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**TH531**  
**Abstract Color Thinking God: An Introduction to Art Theology**  
**Summer 2025**  
**Course Outline**

What new knowledge might we come to understand about God through making art, specifically abstract color and lines? This course will be looking at our old ideas of God and looking to understand, create, and communicate new ideas about God through making abstract colors and lines. Come learn how to help people you serve to experience divine love more fully through collaborative art making.

**Purpose:** To help students create new knowledge as well as more generative and collaborative spaces in ministry and religious education through making art. Participants will be able to incorporate these collaborative methods into practice and have tools to help make these spaces inclusive for all.

**Competence Objectives:**

- Students will learn collaborative methods for learning about God through creating abstract colors and lines.
- Students will utilize and integrate art based research methods.
- Students will create paintings that explore new knowledge about God from various religions traditions.

**Format and Content:**

This course meets on campus for five mornings over five days in the summer. For on campus students, work in the course consists of classes including lectures, discussions and small group exercises, some prepared before class. Distance students will participate through Zoom either synchronously at the same time as class, or asynchronously through recordings of class. Expectations for distance students will be spelled out in the syllabus.

**Texts:**

Reclaiming Artistic Research Expanded Second Edition by Lucy Cotter

The World According to Colour by James Fox

Understanding Maturanga Maori by Sir Hirini Moko Mead

Na te Matauranga Maori ke Ora Tonu te Aø Maori: Through Maori Knowledge Te Ao Maori will Resonate by Dr. Shane Edwards.

He Ngakau Hou: A New Heart (The Introduction to Te Hahi Mihinare: The Maori Anglican Church) by Hirini Kai

**Expectations, Assignments and Evaluative Criteria:**

The expectations and assignments in this course include: active class participation, a painting and/or series of paintings that express ideas about God, a short 2-3 page paper that utilizes art based research, and a final reflection paper on the course content.

**Materials:**

Journal or three ring binder with blank sheets of paper.

Your favorite medium that makes color easily: crayons, pastels, colored pencils, markers, color fill on your computer, fabric, etc.

A medium that takes longer to work with:

Acrylic or watercolor.

Mixed Media Art Paper Tablet and/or Canvas' (you will need at least 4).