

PROVISIONAL SYLLABUS
HSSP 5000 Doctoral Seminar in the History of Christian Spirituality

Mondays, 2:10-5:00 FST Classroom

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Available by Appointment

<http://courseweb.fst.edu/Pryds>

This seminar is primarily intended for advanced GTU students interested in studying the history of Christian Spirituality at the doctoral level. For doctoral students in the Area of Christian Spirituality, the course has a special purpose to help them prepare for their General Comprehensive Exam in History. Therefore, the readings for this course are taken from the bibliography for that exam, which can be found on my webpage. Because the bibliography is extensive, there will be no effort to cover the entire bibliography. Instead, this course will cover some of the materials for that exam (primarily texts chosen by the students) and will emphasize training students in methods of analyzing primary texts and critiquing secondary literature.

All students in the class, regardless of their degree program, will be expected to participate in doctoral level discussions of texts and write a doctoral level research paper.

This course is based on the assumption that all scholarly research is a conversation (Huff, p. 1). Therefore, we will treat primary texts within the contexts of secondary scholarship. Some attention will be given to professionalization skills, so that students learn professional skills to take with them in their academic careers. To that end, you will see that each class section has both a content topic (Ancient, Medieval, etc.) and a research skill topic (choosing a topic, compiling a literature review, etc.).

In the first four weeks of the term, the professor will provide some background lectures on the history of Christianity and on Historical methodologies. She will give at least one formal presentation on a primary text, providing the historical context and the historiographical context (i.e. how it's been dealt with by historians) as a model for future student presentations. During these early weeks, the students and the professor will also make presentations of secondary texts from *Christian Spirituality* vols. 1-3 to hone skills in analytical reading and oral presentations.

After this introductory period, each class will be turned over to students to make presentations based on primary and supporting secondary texts. This format requires some ambiguity at the beginning of the course, since students will have at least two weeks to decide which texts to present. For this reason, the syllabus is presently incomplete. Once the selection of texts is made, the syllabus will be revised and reposted on the class webpage.

The learning objectives of this course are:

1. to be able to offer sophisticated analysis a broad range of primary texts and secondary literature
3. within a safe environment to learn how to give and receive scholarly critique
4. to learn how to prepare a literature review of secondary literature surrounding a primary text
5. to learn how to contextualize historically primary texts
6. to learn how to write and revise a scholarly article that will potentially be publishable in a scholarly journal
7. to learn how to write and to present a scholarly paper suitable for a scholarly conference

To meet these goals, students will be evaluated in the following manner:

20% Class Discussion: Active participation in class discussion is expected, and will be evaluated on the relevance to the topic at hand. The goal is for participation to include: thoughtful questions related to the texts being discussed; sensitive and perceptive critique of student presentations; and a willingness to share ideas related to the topic.

35% Oral Presentations of primary document(s): The course centers on the presentation of primary texts within a context of scholarly discussions related to the texts. Each student will give one presentation of 30-45 minutes on a primary text or a group of shorter, closely related texts from the Bibliography. Once the student has selected the text, s/he must provide the professor with a photocopy of the text for the other students.

Copies of these texts are due two weeks before your presentation, to allow for time for the duplication of the texts and for all the class participants to read and digest the texts.

The student may select a document that will then lead into their Research Project (see below) so that class assignments build on one another.

The Oral Presentation is a professional quality presentation including:

- 1.) an explanation of the text (author, date, genre of text, editions available, historical context;
- 2.) a discussion of how scholars have used this text to examine one particular theme (do not try to examine the entire scholarly literature on the text. Instead choose one particular theme that especially interests you and examine the scholarly literature related to this theme.)
- 3.) Identification of areas left untapped by scholars and ready for further research on the given text(s).

25% Research Project: 20-25 page research paper based on primary and secondary texts. Use of documents in original languages in a critical edition is preferred, but a

scholarly translation is also acceptable. Relevant bibliography including non-English secondary literature is expected.

All Research papers must have a clear thesis and argument to support the thesis.

The Term Paper is Due on May 8. No Extensions given without prior approval from the instructor.

20% Oral Presentation of Research Project: 30 minute oral presentation of research project. Professional quality presentation with visual aids (video/dvd clips, Power Point, handouts, etc.) if appropriate. A careful use of time is expected.

Required Books:

- Anne Sigismund Huff, Writing for Scholarly Publication (Thousand Oaks: Sage, 1999)
- B. McGinn, ed., Christian Spirituality. Origins to Twelfth Century (New York: Crossroad, 1985)
- J. Raitt, ed., Christian Spirituality. High Middle Ages and Reformation (New York: Crossroad, 1987)
- L. Dupré and D. Saliers, ed., Christian Spirituality. Post-Reformation and Modern (New York: Crossroad, 1989)

Photocopies of primary texts and secondary literature selected by the seminar participants through the course of the semester (see professor for details).

Schedule of Classes

Jan. 30: Introduction to the History of Christian Spirituality

Introduction to History as an Academic Discipline

How to study and research in History

Determining Content of the Course

Creating a Writing Community in this Class

Required Reading:

In-Class Reading: Selections from Angela of Foligno, *Memorial; Instructions*

Huff, Writing for Scholarly Publication, ch. 1-2

--What is the foundation of your scholarly interests? Do Exercise #1 (p. 6 using the questions on p. 9 to help you)

Recommended Reading:

Alister E. McGrath, Christian Spirituality [This is a textbook on the general subject of Christian Spirituality. This is recommended especially for any student who feels a need to get a basic overview of the History of Christian Spirituality before we delve into the texts.]

Feb. 6: Early Christian Spirituality: Virginity and Sexual Abstinence

Be prepared to discuss Peter Brown's article using the Template for Note Taking found on my webpage.

Film Clip: *Last Temptation of Christ* [sexually explicit scene]

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, v. 1, ch. 17

Huff, Ch. 3 “Choosing a Topic;” Ch. 4, “Identifying Conversants;”

February 13: Christian Monasticism

Students should be able to evaluate analytically each of the required articles for today’s reading.

How to Narrow a Topic into Manageable Parts

Due: Topic Area of Research Paper due in Class (be ready to discuss the general area of your research topic, including possible primary and secondary sources.)

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 1, ch. 5, 9, 16

Huff, Ch. 5 “Using Exemplars”

3:30-5: Library Presentation on Research Databases and Research Skills

Feb. 20: GTU Holiday: Presidents’ Day. No Class**Feb. 27: Christian Monasticism and Christian Practice, cont.**

Due in Class: Be ready to discuss your analytical research question which will fuel your research. Be able to discuss how you will go about doing research to answer this question (i.e. what sources you will use, what methodology you will use, etc.)

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 1, ch. 14, 15, 18, 19, 8

Huff, Ch. 6 “Title and Abstract”

March 6: Urban Spiritual Movements: Mendicancy and ScholasticismRequired Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 2, ch. 2, 4

Primary docts. TBA:

Huff, Ch. 7 “Making an Outline”

March 13: Urban Spirituality: Women, Mystics, and Lay pietyRequired Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 2 ch. 3, 5, 7, 8, 16-17

Primary docts. TBA

March 20: Renaissance Humanism and the Early ReformersRequired Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 2, ch. 11-15, 18-20

Primary Docts. TBA

No Class Meeting on March 27: Reading Week

April 3: Reformations and Counter-Reformations

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 3, ch. 1-4
Huff, Ch. 7 “Introduction and Conclusion”

April 10: Modern Movements in Spirituality: Jansenism, Pietism, Anglicanism

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 3, ch. 5, 8, 9
Huff, Ch. 9 “Presentation:

Primary docts. TBA

Film Clip: *Elizabeth*

April 17: No Class: Easter Monday

Required Reading:

Huff, Ch. 10 “First Full Draft”

April 24: The Puritans, Baptists, Quakers, Methodists

Draft Due Today in Class: You are invited to submit a draft of your final paper to the professor today for a thorough reading before it is submitted for a grade. If turned in today, you will receive an annotated and critique copy back by May 1 for your final revisions which are due on May 8.

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 3, ch. 10, 11
Huff, Ch. 11 “Revision”
Primary Docts. TBA

May 1: Afro-American Spiritualities, Pentecostalism

Required Reading:

Christian Spirituality, vol. 3, ch. 12, 17
Huff, Ch. 11, “Submission, Revision...”
Primary Docts. TBA

May 8: All Research Papers are Due Today. No Exceptions.

Required Reading:

Huff, Ch. 11 “Submission...and Publication”

May 15: (if needed)