IMAGINATION: MINISTRY AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGR 8123
Summer 2016
June 6th – July 10
Monday – Friday
10am – 4:30pm
3 credits

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Course Description

This course explores the link between the imagination, patterns of church ministry and religious educational activity. The role and power of imagination in disclosing new life and re-visioning our work are examined.

A central focus is the critical exploration of the images, metaphors and guiding visions undergirding educational and ministerial work in churches and our public life. Our educational and ministerial task is to create a counter-discourse to the dominant discourse of our time. Particular perspectives (the religious, prophetic, feminist, artistic) are employed as resources for enriching the imagination, fostering a counter discourse and cultivating imaginative activity with people.

Course Requirements

Required Texts
5. A series of articles and essays on ares in the library. Password: Guinness.
http://reserves-ares.library.Fordham.edu/ares/

Recommended Texts
Note: The Cote, Harris and Fischer books are out of print. Some copies may be available on the Barnes & Noble website from various 3rd party sellers.

All required and recommended texts, however, are on reserve in Walsh Library. A series of focused readings are highlighted in the course outline on each major sections of the course. Some of these readings will be distributed in class and/or will be available via ares

Requirements

1. Read carefully and critically the assigned texts, essays and selected bibliographic materials. In light of the intensive time-frame of the course, **students are strongly advised to have extensive readings of texts and assigned essays prior to the commencement of the course.**

2. Participate actively in class discussions. Attendance at all classes is required. Students are expected to come to class prepared to share insights, critical reflections, engage in group discussions and offer personal experiences as they relate to course topics. (20%)

3. Write a research paper (18-20 pages) due June 24, 2016. Students will have flexibility to focus and research specific issues and their implications for the best practices in pastoral ministry or religious education. Professor will be available to mentor students on projects. (80%)

4. One half (1/2) grade will be deducted if paper is not handed in on time.

Grading

Grades will be based on two criteria:

a) Quality of research paper

b) Class participation reflecting critical reading and careful engagement of the issues in the course. The course is designed to explore present and pressing issues associated with imagination, ministry and religious education. Vital to the success of the course is a close and critical reading of assigned articles and texts for each class. Students are invited to take ownership of the learning process and share responsibility for the educational dynamics.

Grades

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0 Excellent. Honors-level work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7 Still excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3 Very good. High level of performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0 Good. Solid and above average performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7 Good Still above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3 Average level of performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0 Satisfactory, acceptable performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7 Minimally acceptable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0 Failure. Inferior performance</td>
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**Format of Course**

The educative role of the professor will be to propose topics, shape the content, raise pertinent issues, direct discussion and facilitate creative integration of material.

Critical for the success of the course and class discussion is the students’ careful and critical preparation and reading of texts and bibliographical materials.

All written work for the course should demonstrate clear organizational structuring of ideas, thoughtful engagement with reading materials, incorporation of one’s own new learnings, and attention to basic grammar, spelling, punctuation, and style.

**Plagiarism:** See, Academic Policies and Procedures in *A Student Guidebook*.

Notice: Please turn off all electronic devices (cell phones, pagers, tape recorders) during class.

**Home Mailing Address:**
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Please include a stamped self-addressed envelop with your final paper.
A hard copy of research paper is required.

**Course Outline and Readings**

**Introduction: Imagination in Postmodern Times**

**Points to begin: Cultural Context.**

Michael Paul Gallagher, *Clashing Symbols*.
Richard Kearney, *The Wake of Imagination*, 1-33; 361-397
1. The Nature, Role and Function of the Imagination

John J. Shea, Finding God Again, Chapters 2 & 7.(req)
Kathleen Fischer, The Inner Rainbow, Chap. 1 (CP and ares).
Evelyn and James Whitehead, “The Virtue of Imagination,” in Seasons of Strength, pp. 89-100.(ares.)
Gibson Winters, “Metaphor and Society,” in Liberating Creation, pp. 1-28.(ares.)
James Loder, “Knowing as Transforming Event,” The Transforming Moment, Chap. 2. (ares.)
Brian Sutton-Smith, “In Search of the Imagination,” in Imagination and Education, Chap. 1, eds. Kieran Egan and Dan Nadianer. (ares.)
Robyn Barrow, “Some Observations of the Concept of Imagination,” Chap. 5, ibid. (ares.)
Robert Grudin, “Imagination,” The Grace of Great Things: Creativity and Imagination, Chap. 5 (ares.) (ares.)
Matthew Fox, Creativity: Where the Divine Meets the Human (Putnam, 2002).
Richard Cote, Lazarus! Come Out, Chapters 3,4,5.
Mary Warnock, Imagination (1976)
Ray Hart, Unfinished Man and the Imagination, 315-368
James K.A. Smith, Desiring the Kingdom: Worship, Worldview and Cultural Formation (Baker, 2011).

Ministry and Education

Jerome Berryman, “The Imagination and Godly Play,” Godly Play, Chap. 6. (ares.)
2. Religious/Sacramental Imagination: Perspective and Forms

Kieran Scott, “Praying with a Sacramental World”. In Prayer in the Catholic Tradition ed Robert Wicks (Franciscan Media, 2016)(Forthcoming).

Maria Harris, “Imagination and the Religious,” in Teaching and Religious Imagination, Chap. 1 (ares.)


Gabriel Moran, “Religious Journey to Adulthood,” in Education Toward Adulthood, Chap. 4. (ares.)


Gordon Kaufman, “Toward a Reconceptualization of God,” Theology for a Nuclear Age, pp. 30-46. (ares.)

Kathleen Fischer, “Images of God,” The Inner Rainbow, pp. 110-128. (CP and ares.)


John J. Shea, Finding God Again, Chapter 8 (.req)

Richard Cote, Lazarus! Come Out, Chapters 6,7,8.


Andrew Greeley, “The Sacraments of Sensibility”, in The Catholic Imagination, 1-21


David Tracy, The Analogical Imagination, 421-456.


**Ministry and Education**

Maria Harris, “Enlarging the Religious Imagination,” Pace 13 (#1, 2, 3, 4), 1982-83.
Kathleen Fisher, The Inner Rainbow, Chap. 2 & 4. (ares.)
Maria Harris, “The Imagery of Religious Education”, Religious Education 78, 3, 1983:363-375 (ares)

3. **Religious/Prophetic Imagination: Deconstruction and Reconstruction Through Symbolic Action and Speech**

Walter Brueggemann, The Prophetic Imagination. (req.)
Abraham Heschel, The Prophets.
Joan Cook, Hear, O Heavens and Listen, O Earth (Liturgical Press)
Carroll Stuhlmueller, “Prophet, Who Are You?”, The Biblical Heritage in Modern Catholic Scholarship, eds, John Collins and John D. Crossan, 58-84
Jonathan Edwards, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”, July 8, 1941 (CP)
John Miller, Meet the Prophets (1987)

Ministry and Education

John Dominic Crossan, The Dark Interval, Chap. 2.
Gabriel Moran, “Religious Education for Justice,” Interplay, Chap. 11.
Walter Brueggemann, “Preaching as Reimagination,” Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles, Chap. 3. (CP and ares.)
John Savant, “Imagining the Immigrant”, America, October 26, 2009: 15-16 (CP).

4. Feminist Imagination and Reshaping of Life’s Relational Patterns

Margaret Farley, “New Patterns of Relationship: Beginnings of a Moral Revolution,” Theological Studies 36, 1975:627-646. (ares.)
Sandra M. Schneiders, Women and the Word (Paulist, 1986)
Sandra M. Schneiders, With Oil in Their Lamps: Faith, Feminism, and the Future (Paulist 2000)
Catherine La Cugna (ed) Freeing Theology: The Essentials of Theology in a Feminist Perspective (Harper and Row, 1993)

Ministry and Education

Maria Harris, “Themes in Women’s Spirituality”, Studies in Formative Spirituality. 11, 2, 1990: 169-183
Nicola Slee, “Parables and Women’s Experience,” Modern Churchman 26, 2, 1984:20-31. (ares.)

5. Artistic Imagination: The Creation of Form – Wholeness, Beauty and Truth
John Dewey, Art as Experience (1958)
Susan Langer, “Discursive and Presentational Forms,” in Philosophy in a New Key, pp. 79-102. (ares.)
Howard Gardner, The Arts and Human Development.
Richard Validesau, “God and the Beautiful: Art as a Way to God,” *Theology and the Arts*, Chap. 1 (See also Chap. 5). (req.) (ares.)

**Ministry and Education**

Kathleen Fischer, “Spirituality and the Arts,” *The Inner Rainbow* Chap. 3. (ares.)
Richard Viladesau, “Art as a Theological Text,” op. cite, Chap. 3; and “Theology, Aesthetics and the Art of Preaching,” Chap. 4. (req.) (ares.)
Doug Adams and Diane Apostolos-Cappadona. (ares.)
Richard Cote, *Lazarus! Come Out*, Chapter 1 & Epilogue (req.)
Moran, Gabriel, “Teaching Within Revelation”, *Interplay*, Chap 4
Paul Tillich, “Protestantism and Artistic Style”, in *Theology of Culture*, 68-75


Anton Karl Kozlovic, “The Cinematic Christ Figure”, *The Furrow* 55,1,2004: 26-30.
