History of Christian Spirituality 2
Spring 2016
SPGR 6703

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Description

This course provides a solid grounding in the history of Christian Spirituality, including representative spiritualties from Eastern Orthodox and Catholic/Protestant/Reform traditions, as well as more recent examples of culturally contextualized Christian spiritualties from the geographical south and Asia. This semester’s course examines significant figures and themes from the 16th – 20th centuries. Readings draw from classical spiritual texts and relevant secondary literature. Concentrations include Martin Luther, John of the Cross, Ignatius Loyola, Madame Guyon, Francis de Sales, John and Charles Wesley, Howard Thurman, Gustavo Gutierrez, Desmond Tutu, C.S. Song, and Dorothy Day as well as Ignatian and Orthodox spiritualties. This course fulfills requirements in the DMin and MA programs in Christian Spirituality, as well as the certificate in spirituality and spiritual direction. All students must complete weekly readings; however, class participation and written assignments are evaluated according to degree program.
STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES [SLO]

- Students will use tools of literary, cultural, historical, and social analysis in the interpretation of various cultures and their relationship to the Christian tradition

- Students will demonstrate a well-rounded knowledge and critical appropriation of the Jesuit and Catholic theological tradition

Required Primary Texts

[Students are encouraged to purchase individual copies of all course textbooks; however, the expense is high. Please be advised that all primary, secondary, and recommended texts are on reserve at the Rose Hill library.]


**Required Secondary Texts**


**Recommended Texts**

[These books will also be on reserve at the library and we will read selected pages from each text; however, if you wish to “round out” your personal Christian spirituality library, you may want to purchase them.]


Additional Readings

Throughout the semester, additional readings are available on the course Blackboard.

General Course Requirements

- **Attendance** is presumed for all class sessions. [Absence policy: first absence regrettable, but no penalty; second absence, ½ final grade penalty, e.g., B+ becomes B; third absence, student should withdraw from the course.]
- **Careful, critical, and spiritual reading** of all required materials before class. Each class session also includes recommended readings, which students are encouraged to review. [SLO #1 & #2]
- **Active and constructive participation** in small and large group classroom discussions. [SLO #1 & #2]
- **Weekly response papers.** Submitted on Blackboard before each class session. Late submissions are subject to grade penalty. [SLO #1 & #2]
- **Oral Presentations.** Students sign-up for two class sessions in which to offer a 10-minute end-of-class presentation of two or more possible contemporary appropriations of the
spirituality/ies represented in that class session’s readings. [SLO #2]

- **Course Capstone.** Research paper or three essays. [SLO #1 & #2]

**Evaluation**

- **40%** -- Final research paper or three 5-page essays.
- **40%** -- Weekly response papers
- **20%** -- Class Participation and oral presentations.

**Weekly Response Papers:**

**Before each class session,** students are required to submit weekly response papers on Blackboard dealing with each week’s required reading(s). Each response paper is the equivalent of only 1-page in length (+/- 500 words), single-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, left justified only, essay form; no bullet points; no lengthy quotes; use parenthetical citations as needed; proofread for correct English spelling, usage, and the like. Weekly response papers address each of the following questions (in order):

1. What do you find interesting, helpful, or surprising in today’s reading?
2. What do you find confusing, odd, or problematic?
3. In what ways might this week’s reading contribute to a contemporary spirituality – for you personally, your parish community, your religious community, or perhaps within a specific cultural, ecumenical, or inter-religious context? If the weekly spirituality offers little to nothing to contemporary spirituality, please explain.

**[Class Blog:** You are welcome to add to the class blog anything pertinent to our weekly discussions. Appropriate submissions are
"extra credit." Contributions are entirely at your initiative and are available to the entire class.

**Course Capstone**

The first week in February is when students must choose to either write a research paper or write three 5-page essays. Ordinarily, DMin and MA students applying for or already admitted to the Christian Spirituality thesis track will write a research paper, which is critiqued according to the Research Readiness Form. Students in other MA programs (including the MA in Christian Spirituality comprehensives track), as well as certificate and special students, may choose to either write a research paper or submit three 5-page essays throughout the semester.

**Option 1: Three 5-pages Short Essays**

- Students critically engage the readings under consideration during the weeks before each due date. Students are free to focus their attention on various approaches to interpreting these historical classics of Christian spirituality; however, attention should be given to each of the following engagements with texts: (1) hermeneutical, (2) historical-critical, and (3) ideological. Additionally, students should include a concluding paragraph wherein they reflect on possibilities for a contemporary appropriation of the spiritualties under consideration. In each essay, students should draw from required and recommended readings included in weekly assignments. Additional research beyond these readings is not expected for these essays.
- Each essay is 5-pages in length (bibliography and title page NOT included), composed in appropriate post-
graduate, academic, American English, and formatted as follows: double spaced, 12-pt font, left-justified only, with one-inch margins on all four sides, and paginated. In lieu of foot/end notes, please use parenthetical notes. Note that each essay begins with an introductory paragraph, ends with a concluding paragraph, and, if appropriate, employs appropriate subheadings throughout. Do not use long block quotes; parenthetical references to original course texts suffice. The appropriate stylebook for this course is Turabian (8th edition).

- Essays are due by midnight on each of the following dates (to avoid double assignments on Thursday class nights, the following due dates include a weekend):
  - February 22, covering Luther, Ignatius, John of the Cross and Madame Guyon
  - April 4, covering de Sales, Wesley, “Pilgrim’s Tale,” and Thurman
  - May 9, covering Gutierrez, Song, Arrupe, Day and Tutu

**Option 2: Research Paper Option:**

15-20 pages, double spaced, 12-pt font; one inch margins, Turabian stylebook, bibliography included, and submitted electronically by May 8, 2014.

- **D.Min. Students:** Because the DMin is a professional and doctoral level program, students are held to a higher expectation for content, style, and pastoral applicability in their papers. Your papers will be evaluated according to the standards set out by the Research Readiness Review form. You are encouraged to choose a topic related to your existing or potential DMin dissertation, as long as you include material from
this class; however, you are welcome to choose one of the options listed below. With the approval of both professors, students may write one research paper for two Christian spirituality courses. For example, if a student is also taking METHODS IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY this semester, s/he may petition to write one research paper for both METHODS and this course. **Deadlines:**

- By March 7, DMin students will submit (by email) a brief description of one to three possible topics for their final research paper.
- By April 11, DMin students submit (by email) a current draft of their research paper’s thesis statement, along with an initial bibliography of at least 5 articles/chapters/books (not including course texts).
- The final draft of your research paper is to be submitted electronically anytime on or before May 9

- **Christian Spirituality MA students** on or seeking acceptance to the thesis track will write research papers that will be critiqued according to the standards outlined by the Research Readiness Review form (see GSRRE Student Handbook). With the approval of both professors, students may write one research paper for two Christian spirituality courses. For example, if a student is also taking METHODS IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY this semester, s/he may petition to write one research paper for both METHODS and this course. **Deadlines:**

- By March 7, MA students will submit (by email) a brief description of one to three possible topics for their final
research paper.
- By April 11, MA students submit (by email) a current draft of their research paper’s thesis statement, along with an initial bibliography of at least 5 articles/chapters/books (not including course texts).
- The final draft of your research paper is to be submitted electronically anytime on or before May 9.

Examples of Possible Research Paper Topics:

- Analysis and reflection upon three representative figures/texts from this semester: one each from Renaissance/Reformation, modernity, and non-North Atlantic societies. Include a section in which you address the contemporary appropriation of each of the authors/texts you select.
- Select one of this semester's "schools" of spirituality (Ignatian, Carmelite, Protestant, Reform, Latin American, Asian, etc.) and write an analysis/reflection on selected individuals/texts from this tradition. Include a section on contemporary appropriation of this tradition's spirituality.
- Perhaps you want to concentrate on only one author/text, for example, John of the Cross. Write an analysis/reflection of the selected figure/text and include a section in which you address the possibilities for a contemporary appropriation of your chosen spirituality.
- I invite alternative proposals, which must be submitted according to the above dates.

Areas of University Policy

- Concerning issues of plagiarism, cheating, falsification, and unapproved collaboration, see GSRRE guidelines.
• Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disability that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule a meeting to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill - O’Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655.

Course Schedule

January 21  Introductions; Historical study of Christian Spirituality
January 28  Martin Luther (Protestant Spirituality)
February 4  Ignatius Loyola (Ignatian Spirituality)
February 11 John of the Cross (Carmelite Spirituality)
February 18 Madame Guyon (Quietist Spirituality)
February 25 Francis de Sales (French Spirituality)
March 3  John and Charles Wesley (Anglican Spirituality)
March 10 “The Pilgrim’s Tale” (Orthodox Spirituality)
March 31 Howard Thurman (African-American Spirituality)
April 7  Gustavo Gutierrez (Latin American Spirituality)
April 14 C.S. Song (East Asian Spirituality)
April 21               Pedro Arrupe (Ignatian Spirituality)
April 28               Dorothy Day (Feminist Spirituality)
May 5                   Desmond Tutu (South African Spirituality)

First Class Session (January 21): Homework Assignment


- Bring to class your own definition of "Christian spirituality" and be prepared to share it with the class.

Subsequent homework assignments are posted on the course Blackboard

**N.B.: Fall 2015 Pre-Registration Draft. Subject to change before first class.**