IBCS SUMMER SESSION 2022  
JUNE 26 - JULY 15, 2022  
MASTERS of THEOLOGY PROGRAM

The IBCS Master of Theology Program (Th.M.) is the only graduate theology program in the USA taught from a Black Catholic perspective. Its curriculum is interdisciplinary; courses focus on Black approaches, critiques, and contributions to systematic and pastoral theologies, youth and pastoral ministry, aesthetics, philosophy, and education. Established in 1980 in historic New Orleans on the campus of Xavier University of Louisiana, the IBCS is dedicated to academic learning, prayer, worship and community-building. The Th.M. program forms students for theologically and culturally competent service as ordained, religious or lay ecclesial ministers in the Black community and church. The IBCS welcomes graduates seeking on-going study, graduate students of other programs and ministers who desire to enrich their general theological studies by exploring the Catholic theological tradition and its particular meaning for the social and spiritual experiences of Black people in the U.S. and beyond. Due to the pandemic, the IBCS was conducted online in 2020 and 2021; the learning format for Summer 2022 has not yet been determined.

2022 Course Offerings

IBTH 5010 Black Approaches to Theology. Stresses the nature, methods and sources of Black Theology; the reasons justifying its existence and its relationship to other theologies within the Roman Catholic Tradition. Modeste Malu Nyimi, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45pm). Requirement for all new students (3 units).

IBTH 5030 Black Approaches to Scripture. Presents Black history, culture, and experience as a locus for responding to the Word of Scripture. Methods and tools of biblical exegesis are introduced; similarities between biblical mentality and Black mentality, and problem texts are also discussed. James Okoye, C.S.Sp., D.Phil. (M-F, 8:45-11:45am) or Jaime L. Waters, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45-4:45pm) Core Course (3 units).

IBTH 5600 Moral Questions in the Black Community. Establishes a dialogue (a mutual critique and enrichment) between African American and Roman Catholic approaches to ethical issues, focusing on matters of particular concern to African Americans. Craig A. Ford, Jr., Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 am) Core Course (3 units).

IBTH 5090 African, Black and Liberation Theologies. Engages in comparative study of the major issues of global theologies as these influence and are influenced by political, sociological, cultural and gender conflicts in various societies. Simon Ahiokhai, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 pm) Elective (3 units).

IBTH 5425 Slave Narratives. Begins with the earliest documents, tracing most especially the themes of transcendence, self-determination, and cultural transmissions outside the ordinary avenues of traditional culture. From the classic slave narratives to the more recent manifestations of African American imaginative work, there is an unbroken thread of cultural awareness and human dignity that serves as the guide to understanding African American culture and religious sensibilities. Kim Harris, Ph.D. (M-F, 1:45 – 4:45 pm) Area Requirement (3 units).

IBTH 5997 Integrative Colloquium. Helps students in the third or fourth summer of study to enter more deeply into the habitus of pastoral theology, that is, a way of thinking, reflecting, conversing, and writing about questions and issues that emerge from their ministry and ministerial research. Albertina Walker-Hughey, Ph.D. (M-F, 8:45 – 11:45 am) Advanced Course (3 units).