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Office Hours: By appointment only

GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION
DOCTORAL SEMINAR IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
SP 5090 - Fall 2008
FST Classroom
Mondays 2:10-5:00 p.m.

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 their doctoral studies in Christian Spirituality.
4. Students will be able to locate books, periodical literature, and research databases in the GTU Library and the UC library system 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.
7. Students will be able to offer and receive constructive critique that is suitable for and that is an expected part of academic discourse.
8. Students will be able to present a 20 minute oral version of their research project that is similar in tone, format, and content to a professional academic conference presentation.

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 and peer reviews.
3. Reflection and/or synthesis papers as assigned.
4. Research Paper.
 - The research question, proposed analytical method of analysis, and preliminary bibliography will be submitted on **Oct. 6** and approved prior to the composition of the paper.
 - The thesis, argument, outline, and developed bibliography is due in class on **Oct. 27**.
 - A draft of the complete paper will be due on **Nov. 17**. A 20 minute version of the paper will be presented orally in class on **Dec. 1**.
 - The paper, in final form, is due on **Dec. 8**. 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.
5. Academic book review of a book related to research project (3-5 pages) due in class **Nov. 3**.

Required Readings:

- Dreyer, Elizabeth A. and Mark S. Burrows, eds. *Minding the Spirit: The Study of Christian Spirituality*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 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.
- Sheldrake, P. *Spirituality and History: Questions of Interpretation and Method*. New York, Orbis, 1998.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996.

Additional Required Texts Available on Reserve in GTU Library:

- 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.
- 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% Written Book Review
 20% Class Participation including Oral Peer Review/Critique

TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PART ONE : Academe and the Academic Study of Spirituality

Sept. 8 What is “Spirituality” and What is the Academic Study of Spirituality?

- Read: 1. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, (Part I, pp. 1-25)
 2. *Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*, Introduction and essay by Schneiders (Ch. 1) (On reserve)
 3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Sheldrake (Ch. 1, pp. 15-34)
- Write: Write two definitions one before you do any reading, and one after you read the assigned materials: 1.) First write your personal definition of “spirituality”; 2.) After you read the assigned materials write a descriptive definition of the academic study of spirituality.
 Due in hard copy in class.
- Discussion Prep:
- Be prepared to discuss your definitions; how do they differ and why? What other definitions of the term “spirituality” circulate and in what circles of discourse?
 - Be able to recite the thesis and argument of each chapter assigned from for today. You may find it helpful to use the template for note taking on my webpage (<http://courseweb.fst.edu/Pryds/Study/notes.pdf>)

Sept. 15 Researching in the Field of Spirituality

- Read: 1. GTU Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
 2. Review Research Readiness Form
 3. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, Parts II, (pp. 27-63)
 4. *Minding the Spirit*, essays by Schneiders, McGinn, Principe, & Schneiders (Chapters 1-4)

Write: A select bibliography (using Turabian, 6th ed.) in the field of Christian Spirituality related to your research project for the semester. Include at least one item of each of the following: an article from a magazine; an article from a scholarly journal; an essay or chapter in edited volume; a book; an encyclopedia or dictionary article (signed article); a foreign language reference; a web resource; a book review from a scholarly journal. Due in hardcopy in class.

Discussion Prep:

Be able to recite the thesis and argument of each article you read from *Minding the Spirit*; be able to discuss at least one or two “conversants” you have identified for your research project.

PART TWO: Working in the Field

During these weeks consider which sub disciplines of Spirituality and methods of analysis you may be using in your research now and in the future. Consider the steps you need to take during your coursework to be sufficiently trained in these disciplines and methods. Begin identifying your “Exemplars” (i.e. exemplary examples of Scholarship you will use as models; see Huff, ch. 5)

Sept. 22 Biblical Spirituality

2:10-3:30 Guest participant: John Endres

Read: 1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Green and Thurston (Ch. 2-3) (On Reserve)
 2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Donahue (Ch. 4)
 3. “Biblical Foundations for Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
 4. John Endres, “Praising God the Creator,” *Ex Auditu* 18 (2002), 93-115; “Prayers in Jubilees,” in *Heavenly Tablets*, pp. 32-47; “Prayer of Noah,” in *Prayer from Alexander to Constantine*, pp.53-58.

Discussion Prep:

How does Biblical Studies differ from the study of Biblical Spirituality?
 Be able to recite the thesis and argument of each article you read.

Sept. 29 History of Spirituality

Read: 1. Sheldrake, *Spirituality and History*, esp. Ch. 1-4; 7-8
 2. “History” and “Bibliography for History Exam” in Area Protocol

Recommended Reading: *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Sheldrake (Ch. 26) and Stewart, McGuckin, Wiethaus, Raitt, Butler Bass/Stewart-Sicking, and Young (Ch. 4-9) (On Reserve)

Discussion Prep:

What are the goals of the discipline of History and how is the discipline used in Spirituality? Be able to discuss at least 5 different approaches or methods to “doing History.” Are there inherent biases to certain historical approaches in the Area’s Protocol?

Oct. 6 The Human Subject of Spirituality

Read: 1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Endean, Lonsdale, Loades, and Spohn (Ch. 13-16) (On Reserve)

2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Schneiders (Ch. 10)
 3. *Minding the Spirit*, essay by McGuire, (Ch. 9)
 4. Robert Orsi, *Between Heaven and Earth*, Ch. 5
 5. *GTU Guidelines and Procedures for Review of Research Involving Human Subjects*

Write: Present your analytical research question for your research project; your proposed method of research and analysis to answer this question; and a preliminary bibliography. Due in hard copy in class. (Approximately 2 pages)

Discussion Prep:

Be able to recite the thesis and argument of each chapter assigned. How might you incorporate human subjects in your own research (now or in the future)?

During the weeks of Oct. 6 and Oct. 13 each student must meet with the professor to discuss your research project.

Oct. 13 The Divine “Subject” of Spirituality

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

Prepare: Find and read two different book reviews of the same book (preferably a book that is on your bibliography). Be prepared to give a short oral presentation (7-10 minutes maximum) of the two reviews to the class, paying special attention to the components and format of a review; the nature of academic criticism; the relationship of the author of the book and the author of the review.

Discussion Prep:

Be able to recite the thesis and argument of each chapter assigned. Prepare to discuss the genre of an academic book review.

October 20 No Class Meeting READING WEEK

Oct. 27 Interdisciplinarity and the Non-Theological Disciplines in the Study of Spirituality

2:10-3:30 Panel Discussion

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

Discussion Prep:

Be able to share ideas about departments, disciplines, and specific scholars you have identified at the University of California or other regional university that will support your future studies and research. Be able to explain why you identified the people and disciplines you have. What languages and/or specialized skills will you need to master to incorporate these methods and disciplines? How will you acquire expertise in these languages and/or skills?

Write: Delineate your thesis and argument for your research paper. Provide an outline of the paper with a developed bibliography. Due in hard copy in class. (Approximately 2 pages plus bibliography)

Nov. 3 Preparing for an Academic Career

Prepare: Meet with a faculty member at GTU or Cal: ask about their career path; how they chose an academic career, how they chose their discipline of study and their particular focus; and acquire from them a copy of their c.v. (ask if you may share with the class). **This will take advanced planning to meet with a faculty member and to get their c.v. Plan ahead. Each student should meet with a different faculty member.**

Discussion Prep:

Discuss your meeting with a faculty member and bring in enough copies of their c.v. to distribute and discuss with the class.

Write: **Academic Book Review of a book related to your research project (3-5 pages in length) due in hard copy in class.** Follow the exact format of book reviews in *Spiritus* or a related academic journal.

Nov. 10 The Dialogue with the Spiritualities of Other Religious Traditions

Read: 1. Berling, *Understanding Other Religious Worlds* (especially chs. 1-6) (On Reserve)
2. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Barnes and Kwok (Ch. 23, 30) (On Reserve)
3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essays by Boys and García-Rivera (ch. 8-9)

4. “Special Comprehensive Exam: A Spirituality Not Within the Christian Tradition” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

Nov. 17 Self-implication, Practice, and the Practicum

Read: 1. *Minding the Spirit*, essay by Frohlich (Ch. 5), Matter (Ch. 20); and either Liebert Ch. 6 or Liebert in *Blackwell Companion*, (Ch. 28) (On Reserve)
 2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Lane (Ch. 3)
 3. “Practicum” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

Write: **Draft of Research Paper due in 2 hard copies in class.** One copy will be evaluated by the professor. One copy will be evaluated by a peer.

Nov. 24 The Special Comprehensive in Christian Spirituality

Read: 1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Hay, Perrin, Burton-Christie, and Battle (Ch. 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)

Discussion Prep:

Be prepared to discuss one-on-one your peer evaluation of a student paper. Give concrete feedback on the effective aspects of the paper and on the parts that need revision.

General discussion on the purpose and nature of Special Comprehensive Exams.

Dec. 1 Class Conference

Prepare: To present a 20 minute version of your paper, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Be prepared to actively critique your peers. Please present yourself in a way that is appropriate for an academic conference, including dress. Note: Time limit will be rigorously enforced.

Dec. 8 Concluding Conversation

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

Writing: **Final Research paper due in class in hard copy with completed Research Readiness Form.**