STMM 563
History of Christian Spirituality
Winter Quarter, 2009
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Class meets in: Hunthausen 100
9:00-11:50 Tuesday mornings

Course Description

This course provides an introduction to the history of Christian Spirituality by examining different periods and perspectives within the tradition. In addition to a general overview of the major movements, concerns and personalities, selected texts and images will be studied to examine experiences of conversion and spiritual growth, mysticism and prayer, community and compassion. The course will also consider the wisdom of the tradition as a resource for contemporary issues.

Course Goals

*That students will have a general overview of the history of Christian Spirituality with an awareness of its major movements, personalities and issues;

*That different styles of prayer, community, and engagement with the world will be examined in various eras, cultures and religious perspectives;

*That students will have read significant primary texts in Christian Spirituality and make use of secondary source material in exploring the historical/spiritual trend under study;

*That students will explore how the collective wisdom of the tradition continues to offer insights today;

*That students will explore contemporary appropriations (written, experiential and creative expressions) of some of the historical traditions being studied.

Required Reading:

Holt, Bradley, *Thirsty for God,* Fortress Press, 2005.
OR
Sheldrake, Philip. *A Brief History of Spirituality,* Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

A booklet of primary source reading will be distributed for each class session. Immediacy of reading the primary source material is paramount for engaging the texts. These resources will be reproduced by SU Reproduction Department and will be distributed by the instructor. The cost of reproductions will be incurred by the student.

Recommended:

Sheldrake, Philip. *Spirituality and History.* Orbis Books.
1570752036

Sheldrake, Philip. *A Brief History of Spirituality,* Blackwell Publishing, 2007.

Wiseman, James. *Spirituality and Mysticism,* Orbis Press,2006.
1-57075-656-2

Mursell, Gordon, ed. *The Story of Christian Spirituality,* Fortress Press, 2001.
0-8006-3289-3

Cunningham, L. and Eagan, K. *Christian Spirituality: Themes from the Tradition.* Paulist Press, 1996.

Selected Bibliography on Spirituality

Crossroad History of Christian Spirituality

McGinn, Bernard, Meyendorff, John and Leclercq, Jean eds. *Christian Spirituality: Origins to the Twelfth Century.* 1985.

Raitt, Jill, McGinn, B.and Meyendorff, J. Ed. *Christian Spirituality: High Middle Ages and Reformation.* 1987.

Durpe, Louis and Saliers, Don, eds. *Christian Spirituality: Post Reformation and Modern.* 1989.

McGinn, Bernard. *The Foundations of Mysticism: Origins to the Fifth Century.* 1992.

----------. *The Growth of Mysticism: Gregory the Great through the 12th Century.* 1994.

---------- The *Flowering of Mysticism: Men and Women in the New Mysticism-1200-1550.* 1998.

The Classics of Western Spirituality: A Library of the Great Spiritual Masters. New York: Paulist Press. This series provides informative introductions to selected texts in critical translations. If you have a favorite classic, you can not go wrong in purchasing the Paulist edition of the text!

See attached bibliographies to the texts for other helpful resources.

Accountability

1. 60% of the class will be evaluated on **active participation in class discussions and processes** and reading of assigned material.
2. **Written Work:** 40% of the evaluation.
   - **a.** Journaling/scrape booking key quotes, ideas, images from the class sessions. The last five minutes of each class session will be devoted to this form of synthesis. This record can be integrated into the final integration project. You may find it helpful to trace a theme, issue, image or concern through the readings. This can be done in whatever creative style works for the participant.
   - **b.** A synthesis/ appropriation-either written/other form of artistic expression which reflects the student's attempts to integrate the course material into his/her own life and ministry. While the final synthesis project should demonstrate a mature and intellectually credible grasp of the material (i.e. a sense of historical context, interpretative skill, critical appreciation and appropriation etc.), the project/synthesis paper should also demonstrate the student's creative integration of the material into the particulars of his/her ministry or work. Synthesis assignments **March 10, 2009.** Further information will be given in class.

Tentative Schedule of Class Sessions
This outline is tentative and can be modified according to need at the Instructor's discretion.

Session 1: Focus: Getting Started
Introduction to the course and each other
Review of the proposed plan
Getting our feet wet!

Preparation for Session 2:
Prayer: _____
Focus: Early Christian Spiritualities
Theme: Martyrdom
Reading: Martyrdom of Perpetua and Felicity packet
Sheldrake, pp. 1-39 OR
Holt, 1-54

Session 3:

Prayer: _____
Focus: Early Christian Spiritualities
Theme: Desert Spiritualities: Spiritual Direction
Reading: Prayer and Spiritual Direction in Desert Monasticism packet
Sheldrake, pp.40-72 OR
Holt pp. 54-69

Session 4:

Prayer: _____
Focus: Early Christian Spiritualities
Theme: Desert Spiritualities: Evagrius and the Inner life of prayer

Session 5:

Prayer: _____
Focus: Celtic Spiritualities and Augustine
Theme: Grace and Journeys
Reading: Packet on Celtic spiritualities and Augustine and Pelagius
Holt, 69-87

Session 6:

Prayer: _____
Focus: 12th and 13th centuries: The Beguine and Mendicant Movements
Reading: Packet on the Beguines and Clare
Sheldrake, pp. 73-105 OR
Holt, 87-98

Session 7:

Prayer: _____
Focus: Medieval Spiritualities and Sensibilities
Theme: Apophatic and Kataphatic Spiritualities; Labyrinth
Reading: Packet on 14th c. English writer of *The Cloud of Unknowing*
Julian of Norwich, Showing

Session 8:

Prayer: _____
Focus: Reformation
Theme: Freedom in Luther and Ignatius; Protestant Spiritualities
Reading: Packet on Luther and Ignatius and Church Affiliation in the 16th Century: Missionary Movements
Sheldrake, pp.106-138 OR
Holt, 99-115

Session 9:

Prayer: _____
Focus: Carmelite Spiritualities
Theme: Spiritual Ups and Downs in John and Teresa and Spiritual Marriage in Teresa
Reading: Packets on Carmelite Spirituality
Sheldrake, pp. 204-209 OR
Holt, 203-208

Synthesis Work: March 10th

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