), this course will introduce Unitarian Universalists and interested fellow travelers to the distinctive theological perspectives that give our theological house its shape and character. The course will include readings in the history of theology and contemporary sources, combined with online discussions and reflection papers. The goal is to deepen Unitarian Universalist theological competency and creativity in our emerging post-modern context. This course, developed by Starr King President and Professor of Theology Rebecca Parker, is open to UU seminarians enrolled in schools outside the Graduate Theological Union, ministers, lay professionals and interested lay people. / 3 units / Minimum: 8 - Limit: 15

■ **UU Congregational Polity / FT 8420 / Mark W. Harris**

This is a course in the history and development of Congregational Polity in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. How did Congregational Polity evolve and what were the differences in the Unitarian and Universalist approaches to governance? How have we handled issues of centralized authority and bureaucracy? We'll look at how religious communities make decisions, support their leaders and define ministry. With ministry we will ask about power, gender and ethics, the call, and the meaning and context for worship and rites of passage. / 3 units / Minimum: 8 - Limit: 15

■ **World Religions / HR 8400 / Tawna Nicholas Cooley et. al.**

This online course focuses on major living religions. A scholar/practitioner in each religion will teach most sections, so students will learn from the experience and expertise of several professors in this course. After an introduction to the study of world religions, we will explore Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Judaism, Shinto and Sikhism, including multiplicities within traditions. Due to wide availability of other courses, Christianity is not included. We will discuss the lens we bring in encountering world religions. Weekly participation in online discussions required. / 3 units / Minimum: 8 - Limit: 15

SUMMER 2009

■ **Children's Literature: A Religious Education / # TBA / May 25-September 11, 2009 / Keith Kron**

A spider saves the life of a pig. A teenage girl integrates a high school in the South. Children make cranes for a sick classmate. A mouse holds memories for its community. A boy learns about the differences between his choices and his abilities. "Charlotte's Web," "Warriors Don't Cry," "Sadako and the 1000 Paper Cranes," "Frederick," "Harry Potter." These books for children and many others contain the stories of meaning, of life, of death. Immersing ourselves in the words and pictures of books for and about children, this course will examine the religious, theological and pastoral themes found in the wide world of children's literature and how these might be of use in ministry to others. Participants will read several children's books a week, participate in online discussions, and complete reflection papers and projects. / 3 units / Minimum: 8 - Limit: 15