

Instructor Contact Information

Name	Rev. Jean-Marie Schweizer, LUT
Email	minister@unitylakehouston.org (preferred communication method)
Facebook (Live)	http://facebook.com/unitylakehouston.org
Phone	832-779-7722 (leave voicemail)
Office hours	by appointment

Instructor Biography

My name is Jean-Marie Schweizer, and I am a Unity-ordained minister and Licensed Unity Teacher. I hold both a Master of Divinity as well as a Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. I am also a licensed professional counselor intern, and I currently work on my Ph.D. in Counseling Education and Supervision. Aside from leading a ministry, I work with individuals with autism and offer spiritual direction to my students and congregants. I also have weekly online scriptural study group meeting via Zoom and Facebook live. In addition to teaching meditation for over two decades with 40 years of experience, my favorite subjects to teach (in no particular order) are metaphysics, Bible interpretation, Prayer, Bible overview, anything Christ related, and whatever falls into the field of counseling, pastoral care, etc.

Course Description

This course is about learning how to use the maieutic method and Unity's specific metaphysical approach to Bible interpretation. Bible stories, passages, or verses from the New Testament are interpreted with a growing knowledge and skill about the higher spiritual self, which in Unity is commonly known as "the Christ within" or "Christ Consciousness." Studying the mechanics of metaphysical interpretation, you will discover the inner spiritual meanings of the Christian Scriptures and how they apply directly and practically in your life.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, learners will be able to:

- Demonstrate the ability to use the Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, the Revealing Word, and the Bible as a resource for their metaphysical Bible interpretation (MBI).
- Demonstrate the ability to apply the seven-step MBI process.
- Define the maieutic approach to interpretation.
- Demonstrate the ability to complete a MBI by using a Bible story or passage from the New Testament, including how such story or passage practically applies to their lives in the here and now.

Course Format and Teaching Philosophy

This course is taught in-person in an intensive format (4 days for 2.5 hours/day), which covers a normally five-week period with time absorb and reflect in only a very short time. I recommend you clear your schedule as much as possible to be able to spend the time necessary to complete your assignments and get to know the material well. Otherwise, I ask you to have fun and participate in the discussion as much as possible. It will not only benefit you but also your fellow participants.

My teaching philosophy is based on an existential-humanistic foundation I apply in counseling and ministry. In short, this means that I am coming from the assumption that everyone is their own expert and that much of their life's choices is based on their meaning-making about their lives and that of others. How this translates in class, especially in this course, is that I consider you the expert of your own spiritual wisdom and that your choices in interpreting scripture in the way you do is much based on how you see yourself in life and how you make sense of the world. Therefore, I will be likely encouraging while also challenging to bring forth that inner wisdom in you.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites in this class. However, you may enjoy taking SCS 105 Overview: Christian Scriptures first or simultaneously to have a good overview about the New Testament. This class is not an overview class and specifically focuses on metaphysical Bible interpretation only.

Required Text/Readings

Since I am using available online tools—<http://truthunity.net> and <http://biblegateway.com>—there are no required texts if you are able to access the Internet via your phone, tablet, or computer. However, if you are more comfortable with books and paper, the following works are needed for this class:

- Fillmore, Charles. *Metaphysical Bible Dictionary*. Unity Village: Unity, 1995.
- Fillmore, Charles. *The Revealing Word*. Unity Village: Unity, 2005
- *The Bible* (New Revised Standard Version [NRSV] version)

Recommended Readings/Handouts

For the purpose of this intense-format class, the only recommendation I have to inspire some of your interpretations is the following work:

- Sand Turner, Elizabeth. *Be Ye Transformed*. Unity Village: Unity, 1969.

Any additional text is helpful but not necessary for this class:

- *Study Bible* (New International Version [NIV])
- Borg, Marcus & Crossan, John Dominic. *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009.
- Hamilton, Adam. *The Call: The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul*. Nashville, Abingdon Press, 2015.
- Ehrman, Bart D. Peter, Paul & Mary Magdalen: *The Followers of Jesus in History and Legend*. Oxford University Press, 2006.
- Neal, Charles. *Revelation: The Road to Overcoming*. Unity Village: Unity, 2000.
- Townley, Ed. *Kingdom Come: Understanding the Book of Revelation*. Unity Village, Unity, 2012.
- Pagels, Elaine. *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy & Politics in the Book of Revelation*. Viking Press, 2012.
- Bennett, Laura Barrett. *The Language of God: Metaletics and the Bible*. Overland Park: Wisdom Academy, 2017.
- Studebaker, Alden. *Wisdom for a Lifetime: How to Get the Bible Off the Shelf and Into Your Hands*. Unity Village, Unity Books, 1998.

Course Format

- Class 1: Sunday, July 21 from 6–8:30 PM
- Class 2: Monday, July 22 from 6–8:30 PM
- Class 3: Tuesday, July 23 from 6–8:30 PM
- Class 4: Thursday, July 25 from 6–8:30 PM

SEE Credit Requirements

For you to earn SEE credits, you must fulfill the following requirements:

- Register for SEE credit online (\$45 fee).
- Be present for the entire duration of every class.
- Participate in discussions and group work.
- Complete all assignments.
- Write a 500-word reflection paper to be handed in by Wednesday, July 31, 2019.