COURSE DESCRIPTION

The cross is a symbol of suffering, injustice, loss and death, and yet, also a symbol of the hidden power of God to save, liberate and transform human life. Following the spiritual theology of Paul and the narrative of the gospels, the cross is not only a theological symbol but a path, a way - a critical and necessary element of the spiritual journey which requires a dying in order to experience resurrection life.

In this course, we will explore this way of understanding the cross as it is develops in Paul, Augustine and Medieval Spirituality. We will then focus on Luther’s ‘Theology of the Cross’ as it develops out of this theological and spiritual way. We will then study Calvin’s doctrine of the Christian life in Book 3 of his Institutes and how it incorporates elements of Luther’s thought. We will then explore the Reformed tradition and how theology and spirituality meet each other, how they emerge in Schleiermacher and Barth, and a final section on 20th century theological and spiritual exemplars of this tradition outside the mainstream.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

By the end of this course, students will:
Religious Heritage
- More fully integrate Reformed theology and spirituality;
- Develop knowledge of biblical, historical and contemporary exemplars of the Reformed spirituality of the cross.

Cultural Context
- Be able to discern diverse contexts and experiences in which Reformed spirituality of the cross enables life-giving possibility;
- Become familiar with diverse stories in scripture interpreted through a Reformed spirituality of the cross.

Personal Spiritual Formation
- Be able to articulate how a Reformed spirituality of the cross intersects with their own spiritual journeys.

Capacity for Service
- Be able to interpret spiritual journeys through the lens of the Reformed spirituality of the cross for greater wholeness.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) Readings: (Approx. 600 pgs)
   - Athanasiadis, Harris. Reformed Spirituality of the Cross: A Paradigm of the Spiritual Journey (Draft Manuscript)

1) Reflection Paper (5-7pgs) due the first day of class, based on Rice and Leith readings, and especially Rice (Intro, Chaps. 1-2) and Leith (pp. 70-88, 222-233) - 25%

2) Class Participation – 25%

3) Research Paper (12-15 pgs), to be completed by 1 month after course ends. Topics to be discussed in class - 50%

PRELIMINARY CLASS SCHEDULE:

All the lectures will be based on notes given to students in advance of course.


Day 2: Discussion of biblical texts and specifically Pauline and gospel passages, St. Augustine on the spiritual Journey, Medieval mystical spirituality focused on the cross.

Day 3: Reformation spiritualities of the cross. Similarities and differences between Luther and Calvin on the spiritual journey.

Day 4: Post Reformation Reformed spiritualities of the cross up to the 20th Century (i.e. Puritan Spirituality in Europe and North America. Schleiermacher vs Barth on Spirituality in relation to the larger culture).
Day 5: Contemporary exemplars outside the tradition who reflect the tradition in distinctive ways (Albert Schweitzer, Simone Weil, and George Grant).

Each day will be broken down in the morning with more theoretical discussion and in the afternoon with more self-reflective discussion. We will also be dialoging with other traditions of spirituality throughout.

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Spiritual:**

Augustine of Hippo: Confessions.
Annan, Kent. Aftershock: Searching for Honest Faith When your World is Shaken.
Carfagna, R. Contemplation and Midlife Crisis: Examples from Classic and Contemporary Spirituality.
Kazantzakis, Nikos. The Greek Passion.
Kempis, Thomas. The Imitation of Christ.
Maas, Frans. Spirituality as Insight: Mystical Texts and Theological Reflection
May, Gerald. The Dark Night of the Soul.
McCarrick, Pamela R. The End of Hope – The Beginning: Narratives of Hope in the Face of Trauma and Death.
Mommaers, Paul. Hadewijch: Writer – Beguine – Love Mystic
Philokalia: The Eastern Spiritual Texts.
Root, Andrew. The Promise of Despair: The Way of the Cross as the Way of the Church.
Swinton, John. Raging with Compassion: Pastoral Responses to the Problem of Evil.
Vanier, Jean. Becoming Human.
Weil, Simone. Waiting for God.
----------------------------- Gravity and Grace.
Wiman, Christian. My Bright Abyss: Meditation of a Modern Believer.

Biblical and Theological:

Barth, Karl. The Epistle to the Romans. Translated by Edwyn C. Hoskyns. London: Oxford University Press, 1933.
------- Learning Jesus Christ through the Heidelberg Catechism.
------- Institutes of the Christian Religion. 2 volumes.
------ The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Romans and to the Thessalonians.
Edwards, Jonathan. Basic Writings.
Frost, R.N. Richard Sibbes: God’s Spreading Goodness.
------------------------ Creation Untamed: The Bible, God, and Natural Disasters.
Gorman, Michael. Cruciformity.
-------------------------- Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and his Letters.
Grant, George P. Technology and Empire.
------- Technology and Justice.
Hall, Douglas John. Remembered Voices: Reclaiming the legacy of “Neo-Orthodoxy.”
Hall, Douglas John. The Cross in our Context
----------------------- Lighten our Darkness
God and Human Suffering

Waiting for Gospel: An Appeal to the Dispirited Remnants of Protestant “Establishment.”

What Christianity is Not.
Kitamori, Kazoh. Theology of the Pain of God.
Knight, Janice. *Orthodoxies in Massachusetts: Rereading American Puritanism*.
Leith, John H. *Introduction to the Reformed Tradition*.

------ *John Calvin’s Doctrine of the Christian Life*.
Luther, Martin. *Luther’s Works*.
Lewis, Alan. Between Cross and Resurrection: A Theology of Holy Saturday
Loewenich, Karl. Martin Luther’s Theology of the Cross.
Long, Thomas. What Shall We Say: Evil, Suffering and the Crisis of Faith.
McCarroll, Pamela R. Waiting at The Foot of the Cross: Toward a Theology of Hope for Today.
McGrath, Alister. Martin Luther’s Theology of the Cross.
O’Connor, Kathleen. Jeremiah: Pain and Promise.

-------- *The Christian Faith*.

-------- *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*.

-------- *Paul and His Interpreters - A Critical History*.

Weil, Simone. *Waiting for God*.

------ *Gravity and Grace*.
Thompson, Deanna. The Great Divide: Luther, Feminism and the Cross.
Westhelle, Vitor. The Scandalous God: The Use and Abuse of the Cross.
Wright, N.T. Evil and the Justice of God.