

Darleen Pryds

SPHS 8130 Summer, 2010 On-Line

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Franciscan Spirituality

This course offers an introduction to themes in Franciscan spirituality that are especially geared for personal reflection and for pastoral application. In this course we will read pertinent primary texts in translation from the 13th and 14th century, as well as engaging secondary works that describe and analyze the broader history and spirituality from which the Franciscan tradition grew. Finally the course uses film clips, photos of art, and possibly music to add to our understanding of the depth and breadth of this profound spiritual tradition.

Required Books:

Darleen Pryds, *Women of the Streets: Early Franciscan Women and their Mendicant Vocation* (Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure, New York) isbn: 13-9781-576 59-206-9

William Short, OFM, *Poverty and Joy. The Franciscan Tradition*. (Orbis, isbn: 1-57075-295-8)

Suggested Books:

Maurice Carmody, *The Franciscan Story*. (Athena, 2008 isbn: 9-781847-481412)

H. Grundmann, *Religious Movements in the Middle Ages*. Trans. Steven Rowan. (University of Notre Dame Press, 1995) isbn 0-268-01653-4

Serge and Elizabeth Hughes, ed. And trans. *Jacopone da Todi. The Lauds*. Classics of western Spirituality (Paulist Press, isbn: 0-8091-2375-4)

Paul Lachance, ed. and trans. *Angela of Foligno. Complete Works*. Classics in Western Spirituality (Paulist Press, isbn 0-8091-3366-0)

Schedule of Classes

June 4: The Myths, Legends, and History of Francis

Read: Short, *Poverty and Joy*, 17-45

Recommended: Carmody, *Franciscan Story*, 21-66.

Watch Film Clips from *Brother Sun, Sister Moon* (1972, Zefferelli, dir.) and *Francesco* (1989 Cavani, dir.) [posted on Moodle]

On-Line Forum: History and Spirituality: How does historical understanding affect spiritual concepts?

June 11: Francis and his Predecessors: The *Vita Apostolica* and Lay Efforts at Reform

Read: Selections from Grundmann, *Religious Movements* [posted on moodle]

Recommended: Carmody, *Franciscan Story*, pp. 67-107

On-Line Forum: How does the institutionalization of a spiritual movement affect the spirituality?

June 18: Francis, Finding his Voice: Adolescent Rebellion and the Vocation to Preach

Read: Selections from Richard Trexler on Francis's Rebellion [posted on Moodle]

On-Line Forum: Adolescent rebellion is sometimes dismissed as a "phase." We will discuss the authentic voice of adolescent spirituality this week.

June 25: Francis: Creation Spirituality

Read: Short, *Poverty and Joy*, pp. 111-126

On-Line Forum: Francis' creation spirituality is so popular that it has been reduced to the material image of Francis as a birdbath. This week we will explore the deeper significance of his embrace of all of creation.

July 2: Francis and Poverty:

Read: Short, *Poverty and Joy*, pp.58-71

Recommended: Carmody, *Franciscan Story*, pp. 223-269

On-Line Forum: Poverty and simplicity is at the heart of Franciscan spirituality. This week we will discuss the links to other faith traditions, especially within Buddhism, and will explore the implications of such a radical engagement with simplicity beyond material poverty.

July 9: Clare and the Cloistering of her Mendicant Vocation

Read: Pryds, *Women of the Streets*, Preface and Chapter One (pp. ix-20)

Selections from Joan Mueller, *The Privilege of Poverty* [On Moodle]

Recommended: Carmody, *Franciscan Story*, 115-164.

On-Line Forum: We will discuss the cloistering of women's Franciscan vocations.

July 16: Leadership as Spiritual Expression: A Study in Contrast between Clare and Francis

Read: Selections from the Letters of Clare to Agnes; the administrative documents of Francis [posted on Moodle]

Recommended: Carmody selections noted above.

On-Line Forum: This week we will discuss the possibility of administrative acumen and the spiritual quest.

July 23: Franciscan Art and Literature: Jacapone da Todi, Giotto

Read: Selections from Jacapone da Todi. *The Lauds* [posted on Moodle]

Short, *Poverty and Joy*, pp. 49-52.

Study and comment on images from frescoes attributed to Giotto from the Upper and Lower Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi.

On-Line Forum: This week we will explore and share images of Francis, Clare, and others within the tradition in order to understand how these visual (and aural) images affect our assumptions about the spiritual tradition.

July 30: Women of the Streets: Rose of Viterbo

Read: Pryds, *Women of the Streets*, Chapter Two, (pp. 21-32)

---, "Proclaiming Sanctity through Proscribed Acts: The Case of Rose of Viterbo," in *Women Preachers and Prophets through two Millennia of Christianity*, eds. B. Kienzle and P. Walker [posted on Moodle]

Recommended: Carmody, *Franciscan Story*, pp. 165-222.

On-Line Forum: This week we will again explore adolescent spirituality, and link it to lay preaching. What are the pros and cons of lay preaching and how can it be cultivated in our world today?

August 6: Women of the Streets: Angela of Foligno

Read: Pryds, *Women of the Streets*, Chapter Three (pp.33-48)

Short, *Poverty and Joy*, pp. 45-49

Recommended: Carmody, (selections noted for July 30)

Selected Passages from Angela's Writings, from *Angela of Foligno. Complete Works. Classics of Western Spirituality* [posted on Moodle]

On-Line Forum: this week we will discuss the social and cultural constraints that limit personal spiritual growth and expression. Angela offers an example of a Franciscan lay woman who overcame contemporary constraints to obtain significant religious leadership among her peers.

August: 13 Women of the Streets: Margaret of Cortona

Read: Pryds, *Women of the Streets*, Chapter Four (pp. 49-62)

Recommended: Carmody, selections for July 30.

On-Line Forum: This week we will discuss the tensions between lay and clergy in their mutual efforts to minister with their contemporaries.

August 20: Women of the Streets: Sancia of Naples

Read: Pryds, *Women of the Streets*, Chapter Five and Conclusion (pp. 63-79)

On-Line Forum: This week's discuss could be called "Bloom Where You're Planted" as we will take up how Sancia actively found ways to accommodate her personal vocation given the expectations of her station in life, but continued to carve out ways to express her profoundly felt religious and spiritual call.

August 27: The Franciscan Charism, vowed and lay. Concluding Remarks

On Lin Forum: This week we will explore how to adopt and adapt historical models of Francisca spirituality today in various communities and faith perspectives.