



National Capital Experiences for Seminarians (NCES)

Lead at the Intersection of Faith and Public Life

NCES courses probe the biblical and theological foundations of Christian political engagement, the role of faith and communities of faith in public life and discourse, and the practical shape of faithfulness in the public sphere.

In Spring 2024, Wesley is offering three NCES opportunities :

MM-350 NCES Immersion Course to the 2024 Democratic Primary in South Carolina (3 credits)
Pre-trip virtual Session: January 19th
Immersion Dates: January 30th - Feb. 5th
Dr. Lorena Parrish

This NCES course will allow students to explore the beginning of the 2024 presidential primary season. We will journey around South Carolina learning about its political and historical place in history and how it relates to people of faith in our current culture.

EP-282 "Faith, Politics, and the Public Square" (4 credits)
Mondays, January 22- May 6, 2024
Professor Lucila Crena

This course is a spring semester only virtual (online via Zoom) course on Mondays from 1-5:30 p.m. EST. This class combines interactive conversation with public officials, political figures, advocates and activists, and theological discussion seminars on the issues and structures of public life. This year's focal issues may include:

- 2024 Election Issues
- Public Discourse
- Race, class, and economics
- Gender and sexuality

CM-531 NCES Advocacy and Action Summer Immersion (3 credits)
May 19 - May 24, 2024.
Dr. Lorena Parrish

"Advocacy and Action in the Public Square" is a one-week May-term, in-person immersion in Washington, DC.

The in-person class allows students to reflect theologically and develop practical strategies for faithfully engaging in the public square. Students will visit sites around the D.C. area and engage in conversations and debrief with congressional policy experts, public servants, faith-based advocacy groups, local community activists, pastors, and media representatives.

NCES Faculty

Dr. Lorena Parrish

Associate Professor of Urban Ministries

Director, Community Engagement Institute & Center for Public Theology

Professor Lucila Crena

Assistant Professor, Christian Ethics & Public Theology

To learn more, contact the Office of Admissions:
admissions@wesleyseminary.edu or 202-885-8659