

Dr. Karl W. Lampley  
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Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:15pm-3:15pm and by Appointment

## **TESP 4: THE CHRISTIAN TRADITION**

*Winter 2017*

MW4:45pm-6:30pm, Alameda 106

### **Course Description**

This course on the foundations of the Christian tradition examines historical and contemporary quests for the living God with special emphasis on contemporary theology and practice. We will explore scriptural and theological underpinnings of Christianity with a particular focus on humans' lived experience of God. The course will examine Christian understandings of God from distinct cultural, gender, socio-economic, and evolutionary contexts.

### **Course Goals**

1. Students will become familiar with the theological foundations of Christianity.
2. Students will be able to critically analyze and compare diverse contemporary interpretations and theological practice of Christianity.
3. Students will critically reflect on their own beliefs and experiences in light of the theoretical and embodied models explored.

### **Core Curriculum Learning Goals and Objectives**

This course fulfills Santa Clara's Core Requirement for *RTC 1*

- 1.1 Describe and compare the central religious ideas and practices from several traditions or within one, and from at least two globally distinct regions. (Knowledge of Global Cultures; Complexity of content as well as method; Ambiguity)
- 1.2 Use critical approaches to reflect on their own beliefs and the religious dimensions of human existence. (Critical Thinking; Complexity of Method; Reflection)

### **Required Texts**

- Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion* (Free Press, 2010)
- Elizabeth Johnson, *Quest for the Living God: Mapping Frontiers in the Theology of God* (Continuum, 2008)
- Jim Wallis and Joyce Hollyday, eds., *Cloud of Witnesses*, new revised edition (Orbis, 2005)

*Additional Readings:* Readings not included in the above texts will be posted on Camino.

### **Course Requirements**

#### *Intellectual Engagement:*

Your presence and participation is essential to your success in this course and to the success of the course as a whole. Discussion of assigned texts forms an important part of this course and students are expected to come prepared each class for a thoughtful and lively conversation. Attendance is only a necessary pre-condition for intellectual engagement, not a measure of it. Preparation, engagement of class material, and discussion of assigned reading as well as relevant questions, comments, and observations will determine the grade for the course. Use of electronic devices other than course related is extremely disruptive to the intellectual environment of the classroom and will adversely affect one's Intellectual Engagement grade. (Core objectives 1, 2, 3)

#### *Attendance Policy:*

Missing three or more classes will negatively impact your Intellectual Engagement grade for each absence.

#### *Critical Essays:*

Students will write two critical analysis essays that entail a deeper and more focused engagement of assigned reading and course subject matter. Essay #1 will be a five-page paper on Gregory Boyle, Christianity, and images of

God. Essay #2 will be a five-page paper on one of the Cloud of Witnesses. Topics and paper guidelines will be posted well in advance of the due date noted in the class schedule below. (Core objectives 1, 2)

*Late Paper Policy:*

Late papers will be reduced at least one full grade for each day late unless negotiated with the professor prior to the due date. Papers turned in too late or not at all will receive a 0 and no credit for the assignment.

*Exams:*

There will be a midterm and final exams consisting of short answer and essay questions covering the major themes, events, and considerations in the course. A study guide will be provided for each exam.

**Grading:**

Intellectual Engagement	15%
Essay#1	15%
Essay#2	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam:	35%

Final grades will be based on the following scale: A (95 and above); A- (90-94); B+ (87-89); B (84-86); B- (80-83); C+ (77-79); C (74-76); C- (70-73); D (60-69); F (below 60). Final grades are not negotiable and cannot be changed, except in the case of clerical error.

The Santa Clara University Undergraduate Bulletin identifies the standards for grades as follows:

A (excellent), B (good), C (adequate), D (barely passing), F (not passing)

**Disability Accommodation Policy**

To request academic accommodations for a disability, students must be registered with Disabilities Resources, located in Benson, room 216. If you would like to register with Disabilities Resources, please go on-line to [www.scu.edu/disabilities](http://www.scu.edu/disabilities) or visit their office or call at (408) 554-4109. You will need to register and provide professional documentation of a disability prior to receiving academic accommodations.

**Academic Integrity**

Students are encouraged to collaborate, share ideas, and ask questions of one another. However, all written work must be your own and clearly distinguishable from the work of others. When you present others' work as your own or fail to properly cite the contributions of others to your own work, you have engaged in plagiarism. It matters not whether the work is from a fellow student, the world-wide web, or a traditional printed source. If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, do not hesitate to ask the instructor. Santa Clara University and the Religious Studies Department take seriously the commitment to academic integrity. Any violations, including plagiarism or cheating, may result in an "F" and referral to the Office of Student Life.

**Course Schedule**

*(Schedule and Reading subject to change if necessary)*

Mon, Jan 9	Course Overview
Wed, Jan 11	Dolores Mission and Homeboy Industries Reading: Boyle, <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i> , Preface and Introduction
Mon, Jan 16	<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Holiday</b>
Wed, Jan 18	Images of God/Dis-Grace/Compassion Reading: Boyle, <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i> , Chapter 1-3
Mon, Jan 23	Water, Oil, Flame/Slow Work/Jurisdiction/Gladness Reading: Boyle, <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i> , Chapters 4-7

Wed, Jan 25	Success/Kinship Reading: Boyle, <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i> , Chapters 8-9
Mon, Jan 30	<b>Essay#1 due in class</b> Review of Boyle and <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i>
Wed, Feb 1	Introduction to the “Living God”/Search for the Living God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Introduction and Chapter 1
Mon, Feb 6	Contemporary Models of God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Chapters 2-3
Wed, Feb 8	Contemporary Models of God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Chapter 4
Mon, Feb 13	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>
Wed, Feb 15	Contemporary Models of God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Chapter 5
Mon, Feb 20	Contemporary Models of God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Chapter 6-7
Wed, Feb 22	Contemporary Models of God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Chapter 8
Mon, Feb 27	Contemporary Models of God Reading: Johnson, <i>Quest for the Living God</i> , Chapter 9-10
Wed, March 1	BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT/THOSE WHO MOURN Reading: <i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> , Francis of Assisi; Day; Sisulu; and Ortiz
Mon, March 6	BLESSED ARE THE MEEK/THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS Reading: <i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> , Vanier; Hamer; Sanctuary
Wed, March 8	BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL/PURE IN HEART Reading: <i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> , Willson; Arrupe; Camara
Mon, March 13	BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS/THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED Reading: <i>Cloud of Witnesses</i> , Berrigan; Merton; Bonhoeffer; Four U.S. Martyrs
Wed, March 15	Course Conclusion <b>Essay#2 due in class</b>
<b>Final Exam: TBA</b>	