

## **TESP 4 Christian Tradition - 535337: Winter 2010**

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Office Num. Kenna 300B  
Office Hours MW 1:30-2:30 PM  
E-mail Via the Course Website: <http://angel.scu.edu>  
Location Kenna 306  
Times 11:45 AM - 12:50 PM MWF  
Start Date January 4, 2010

### **Required Texts**

James A. Wiseman, *Spirituality and Mysticism: A Global View*, (New York: Orbis Books, 2006)  
*College Study Bible: New American Bible*, (Winona, MN: St Mary's Press, 2006)  
Additional Primary Texts that are distributed.  
i>clicker [available in the Campus Bookstore]

### **Course Description**

A survey of the history and development of the Christian tradition from the New Testament to contemporary U.S. Christianity. Readings include classics of Christian theology from major periods, portions of the Bible, and a survey text of Christian history.

The approach of the course is to go through the history of Christian Spirituality from a global perspective. Students will be encouraged to articulate their own spirituality.

### **Course Objectives**

The goal of this course is threefold:

1. to introduce the student to the academic study of religion
2. to provide a framework for understanding the scope and complexity of the Christian Tradition
3. to address specific key problems and issues that have arisen in the history of this tradition.

The course aims at developing a critical understanding of the Christian Tradition by developing the student's knowledge of its history, and the problems and issues that were dominant throughout this history. In particular, the course looks at how the Christian Tradition have embodied in different cultures, and how from the beginning, Christianity has had a global reach.

The student will learn how to distinguish the perspective, and how to see the contribution of both of these perspectives to critical understanding. In order to follow the origin and development of the Christian Tradition, the course will first present the academic methods of

studying religion, and then move from the context of the birth of Christianity, to the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth, to the movement that developed after his death, and finally trace growth and spread of this movement in history from the first century to the present.

This overriding horizon will be: how is this important for us today? What are the practical and personal implications of all of this? Does my learning have personal and social significance as well as having significance itself?

### Tentative Schedule

#### Week 1

M Jan 4 Introduction: Syllabus, expectations.

W Jan 6 Tradition: Practice and Symbol

**Reading:** Wiseman, Forward and Preface, pp. ix-xiv.  
Francis Smith, S.J., *Theological Reflection on Faith* [ANGEL]

#### First Paper Due

F Jan 8 Religion in a Pluralistic World

**Reading:** Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J., *The Service of Faith in a Religiously Pluralistic World* [ANGEL].  
Robert N. Bellah, "The Rules of Engagement" - *Communion in a Scientific Age*  
John L. Allen, Jr.: Jesuit Fr. Michael Buckley On Relations with  
Non-Christian Religions [ANGEL]

#### Week 2

M Jan 11 Spirituality and Method

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 1, pp. 1-20

W Jan 13 Biblical Spirituality and Biblical Interpretation

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 2, pp. 21-42  
*College Study Bible*, pp. xiv-xviii.

F Jan 15 Understanding Genres and Literary Forms

**Reading:** The Documentary Hypothesis [ANGEL]  
McCabe, O.P., *God Matters*, pp. 2-9 [ANGEL]  
Genesis 1-3 [Creation-Fall]; 12-13 [Abraham Cycle]  
*College Study Bible*, pp. xix-xxvii.

### **Week 3**

M Jan 18 **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Holiday**

W Jan 20 Interpretation: The First Testament

**Reading:** Genesis 15-22 [Covenant-Ancestor Narrative]  
Exodus 19-25 [Covenant-Experience of God as Holy  
The Documentary Hypothesis [ANGEL]  
Herbert McCabe, O.P., "God Matters" [ANGEL]

F Jan 22 **TBA**

### **Week 4**

M Jan 25 Interpretation: The New Testament I

**Reading:** The Gospel of Mark.; Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22.  
Sam Storms, Review of Can We Trust the Gospels? [ANGEL]

W Jan 27 Interpretation: The New Testament II

**Reading:** The Gospel of Matthew 5; 25:1-46; John 1:1-2:25; 18:1-21:25

F Jan 29 Martyrs and Other Witnesses in the Early Church

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 3, pp. 43-61.  
The Martyrdom of Polycarp [ANGEL]  
The Martyrdom Of Saints Perpetua And Felicitas [ANGEL]

**Second Paper Due**

### **Week 5**

M Feb 1 Paul, His Conversion and Theology

**Reading:** Acts 9:1-30; 19:21-40; 22:1-21; 26:1-32; Galatians 1-6.  
*College Study Bible*, pp.1766-1769; 1624-1628

W Feb 3 Midterm Examination

F Feb 5 **TBA**

## Week 6

M Feb 8 The Beginnings of the Monastic Movement

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 4, pp. 62-73.

Athanasius, Life Of Anthony [ANGEL]

W Feb 10 The Patristic Era I

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 5, pp. 86-99

F Feb 12 The Patristic Era II

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 5, pp. 99-110.  
*The Confessions of Augustine* [ANGEL]

## Week 7

M Feb 15 Early Medieval Era I

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 6, pp. 111-120.  
Anselm, Abelard, Thomas Aquinas [ANGEL]  
Letter 1 of Eloise to Abelard [ANGEL]

W Feb 17 Late Medieval Era II

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 6, pp. 120-137.

F Feb 19 Early Modern: Ignatius of Loyola

**Reading:** Life of St. Ignatius of Loyola

## Week 8

M Feb 22 Reformation Spirituality I

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 7 pp. 138-151.

W Feb 24 Reformation Spirituality II

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 7, pp. 152-164.  
Ignatius' "Foundation: Fact and Practice,"  
"Christ the King and His Call" [ANGEL]

F Feb 26 The Theologian is In

## Week 9

M Mar 1 Asian Christian Spirituality

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 8, pp. 165-186

W Mar 3 African Christian Spirituality

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 9, pp. 187-206

F Mar 5 The New Atheism

**Reading:** Review of *The God Delusion*. By Richard Dawkins  
Richard R. Gaillardetz "Catholicism and The New Atheism"  
Michael J. Buckley, S.J. "The Madman and the Crowd"

## Week 10

M Mar 8 Christian Spirituality in the Americas

**Reading:** Wiseman, Chapter 10, pp. 207-232

W Mar 11 The Second Vatican Council

**Reading:** *Nostra Aetate* [ANGEL]

F Mar 13 TBA

W Mar 17 Final Examination, 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM

## Course Requirements

### *Structure*

The class will be taught by lecture and discussion. Students will engage primary texts, as well as the course text, Wiseman. There will be a mid-term in-class examination [20% of grade], a final, comprehensive examination [30% of the grade], and three of one page papers on an assigned subject [25% of grade]. All of these will test for both information and understanding of issues. There will be regular, short quizzes on the readings [15%]. The other 10% of the final grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussion, and completion of assigned readings in advance of the date assigned.

### *Quizzes*

There will be frequent, short quizzes. They will consist for the most part on the reading assigned. The aim is to assess the quality of the reading. Study questions to guide the reading will be

available through the university's ANGEL account (see below for more information). Quizzes will be given at the very beginning of class. For that reason, it is important to arrive on time. Grades from the two lowest quizzes will be dropped.

### *Participation*

Participation in the class discussions is important part of the course. Class will frequently begin with a question that invites reflection. There will be occasional group discussions and group work.

### *Examinations*

The midterm is on Friday, February 7, covering the material studied up to that point. The class prior will be a review. The final will be a longer examination on the material covered throughout the Quarter. It, too, will be preceded by a review session. Examinations may be made up only in cases of extreme and exceptional circumstances.

### *Papers*

There will be three papers. The first is a short spiritual autobiography (1-2 pages). You are asked to reflect on your spiritual journey with faith. The second paper will be a one page analysis of an original text. The third will be a longer (5-6 page) of one of the themes studied in the course.

### *On Line Materials*

ANGEL: You will find the detailed syllabus, calendar, and course materials on the SCU's Internet site, . You will need to create your own account by going to the site, clicking on the "Request and Account" tab and fill in the information. Your password will be sent to you by email, and will enable you to enroll in to the course account. When you get your password, go to the ANGEL website, click on the "Find a Course" tab. Search on my name "Reites", select the course - The Christian Tradition - Winter 2010, sect. 04 and put in the PIN: solidarity. This will enroll you in the course.

### *Grading Policy*

There will be a mid-term in-class examination [20% of grade], a final, comprehensive examination [30% of the grade], and three papers on an assigned subject [25% of grade]. All of these will test for both information and understanding of issues. There will be regular, short quizzes on the readings [15%]. The other 10% of the final grade is determined by attendance and participation in class discussion, and completion of assigned readings in advance of the date assigned.

Evaluation Scale A = 100-95; A- = 94-90; B+ = 89-87; B = 86-83;  
B- = 82-80; C+ = 79-77; C = 76-73; C- = 72-70;  
D+ = 69-67 ; D = 66-63; D- = 62-60.

### *Attendance Policy*

Attendance is required and recorded daily. You may miss two classes for whatever reason. Each class after that will result in a loss of 10 percentage points on the Participation/Attendance part of the grade. Tardiness will result in a loss of 5 percentage points.

### *Academic Integrity*

All written work must be uniquely and individually the student's own work. This means any source whatever that is used must be given attribution, that is must be footnoted, saying where the material came from. It is not adequate to simply cut and paste material from the internet and to present it as one's own.

While in-class discussion and outside of class discussion is certainly desirable and encouraged, the material that a student hands in must reflect the student's own labor and ought to be clearly and decisively distinguishable from the work of all other students in the class. Failure to abide by the spirit and the letter of this policy may result in a zero for that assignment or examination. In order to discourage plagiarism, that is passing off the ideas or words of another as if they were one's own, students are required to turn in both a hard copy of their papers and to also submit one electronically to <http://TurnItIn.com> . This is a service which checks your paper against the web and a database of other student papers. It provides professors with a plagiarism report.

You will need to visit the website and create a user profile. Once that is done, you register for the course using ID number 3043007. The course password is: solidarity

### *Disability Policy*

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must contact Disability Resources located in The Drahmman Center in Benson, room 214, (408) 554-4111; TTY (408) 554-5445. Students must provide documentation of a disability to Disability Resources prior to receiving accommodations.

### *Intellectual Community*

One of the goals of the class is to foster intellectual community, a community of scholars. This is a goal of the University. In an effort to create intellectual community, the course expects active student attendance in class, appropriate classroom etiquette, and respect for diverse ways of thinking.

To facilitate participation in making a community of scholars, there will be group discussions and exercises, individual student presentations of small group work, and Socratic dialogue with the professor. Each student is encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to express his or her answers to questions, and to share their work with the class. Also, to make this work, attendance and participation are essential.