**Graduate Certificate Program in Carmelite Studies**

*3 March 2022*

**DESCRIPTION**

The Graduate Certificate in Carmelite Studies enables non-degree graduate students to obtain an academic qualification that indicates they have completed focused study in the Carmelite tradition. The Certificate consists of twelve hours of academic credit and draws on faculty and courses from across the university.

**WHY CHOOSE THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM?**

* The certificate can serve as a credential of expertise in the Carmelite tradition.
* The program provides a unique qualification (i.e., a Certificate in Carmelite Studies) to any student, without comprehensive examinations or thesis, requiring only course work.
* The program can deepen the formation of Carmelites and others in the Carmelite tradition.
* The program offers students opportunities to take advantage of the resources available from the Center for Carmelite Studies and the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, together with their numerous partner institutions. These resources include lectures, colloquia, the Carmelitana Collection and other specialized theological libraries, museum collections, and events.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

* The student will display a graduate studies level of knowledge of the Carmelite tradition as a whole.
* The student will display relevant knowledge of the major Carmelite theological, spiritual, and philosophical texts (e.g., the writings of Carmel’s principal saints and scholars).
* The student will be able to draw upon this knowledge in addressing contemporary pastoral and social needs.

**ENROLLMENT & ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS**

* The certificate program is open to Non-degree students who meet CUA’s requirements to enroll in a masters-level courses.
* All applications for degree and non-degree programs are made through TargetX
* Application can be made at any time
* Application fee $60
* Application requires official transcript only; no GRE, TOEFL, or letters of recommendation are needed
* Credits cannot be transferred from other institutions for the completion of this certificate.
* There will be a regular evaluation of the courses and of the number of students that matriculate through the certificate.
* This program will begin in the semester following approval of the certificate.

**TIMING OF STUDIES**

* The certificate may be pursued as a non-degree certificate student (ND-CERT) either part-time or full-time.

**MODE OF DELIVERY**

Normally the courses will be offered on campus, in person, during the fall and spring semesters, like other courses offered in the School of Theology and Religious Studies. In some cases, however, courses may be offered online or in hybrid mode, according to the needs and availability of the lecturers and students.

**REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPLETION**

* Completion of four courses (12 credit hours) authorized for the certificate program.
* The minimum GPA score to receive the certificate is 3.00.

**COURSES OFFERED IN THE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

*TRS 754F: The Carmelite Tradition: Beginnings to 1500 (3 credits)*

This course offers an overview of the main movements, representatives, and spiritualities of the medieval Carmelite tradition from its beginnings to the eve of the Teresian Reform (approximately 1200 to 1500). Topics include the tradition's biblical roots, its historical origins on Mount Carmel near the beginning of the 13th century, its Marian and Elijan heritage, Albert of Jerusalem and the enduring impact of the Carmelite Rule, the move to Europe and assimilation to the ranks of the mendicants, important medieval texts such as *The Fiery Arrow* and *The Book of the Institution of the First Monks,* the inclusion of women and laity, early reform movements, the development of devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel and the brown scapular, and the Carmelite saints, scholars, heroes, and artists of this period, including Angelus of Jerusalem, John Baconthorpe, Andrew Corsini, Peter-Thomas, Nuno Pereira, Frances D'Amboise, Filippo Lippi, Thomas Netter, Baptist of Mantua, John Soreth, and many others.

*TRS 754H: The Carmelite Tradition: 1500 to the Present (3 credits)*

This course offers an overview of the main movements and representatives of the Carmelite tradition from the beginnings of the Teresian Reform to the present. Topics include the evolution of Carmel’s traditional Marian and Elijan spirituality in modern times, along with the enduring influence of Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Mary Magdalene de' Pazzi, the Reform of Touraine (John of St. Samson, Michael of St. Augustine, Maria Petyt), Lawrence of the Resurrection, the Martyrs of the French Revolution, Thérèse of Lisieux, Elizabeth of the Trinity, Edith Stein, Titus Brandsma, and many others. Attention will also be given to the development of new expressions of the Carmelite charism (e.g., in “active” Carmelite congregations and ecclesial movements) as well as the growth of Carmel in North America and throughout the world.

*TRS ???: Teresa of Avila (3 credits)*

This course offers an overview of the life, doctrine, and enduring influence of St. Teresa of Avila, first woman declared a “doctor of the church,” through her major writings: *Life, Way of Perfection, Interior Castle.* Topics covered include her historical context, as well as her contributions in the areas of mysticism and spiritual theology. Attention will also be given to her contemporary importance in women's studies and ecumenical/interfaith dialogue.

*TRS ???: John of the Cross (3 credits)*

This course offers an overview of the life, teaching, and enduring influence of John of the Cross, “doctor of the church,” through the study of his poetry and major prose works: *The Ascent of Mount Carmel / Dark Night, The Spiritual Canticle, and The Living Flame of Love.* Topics covered include his biography and historical context, as well as his contributions in the areas of mysticism and spiritual theology. Attention will be given to his theological anthropology and epistemology; his treatment of desire, the "dark night," and human transformation; and the creative application of his insights by contemporary authors dealing with such issues as ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, the contemporary decline in religious affiliation, and the struggle for social justice.

*TRS ???: Thérèse of Lisieux and Elizabeth of the Trinity (3 credits)*

This course examines the life, spiritual teachings, and enduring impact of the youngest “doctor of the church” and co-patron of the missions, Thérèse of Lisieux, and her younger “sister in the spirit” Elizabeth of the Trinity. Attention will be given to Thérèse’s *Story of a Soul* and the development of her “little way” of confidence and love, the significance of her "trial of faith," her "missiology," and her enormous influence on the contemporary church. The course will also explore Elizabeth’s influential letters and retreat notes on the indwelling of the Trinity, noting the similarities and differences between these two great spiritual masters.

*TRS ???: Edith Stein (3 credits)*

This course offers an introduction to the life, writings, and thought of Edith Stein, Sr. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, philosopher, educator, martyr, and co-patron of Europe. Themes will include her promotion of women’s education, her spiritual teachings, and her importance for the Jewish-Christian dialogue.

*TRS ???: Mary and Elijah in the Carmelite Tradition (3 credits)*

From the decision of the original Carmelite hermits to found near the spring of Elijah on Mt. Carmel, and to choose Mary as the “lady of the place” by building a chapel in her honor, Elijah and Mary have played a key role in the Order’s charism and self-identity. This course will study the development of Marian and Elijan traditions and devotions in the Carmelite family, and situate them within contemporary theological perspectives. Attention will be given to the way in which shifts in Carmelite narratives about their great contemplative and prophetic models correspond to shifts in Carmelite self-understanding.

*TRS ???: Methods of Contemplative Prayer (3 credits)*

Selected contemporary meditative and contemplative prayer practices (such as “centering” and *lectio divina*) will be compared with traditional Carmelite teaching on prayer, as expressed in the writings of Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Thérèse of Lisieux, and other representatives of the Carmelite tradition.

*TRS ???: Spiritual Guidance in the Carmelite Tradition (3 credits)*

This course reviews the spiritual journey to union with God as presented by Carmelite authors, especially John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila. It emphasizes the important role of spiritual guidance through this journey, with special attention given to the questions that arise from today’s spiritual travelers.

*TRS 692: Directed Readings (3 credits)*

With the permission of the Center for Carmelite Studies and consultation of a particular faculty member, the student draws up a list of reading materials on a Carmelite topic to read throughout the semester. The faculty member will agree with the student on the manner in which the student's appropriation of the reading list should be assessed and graded. (This option is intended especially for those who want to explore in greater depth other Carmelite figures and movements such as Br. Lawrence of the Resurrection, the Touraine Reform, Titus Brandsma, Teresa of the Andes, etc.)

*TRS 693: Directed Research (3 credits)*

With the permission of the Center for Carmelite Studies and consultation of a particular faculty member, the student designs and implements a research project on a Carmelite topic resulting in a research paper of the same scope and quality of a paper produced in a masters seminar.

**ADDITIONAL COURSES AT CUA (may be counted towards the Certificate with permission of the Chair of Carmelite Studies)**

*SPAN 534: Prose of the Spanish Mystics (3 credits)*

Concentrates on the works of Santa Teresa de Avila and San Juan de la Cruz, devoted to the study of asceticism and the Christian implications of mysticism.

*SPAN 656: Early Modern Female Conventual Culture (3 credits)*

Interdisciplinary and Transatlantic study of early modern female conventual culture in the Hispanic world. This course examines the cultural production of convents (poetry, drama, autobiographies, spiritual writings, visual arts, and music) in its historical and religious contexts. Readings will include texts by Spanish nuns St. Teresa of Avila, María de Ágreda, María de San Alberto, and María de San José Salazar, and Spanish American nuns Inés de la Cruz, Úrsula Suárez, María de San José, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, among others. Course will be taught in English.

*TRS 655A: The Practice of Spiritual Direction (3 credits)*

This course considers the basic theories and methods of the practice of spiritual direction. It moves from an examination of the theological foundations of this ministry to a retrieval from the Christian tradition of principles and methods for the practice of discernment and spiritual direction today. Various models of spiritual direction articulated in different schools of spirituality will provide a resource for participation as they develop a sense of their own approach to this ministry. The course will include discussion and exercises to introduce participants to spiritual issues addressed in this ministry and the skills needed.

*TRS 754: Mystical Theology (3 credits)*

An introduction to the study of mysticism. Issues include the relationship of mystical experience and doctrine, the cross-cultural study of mysticism, and an analysis of various philosophical, theological, natural, and social scientific methods employed in the study of mysticism.