

MPS 170 Introduction to Spiritual Theology

Winter 2018 - 2019

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

January 7, 2019 – April 1, 2019.

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Mondays at 8:30 AM – 11:20 AM, St. Francis Room.

Instructors Name: Rev. Fr. Stephen Hero
Office: Rector's Office, St. Joseph Seminary
Office Hours: Daily, 9 AM – 4 PM.
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Course Description

Definitions and understandings of spirituality. Examination of its biblical foundations. Development of spirituality as a discipline of theology. Theological and anthropological dimensions of Christian faith and spirituality. Introduction to the classical spiritual writers, schools of spirituality and contemporary forms of spirituality. The theology and practice of prayer, spiritual discernment and asceticism.

Course Objectives

- a) **Intellectual Formation** – To develop a good foundation in the area of spiritual theology, its methodology and tools; to understand the relationship between spiritual theology and dogmatic theology; to appreciate the Saints as a source of theology.
- b) **Cultural Context** – In the light of a multi-cultural and diverse religious landscape in Canada, to see what is unique or 'new' about the Christian experience and spirituality; to be equipped for intelligent and respectful dialogue with others about these matters.
- c) **Personal and Spiritual Formation** – To promote personal spiritual development through the course readings, discussions, and assignments particularly through the contact with classic spiritual texts on prayer and Christian life.
- d) **Capacity for Ministerial Leadership** – To draw practical norms for life and ministry today from the wisdom of the Christian tradition.

Course Assignments and Evaluation

a) A 3 page paper synthesizing Balthasar's introduction to *Two Sisters in the Spirit* and the following article by Victoria S. Harrison. (The two short texts will be provided by the instructor.) This is due by January 14th:

VICTORIA S. HARRISON, "Personal Identity and Integration: Von Balthasar's Phenomenology of Human Holiness" in *Heythrop Journal* 11 (1999) 424 – 437.

b) Read one of St. Elizabeth of the Trinity's texts ("Heaven in Faith"[85-113] or "The Last Retreat"[131-162]) together with her prayer "O My God, Trinity Whom I Adore [183-4]." In light of Balthasar's and Harrison's reflections – summarized in assignment one – write a three page paper that explores how St. Elizabeth a source of theology). This is due by January 28th:

c) Prepare a 10 page research paper on the spirituality of a Saint or saintly Christian writer from the list given by the professor or another approved by him. In your paper, explore how this holy person is a source of theology. What is his/her mission for the Church? What significant contribution did he/she make to our understanding of the Christian life? This is not a biography. You can assume that I know the life story of the Saint. Include biographical details as they are needed or relate to your study of the person's spirituality. For your paper, you must refer in depth to at least two written works of that writer and at least 5 secondary studies about his/her spiritual teaching. If the author is an originator of a 'school of spirituality' or is part of such a school, your paper must also discuss their spirituality in relation to that so-called 'school.' You may bring in and relate this person's insights to the other readings we have done for class, material from the lectures, and class discussions. This paper will be due on March 18.

d) Final oral exam of 15 minutes on April 8th.

e) The final grade will be calculated:

Synthesis of Articles	20%
St. Elizabeth Source of Theology	25%
Research Paper	30%
Final Oral Exam	25%

Textbooks

LOUIS BOUYER, Cong. Orat., *Introduction to the Spiritual Life*, Christian Classics, Notre-Dame, IN 2013.

St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, *I Have Found: Complete Works, Vol. 1, General Introduction and Major Spiritual Writings*, Trans. By Sr. Aletheia Kane, OCD, Institute of Carmelite Studies, Washington, DC 2014.

Recommended Reading

CONGREGATION FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, "Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Some Aspects of Christian Meditation," Vatican Press, Vatican City 1989.

FRANCIS, *Apostolic Exhortation Gaudete et Exsultate Of the Holy Father Francis on the Call to Holiness in Today's World*, 19 March 2018.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html

FUNK, MARY MARGARET, OSB, *Tools Matter: Beginning the Spiritual Journey*, Liturgical Press, Collegeville 2013.

PIUS XII, *Encyclical Letter Mellifluus Doctor On the Occasion of the Eighth Centenary of the Death of St. Bernard of Clairvaux*, 24 May 1953.

http://w2.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_24051953_doctor-mellifluus.html

VON BALTHASAR, HANS URS, *Two Sisters in the Spirit: Therese of Lisieux and Elisabeth of the Trinity*, Ignatius Press, San Francisco 1992.

Course Requirements

All students are required to attend all classes, to do the assigned readings, and to participate in class discussions. Class lectures, discussion and the final exam will help to assess the students' progress regarding the various course objectives stated above.

Course Schedule

January

- 07 The Science of the Saints
- 14 Saints as a Source of Spiritual Theology
- 21 A Life Formed by the Word
- 28 The Relationship of Prayer

February

- 04 The Sacramental Relationship
- 11 The Life-Giving Cross
Reading Week
- 25 Loving the Cross (Error: Jansenism)

March

- 04 Lay Christian Life
- 11 Monastic Life
- 18 Religious and Apostolic Life
- 25 The Three Ages of Life: A Call to Christian Maturity

April

- 01 Mystical Life (Error: Quietism)
- 08 Final Oral Examination

General Academic Information

Late Submission Policy.

Late papers will not be accepted by the professor unless consent has been granted *prior* to the due date for serious reasons.

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Student Handbook in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Student Handbook in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Student Handbook.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies C.Th., Dip.Th., B.Th.			Graduate Studies M.T.S., M.Div., M.Th., G.C.C.S.A., M.R.E.		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point	Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0	Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0		A	4.0
	A-	3.7		A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3	Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0		B	3.0
	B-	2.7		B-	2.7

Adequate	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7	Adequate	C+ C C-	2.3 2.0 1.7
Marginal	D+ D	1.3 1.0			
Fail	F	0.0	Fail	D+ D F	1.3 1.0 0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).
2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Ahters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Student Handbook for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Services, contact Doreen Bloos at 780-392-2450 ext. 2212; Email doreen.bloos@newman.edu .

Bibliography

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Sicari, Antonio Maria, *La vie spirituelle du chrétien*, AMATECA Manuel de Théologie catholique, Éditions St-Paul, Luxembourg 1999.

Tanquerey, Adolphe, *The Spiritual Life: A Treatise on Ascetical and Mystical Theology*, Newman Press, Westminster, 1930.

II. Studies

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____. *Compendium of Spirituality 2*, Gen. Ed. Emeterio de Cea, Alba House, New York 1992.

Bernard, Charles André, “Mystère trinitaire et transformation en Dieu” in *Gregorianum* 80 (1999) 441 – 467.

Carr, Anne, *Transforming Grace: Christian Tradition and Women’s Experience*, Continuum, New York 1996.

Dimech, Pauline, *The Authority of the Saints: Drawing on the Theology of Hans Urs Von Balthasar*, Pickwick Publications, Eugene, OR 2017.

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Graef, Hilda, *The Story of Mysticism*, Peter Davies, London 1965.

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____, *Théologie de l'Amour de Jésus. Écrits sur la théologie des saints*, Éditions du Carmel, Venasque 1996.

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