

Updated 11/14/19

DRAFT SYLLABUS

CL 560 History & Theology of Christian Spirituality

Spring Semester, 2020

Thursday, 1:30 – 4:30PM

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Course Description

Focuses on the history of Christian spirituality, examining the theological assumptions that have shaped that history.

Direction Module One: History, Theology, and Models of Spiritual Direction

Course Outcomes

Students will demonstrate a grasp of the history of Christian spirituality

Students will demonstrate a familiarity with major figures in that history

Students will be able to describe the theological issues at play in that history

Students will demonstrate a knowledge of the history of spiritual direction

Texts

Mursell, Gordon, ed. *The Story of Christian Spirituality: Two thousand years, from East to West*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001. ISBN-13: 978-0800632892, Price: \$9.39

Holder, Arthur, ed. *Christian Spirituality: The Classics*. London: Routledge, 2010. ISBN-10: 0415776023, Price: \$25.32

Please note: The prices listed above are as posted at Amazon.com. Both texts have been widely used and are available in other forms and at other prices.

Assessment

Attendance & Participation

Given the nature of the course material, attendance is essential. Students are expected to prepare and participate in class discussions. Taking notes will be indispensable in performing the other assignments.

Journal

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Each student will be required to keep a journal. Two kinds of entries for the readings are required and each entry should be a minimum of one page (type-written): One entry for each reading from Mursell. The second entry for each of the 30 readings in Holder. The entry should record items from the reading that provoked questions or insights and the student should plan to bring her / his journal to class in order to contribute to in-class discussion of the readings. The journal, in its entirety is due on the day designated in the syllabus. The journal should be submitted as a single document with each entry clearly labeled. The journal must be complete and conform to the requirements in order to receive credit. 15% of the assessment will be devoted to the journal.

Integrative Essays

Each student will be required to complete two integrative essays. Each essay will address a question drawn from the material and students will be expected to respond, drawing in an integrative fashion on the reading and class material. The essays should not quote material from either source at length, but students will be required to demonstrate a familiarity with the reading and course material (citing the relevant author, title, and page numbers or dates).

Each essay must be between 4 and 6 pages in length (typewritten, double-spaced, one inch margins, 12 point font). The essays should draw critically and thoughtfully from the material, but advance an argument, not simply summarize, list, or report on what was heard or read. N.B.: The language “critically and thoughtfully” is chosen intentionally here. These are analytical essays and language involving how the student “feels” about the material is not germane. Note, too, that these assignments will only be manageable if students remain current in their reading and actively participate in the class. 85% of the assessment is devoted to the student’s work on these essays.

Classroom Expectations

During class, the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited.

Students may use computers to take notes. Answering emails and internet browsing are prohibited. Such activities will distract from participation in class and inhibit the student’s ability to complete assignments effectively.

Recording devices are prohibited.

Students for whom English is not a second language will be expected to submit their work on the date due and have an additional week to submit an edited version of their work.

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The grade given for assignments that are late will be docked 3 points for each day or part of the day that the assignment is late. All assignments are due at class time on the date designated in the calendar.

Taking notes will be essential to this class, both as a means of integrating the material and as a means of incorporating classroom discussion into the assignments. The instructor will not be posting lecture content or outlines.

Calendar: Topics, Readings, and Due Dates for Assignments

February 6: Jesus and the Origins of Christian Spirituality

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 9-30; Holder, readings 1-3.

February 13: The Early Church Fathers

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 31-72; Holder, readings 4-6.

February 20: Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Spirituality

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 73-88; Holder, readings 7-9.

February 27: Saints and Mytics of the Medieval West

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 89-124; Holder, readings 10-12.

March 5: The Eastern Christian Tradition

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 125-150; Holder, readings 13-15.

March 12: The Russian Spirit

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 151-164; Holder, readings 16-18.

March 19: The Protestant Tradition in Europe

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 165-200; Holder, readings 19-21.

March 26: No class, Spring break is March 23-27

Mid-term Integrative Essay due March 27.

April 2: Catholic Saints and Reformers

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 201-244; Holder, readings 21-23.

April 9: Maundy Thursday, No Class

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April 16: The Anglican Spirit

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 245-274; Holder, readings 24-26.

April 23: The Protestant Tradition in America

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 275-304; Holder, readings 27-30.

April 30: Spiritualities of the Twentieth Century

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 305-365.

May 7: Spirituality in the New Millennium

Reading for Journal Entry: Mursell, 366-367.

Final Integrative Essay with Rule of Life and Completed Journal due at 9am on Thursday, May 14.

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.