

REFORMED SPIRITUALITY OF THE CROSS

June 8-12

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 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)

- Rice, Howard. Reformed Spirituality: An Introduction for Believers.
- Leith, John. Introduction to the Reformed Tradition.
- 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 1: What is Spirituality? What is Reformed Spirituality? Why the Cross?

Discussion of Biblical texts.

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.

John of the Cross: The Essential St. John of the Cross.

Kazantsakis, 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.

McCarroll, 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

Murray, Paul. I loved Jesus in the Night: Teresa of Calcutta and a Secret Revealed.

Norris, Kathleen. Acedia and Me: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer's Life.

Philokalia: The Eastern Spiritual Texts.

Pokrovsky, Gleb. The Way of the Pilgrim: The Jesus Prayer.

Ramey Jr., Robert H., and Johnson, Ben C. *Living The Christian Life: A Guide to Reformed Spirituality*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1992.

Rice, Howard. *Reformed Spirituality: An Introduction for Believers*. 1991.

Rice, Howard., Williamson Jr., Lamar. Ed. *A Book of Reformed Prayers*. Louisville; Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

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.

Thornton, Sharon. Broken Yet Beloved: A Pastoral Theology of the Cross.

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:

Athanasiadis, Harris. *George Grant and the Theology of the Cross: The Christian Foundations of His Thought*.
Barth, Karl. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Translated by Edwyn C. Hoskyns.
London: Oxford University Press, 1933.
----- *The Word of God and the Word of Man*. New York: Harper and Brothers Publishers, 1957.
----- *The Humanity of God*. Atlanta: John Knox Press, 1982.
----- *Learning Jesus Christ through the Heidelberg Catechism*.
Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1536 edition*. Edited by Ford Lewis Battles. London: Collins, 1975.
----- *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 2 volumes.
----- *Commentaries: The Book of Psalms*. Vols. 1 and 2.
----- *The Epistles of Paul the Apostle to the Romans and to the Thessalonians*.
Bauckham, Richard. *God Crucified: Monotheism and Christology in the New Testament*.
Cousar, Charles. *The Theology of the Cross and the Death of Jesus in the Pauline Letters*.
De Gruchy, John. *Led into Mystery: Faith Seeking Answers in Life and Death*.
Edwards, Jonathan. *Basic Writings*.
Frost, R.N. *Richard Sibbes: God's Spreading Goodness*.
Fretheim, Terrance. *The Suffering of God: An Old Testament Perspective*.
----- *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.

Haller, William. *The Rise of Puritanism*. New York: Harper, 1938.
Heim, S. Mark. *Saved from Sacrifice: A Theology of the Cross*.
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*.
MacPherson, D. Neal. *Church at the Crossroads: Being the Church after
Christendom*.
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*.
Migliore, Daniel. *The Power of God and the Gods of Power*.
O'Connor, Kathleen. *Jeremiah: Pain and Promise*.
Rutherford, Samuel. *Letters of Samuel Rutherford*. Schleiermacher, Friedrich. *On
Religion: Speeches to its Cultured Despisers*.
----- *The Christian Faith*.
Schweitzer, Albert. *My Life and Thought: An Autobiography*.
----- *The Quest of the Historical Jesus*.
----- *Paul and His Interpreters - A Critical History*.
Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*.
Weil, Simone. *Waiting for God*.
----- *Gravity and Grace*.
Sanders, John. *The God who Risks: A Theology of Divine Providence*.
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*.

