

**GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION**  
**DOCTORAL SEMINAR IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

SP 5090 - Fall 2006  
HEDCO ROOM (2<sup>nd</sup> floor of LeConte Building)  
Mondays 2:10-5:00 p.m.

**Instructors:** Arthur Holder, Graduate Theological Union  
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (call ahead for appointment)

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Office Hours: By appointment only

**Course Description:**

This seminar will introduce students to the research field of Christian Spirituality, and to the structure and content of the Doctoral Program in Christian Spirituality at the GTU. It will also initiate students into the techniques of research, some methodologies appropriate to this interdisciplinary field and promote skills in organizing and writing. The seminar will be specifically geared to the needs and interests of doctoral students in Christian Spirituality but doctoral students from other fields who are interested in the field are welcome.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to discuss the implications of several current understandings of Christian Spirituality as an academic field.
2. Students will be able to use the protocol of the Christian Spirituality area to plan their doctoral studies.
3. Students will be able to identify some significant resources (faculty, library, program) at the GTU and UCB that are pertinent to doctoral students in Christian Spirituality.
4. Students will be able to locate books, periodical literature, and research databases in the GTU Library so that they can employ them in doctoral level research.
5. Students will be able to employ the "Turabian" style for text, footnotes, and bibliography in scholarly writing.
6. Students will be able to produce a doctoral level research paper that meets the standards of the GTU "research readiness" requirement.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Reading of all assigned material preparatory to each meeting.
2. Attendance at all meetings of the seminar; active and informed participation in the discussion.
3. Reflection and/or synthesis papers as assigned.
4. Research Paper. The topic, bibliography, and outline of the paper will be submitted (Oct. 30) and approved prior to the composition of the paper. A copy of a draft of the complete paper will be due on Nov. 20. A 20 minute version of the paper will be presented orally in class on Dec. 4. The paper, in final form, is due on Dec. 11. It is to be 20-25 pages in length, typed without errors, on regulation white paper, in standard font (12 point). It is to be free of errors in spelling, grammar, sentence structure, diction, etc. and in accord with the GTU policy on inclusive language. Notes and bibliography are to be according to the style sheet in Turabian's *Manual* (6th ed.). This paper, which will be one of those submitted for "research readiness" qualification, should be comparable to the one for the special comprehensive in Christian spirituality, demonstrating focus, interdisciplinarity, engagement with theology, etc. It should aim toward being of publishable quality.

**Required Texts:**

- Berling, Judith. *Understanding Other Religious Worlds*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.
- Holder, Arthur, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.
- Huff, Anne Sigismund. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1999.
- Lescher, Bruce H. and Elizabeth Liebert, *Exploring Christian Spirituality: Essays in Honor of Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM*. New York and Mahway, NJ: Paulist Press, 2006.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

**Additional Texts Available on Reserve in GTU Library:**

- Dreyer, Elizabeth A. and Mark S. Burrows, eds. *Minding the Spirit: The Study of Christian Spirituality*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.
- Orsi, Robert. *Between Heaven and Earth: The Religious Worlds People Make and the Scholars Who Study Them*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.

**Evaluation:**

- 40% Research Paper  
20% Class Conference Paper Presentation  
20% Other Short Writing Assignments  
20% Class Participation

**DATE**

**TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT**

**PART ONE: GETTING STARTED**

**Sept. 11      What is Spirituality?**

Guest participant: Sandra Schneiders

- Read: 1. *Minding the Spirit* (on reserve), essays by Schneiders, McGinn, Principe, & Schneiders (## 1-4)  
2. *Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*, Introduction and essay by Schneiders (# 1)  
3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Sheldrake (# 1)

Write: A one page descriptive definition of spirituality as you understand it from your reading. Be prepared to discuss the definition.

**Sept. 18      Research Tools in the Field of Spirituality**

Library presentation: Kris Veldheer (research librarian) in the Teaching Lab at the library, 2:10 p.m.

- Read: 1. GTU Christian Spirituality Area Protocol  
2. Review for Research Readiness Form  
3. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, Parts I-II, (pp. 1-63)

Prepare: A select bibliography (using Turabian, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.) on some topic in the field of Christian Spirituality. Include at least one item of each of the following: magazine, scholarly journal, essay or chapter in edited volume, book, encyclopedia or dictionary, foreign language reference, web resource.

## PART TWO: WORKING IN THE FIELD

### Sept. 25 Biblical Spirituality

Guest participant: John Endres

- Read:
1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Green and Thurston (## 2-3)
  2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Donahue (# 4)
  3. “Biblical Foundations for Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

### Oct. 2 History of Spirituality

- Read:
1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Sheldrake (# 26) and Stewart, McGuckin, Wiethaus, Raitt, Butler Bass/Stewart-Sicking, and Young (## 4-9)
  2. “History” and “Bibliography for History Exam” in Area Protocol

### Oct. 9 The Human Subject of Spirituality

Guest participant: Lewis Rambo

- Read:
1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Endean, Lonsdale, Loades, and Spohn (## 13-16)
  2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Schneiders (# 10)
  3. Robert Orsi, *Between Heaven and Earth*, ch. 5
  4. *GTU Guidelines and Procedures for Review of Research Involving Human Subjects*

Write: A 1-2 page analytical paper on how differing conceptions of the human subject affect one’s approach to spirituality.

## MEET WITH ONE OF THE INSTRUCTORS TO DISCUSS PAPER TOPIC

### Oct. 16 The Divine “Subject” of Spirituality

- Read:
1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by McIntosh, Thompson-Uberuaga, and Hughes (## 10-12)
  2. *Minding the Spirit* (on reserve), essay by Ashley (# 11)

Write: A 1-2 page reflection on how the ideas you encountered in the readings affect your conception of God and the implications of this for an approach to spirituality.

October 23

READING WEEK

**Oct. 30**            **Interdisciplinarity and the Non-Theological Disciplines in the Study of Spirituality**

Guest participants: Student panel arranged by Luke Ssemukula.

- Read:
1. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essays by Berling, Dahill, Russell, Burton-Christie (## 2, 5-7)
  2. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Coleman, Ruffing, Russell, García-Rivera, Hollywood, and White (## 17-22)
  3. “Special Comprehensive Exam: A Field Related to Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
  4. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, Part III, (pp. 67-128)

**PAPER TOPIC, ARGUMENT, OUTLINE, BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

**Nov. 6**            **The Dialogue with the Spiritualities of Other Religious Traditions**

Guest participant: Judith Berling

- Read:
1. Berling, *Understanding Other Religious Worlds* (especially chs. 1-6)
  2. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Barnes and Kwok (## 23, 30)
  3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essays by Boys and García-Rivera (## 8-9)
  4. “Special Comprehensive Exam: A Spirituality Not Within the Christian Tradition” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

Prepare: A 2-3 page report on resources (faculty, courses, library collections) available at the GTU and UCB for the study of a spiritual tradition other than Christianity. Bring to class a copy for each person in the seminar.

**Nov. 13**            **Self-implication, Practice, and the Practicum**

- Read:
1. *Minding the Spirit* (on reserve), essay by Frohlich (# 5)
  2. *Blackwell Companion*, essay by Liebert (# 28)
  3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Lane (# 3)
  4. “Practicum” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

**Nov. 20**            **No Class – AAR/SBL and SCS Meetings in Washington, D.C.**

**DRAFT PAPERS DUE TO INSTRUCTORS**

**Nov. 27**            **The Special Comprehensive in Christian Spirituality**

- Read:
1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Hay, Perrin, Burton-Christie, and Battle (## 24-5, 27, 29)
  2. “Special Comprehensive Exam: The Field of Christian Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
  3. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, Appendices, (pp. 129-176, esp. 156-160)

**Dec. 4**            **Class Conference**

Prepare: To present a 20 minute version of your paper, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

**Dec. 11**            **Course Evaluation**

Prepare: To complete course evaluation form, and to celebrate the semester's learning and companionship!

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE**  
**(PLEASE SUBMIT A HARD COPY TO EACH INSTRUCTOR,**  
**ALONG WITH COMPLETED RESEARCH READINESS FORMS)**