

# TESP 4: The Christian Tradition

Fall, 2008  
MW 2:15 - 4:00 Lucas Hall 307  
Sect. 43291

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Office Hours:  
MW 1-2  
TTh 10-12

## **Methodology:**

Individual authors will be studied in order to illuminate key Christian teachings. The New Testament readings will provide a basic introduction to Christianity, as well as some understanding of the historicity of biblical texts. Julian of Norwich, *Showings*, provides insights into the mystical understanding of the transcendence of God, and the benevolent plan which He/She has for creation. Thomas Beaudoin, *Consuming Faith* will address the complexity inherent in living the Christian life in a materialistic society.

In addition to the above content, the course will also teach students how to use secondary sources judiciously. The course will provide exercises in which students will determine criteria for the reliability of sources of various kinds, including the internet. Students will also be taught how to properly reference these sources to avoid any suggestion of plagiarism in their work.

## **Required Reading:**

- 1) The New Testament (preferred text available in the book store: *New Oxford Annotated Bible* 2007 ed.)
  - 2) Julian of Norwich, *Showings*, translation by Colledge and Walsh (Paulist, 1997)
  - 3) Thomas Beaudoin, *Consuming Faith* (Rowan and Littlefield, 2007)
- \*\* Espín and Nickoloff (eds.), *An Introductory Dictionary of Theology and Religious Studies* (Liturgical Press, 2007) is highly recommended

## **Requirements and Grading:**

1. Attendance and active participation at all sessions (20 points)
2. Two essay/short answer quizzes on readings and lecture material (20 points each)
3. Three short reports (20 points)
4. Final exam (25 points)

**Grading Scale:**

A = 90 - 100; B = 80 - 89; C = 70 - 79; D = 60 - 69

**Grading Policy:** The tests from the first three readings will each count for 20% of the final grade. The final exam will count for 30% of the final grade. Class participation will count for 10% of the final grade.

A grade of "A" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time
- the student grasps the lectures and the material assigned
- the student can demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts taught in the course
- the student has integrated class material with other knowledge in an original and creative fashion
- the student has consulted sources outside those assigned in class and integrated them into the course in a manner which demonstrates a mastery of the subject

A grade of "B" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time
- the student grasps the lectures and the material assigned
- the student can demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts taught in the course
- the student has integrated class material with other knowledge in an original and creative fashion

A grade of "C" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time
- the student grasps the lectures and the material assigned
- the student can demonstrate a working knowledge of the concepts taught in the course

A grade of "D" indicates:

- the student has completed all assignments correctly and on time

## Reading Assignments:

September 22	Introduction to the Course
September 24	The Gospel of Mark
September 29	The Gospel of Matthew
October 1	The Gospel of Luke
October 6	The Gospel of Luke
October 8	The Gospel of John
October 13	The Gospel of John
October 15	<b><u>Exam on Gospels and discussion of papers</u></b>
October 20	Julian of Norwich, <u>Showings</u> , Chapters 1-14
October 22	Julian of Norwich, <u>Showings</u> , Chapters 15-28
October 27	Julian of Norwich, <u>Showings</u> , Chapters 29-43
October 29	Julian of Norwich, <u>Showings</u> , Chapters 44-57
November 3	Julian of Norwich, <u>Showings</u> , Chapters 58-71
November 5	No class
November 10	Julian of Norwich, <u>Showings</u> , Chapters 72-86
November 12	<b><u>Exam on Julian and discussion of papers</u></b>
November 17	Beaudoin, <i>Consuming Faith</i> , Chapters 1-2
November 19	Beaudoin, <i>Consuming Faith</i> , Chapters 3-4
December 1	Beaudoin, <i>Consuming Faith</i> , Chapters 5-6
December 3	Course Summary

## Final Exam:

Wednesday, December 10 6:30-9:30 PM

### **Assignment #1**

Find two translations of the Gospels that are different from the one you are using in class. Check the translation of the Sermon on the Mount (Mat. 5:1-48; Luke 6:17-38). What differences do you see between the two versions of the Sermons? Which of the three translations do you prefer and which of the three translations do you think is most accurate? Be sure to list the three translations you are using.

### **Assignment #2**

Find three web sites as you can on Julian of Norwich. Please rank these web sites by the following categories:

Historically Most Accurate (1-3)

Most Interesting (1-3)

Justify your ranking in each category for each web site. How do you know the web site is historically accurate. What makes the web site interesting to you?

Example:

Rank #1: Most interesting

The Julian of Norwich alien web site. This web site believes that Julian was an alien from the planet Uranus who is married to Elvis Presley. They are both coming back to teach mediation to world leaders so that rock and roll visions will rule the earth in peace.

I find this to be the most interesting because I am a psychology major and could probably spend my life just trying to straighten these people out. There may even be a whole new form of delusion at work here.

### **Assignment #3**

Based on the reading in Beaudoin and the material presented in class, suggest how you might use wealth in a Christian manner in your future profession.