

PCC 825 Principalities and Powers in Pastoral and Spiritual Care

Spring 2022 (Thursday 8:00am-11:00am)

Online: Synchronous/Asynchronous

Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary

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Course Overview

Who believes in angels, demons, and the spiritual world? Could it be that the answer to this question demarcates global, class, and ecclesial differences among Christians, especially in terms of appropriate forms of pastoral care? This course will explore the ways biblical and theological visions of the spiritual world have been (a) critiqued within modernity (b) reflected on by liberation and third world theologians, and (c) discovered and appropriated by post-colonial theologians. It will move from an examination of the treatment of the spiritual world in modern and post-modern thought to a psycho-theological paradigm for pastoral care that takes seriously cultural and theological contexts where the spiritual world characterizes common life. Ultimately, the course hopes to pose the fundamental question of whether belief in the spiritual world is primarily a cultural specific vision (and thusly to be localized) or primarily a Christian specific vision (and thusly to be universalized) or both, and explores the implications of answers for pastoral care and counseling using case studies.

Objectives of the Course

- (1) To reflect biblically, theologically, and psychologically on the portrayal of the spiritual world in the various readings
- (2) To be able to formulate and articulate one's own theology of the spiritual world and its effects on human life
- (3) To apply such acquired knowledge in pastoral intervention especially in cases where the spiritual world characterizes common life.

Course Requirements

- (1) **Assigned Readings.** All students are **required** to do the weekly readings and come prepared to discuss them in class.
- (2) **Four Short Papers.**

- A 1-page **Reflection** on First Two Chapters of Allison, *Encountering Mystery*
Due February
- Critique of Bultmann (5 pages): Due March
- Theology of the Spiritual World (7 pages): Due April
- Significant Learning (10 pages): Due May.

(3) **Group Discussion**

Each student is required to lead the class in discussions on an assigned day. Leading requires that you come to class with a set of questions and issues based on the readings, for discussion that day. You will also be expected to facilitate part of the discussion for that class

(4) **Significant Learning:**

A thoughtful and focused summary of the core issues that you have identified relative to your growth and development as a pastoral caregiver with regard to spiritual dimensions of pastoral care. This is an integrative paper in which you make **connections** among the **theoretical, practical** and **personal components** of the course. **Due May**

(5) **Grading**

Your final grade will be based on the quality of your class participation and your four papers. Your papers will be graded on the basis of

- accurate use of course readings, lectures and discussion,
- thoroughness and clarity of thought
- creativity and depth of insight.

Grade Scale

93.5-100	A	86.7- 89.9	B+	76.7- 79.9	C+	66.7- 69.9	D+
90.0- 93.4	A-	83.3- 86.6	B	73.3- 76.6	C	63.3- 66.6	D
		80.0- 83.2	B-	70.0- 73.2	C-	60.0- 63.2	D-

Disability statement:

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact (if you have not done so already) the Disability Management System—Student Access Office as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations can be implemented in a timely fashion.

Integrity:

In accordance with the Conduct Covenant, students are expected to do their own work for each assignment and exam. Any violation of the Honor Code will result in a failing grade. Additionally, for all students who use computers for note taking in class, I need you to email me your notes after each class. Note also that playing games or checking email during class constitutes absence from class and each offence will lower your final grade by a half a letter grade.

Inclusive Language:

In each assignment students are expected to follow the guidelines for inclusive language outlined in the GETS Bulletin.

Papers which are handed in late will be marked down one full letter grade.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week 1

Introduction to one another, themes, goals and work of course.

Reading:

Allison: *Encountering Mystery* Ch1&2

Assignment: 1-page written reflection on your reactions to the stories.

Week 2

Demonology in the Biblical Early Christian & Pre-modern Western World (articles in Course Documents on Moodle)

Ferguson, Ch 1 & 3 “Jesus and the Demons” & “Early Christian Views”

Anijelo, “Belief in Mystical Forces Sign of Primitiveness?”

Kreeft Angels and Demons 1-23; 84-136.

Week 3

Modernity and the Spiritual world: Theological and Psychological Dimensions

Bultmann, New Testament & Mythology pp 1-43, 95-130.

Freud, Totem and Taboo (Entire)

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/41214/41214-h/41214-h.htm>

Postcolonial and Postmodern Understandings and Approaches

Week 4

Delbanco Death of Satan, Introduction and Ch. 2

February 8 Boyd, Satan and the Problem of Evil Introduction & Ch 8- 10

Week5

February 15 Wink, Naming the Powers

Week 6

February 22

Third Wave Perspectives

Mbiti, "Nearness of the Spirit"

Acolatse, "*For Freedom or Bondage*" Ch. 1&2

Week 7

A Barthian Approach to Methodological Issues

Hunsinger, *Theology and Pastoral Counseling*. Ch. 4

Week 8

READING WEEK

Week 9

Problem and Critique of Third Wave Approaches

Acolatse, "*For Freedom or Bondage*" Ch 4&5

Week 10

Perry, Deliverance, p.1-26 & 71-97

Bufford, "Demonic Influence and Mental Disorders"

Week 11

Pastoral Counseling and the Spiritual world

Barth, *Church Dogmatics* IV/3 p.165-274 (Recommended)

McNutt, *Deliverance From Evil Spirits*, p. 130-202

Week 12

Paradigmatic Case Studies/Role Plays

Acolatse, *For Freedom or Bondage*, Ch. 6

Week 13

Paradigmatic Case Studies/Role Plays

Hunsinger, *Theology and Pastoral Counseling*, Ch. 5

Week 14

Non-Paradigmatic Case Studies/Role Plays

Required Texts and Readings

Esther Acolatse, *For Freedom or Bondage: A Critique of African Pastoral Practices* (Grand Rapids, MI., Wm. B Eerdmans 2014)

**Dale Allison, *Encountering Mystery: Religious Experience in a Secular Age* (Grand Rapids, MI., Wm. B Eerdmans 2022)

- **Karl Barth, “Jesus is victor” in *Church Dogmatics, IV/3*
- **Gregory Boyd, *Satan and the Problem of Evil: constructing a Trinitarian Warfare Theodicy* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2001)
- **Rodger Bufford, “Demonic Influence and Mental Disorders” in *Counseling the Demonic* (Dallas: Word Books, 1988)
- Rudolf Bultmann, *New Testament and Mythology*
- **Andrew Delbanco *Death of Satan*, Introduction and Chs. 4-7.
- **Michael Heiser *The Unseen Realm: Supernatural Worldview of the Bible*
- Deborah Hunsinger *Theology and Pastoral Counseling: A new Interdisciplinary Approach* (Grand Rapids, Eerdmans, 1995)_ Ch. 4, 5 &6
- Peter Kreeft, *Angels and Demons: What do we Really know about them*
- Sigmund Freud, *Totem and Taboo* (Minneola: Dover Publications)Ebook with syllabus
- Francis MacNutt , *Deliverance from Evil Spirits* (Grand Rapids: Chosen Books, 1995)
- **Michael Perry, *Deliverance: Psychic Disturbance and Occult Involvement.* (London, SPCK, 1996).
- Walter Wink, *Naming the Powers: the Language of Power in the New Testament* (Philadelphia: Fortress, 1984)

Recommended Texts

- Margurite Shuster, *Power, Pathology, Paradox* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan 1987)
- Gustaf Aulen *Christus Victor.* (New York: Collier Books, 1969).
- Hendriks Berkhof, *Christ and the Powers* (Scottsdale: Herald Publications, 1962)

All Texts are on reserve in the Library. Selected essays (marked by asterisk) are also posted on Moodle under course materials. I will make available selected essays and articles from time to time if our discussions warrant them.