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

Tuesdays, 2:10-5:00 FST Classroom

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 for that exam 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 methods of analyzing texts and secondary literature which will help prepare students to continue studying on their own.

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 weeks of the term, the professor will make formal presentations of primary and secondary texts. 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 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.

To effectively communicate all future reading assignments and to further class discussion outside of the formal class meeting, we will use “Blackboard,” the on-line class support program. **All students are required to sign on to Blackboard; to enroll in this class on Blackboard; and to log-on regularly during the semester to look for**

postings of reading assignments on reserve at the library and to participate in on-line discussions. If this presents a problems for anyone, please notify the professor.
(There is no password for this class; just enroll.)

The Goals of this Course are:

1. to prepare doctoral students in the Area of Christian Spirituality at GTU for their comprehensive exams in History
2. to read and analyze a broad range of primary texts and secondary literature chosen primarily by students based on their interests in preparing for their exams
3. to offer a safe environment in which doctoral students can learn to give and receive scholarly critique
4. to teach doctoral students how to prepare a literature review of secondary literature surrounding a primary text
5. to teach doctoral students to contextualize historically primary texts
6. to prepare students to write a scholarly article
7. to prepare students to present a scholarly paper at a conference

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

15% 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 Presentation 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.

The student should also select up to 50 pages (probably 2 articles or book chapters) of secondary literature that refers to the primary text chose. The themes of the secondary literature chosen will be highlighted in the student presentation. The student needs to make provide a photocopy of this secondary literature to the professor 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.

Note: The photocopies of these texts will be sold to class participants at no profit through FST via the professor.

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 11. No Extensions given without prior approval from the instructor. [Approval is given only in extreme circumstances. Please consult the instructor at the beginning of the term if this policy presents a problem for you.]

25% 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

Philip Sheldrake, Spirituality and History: Questions of Interpretation and Method (2nd edition)

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

Also Recommended for Purchase (note: these have not been ordered at the GTU Bookstore. They are readily available on-line.):

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)

N.B. Additional Required Readings will be placed on Reserve at the GTU Library or copies will be made available for purchase through FST. Since the readings are determined by the students, there is some ambiguity at the beginning of the course regarding this issue. We will discuss and decide as a class the best way to distribute texts selected by students for class-wide reading. If you have any questions about this status of any week's reading, do not hesitate to contact the professor.

PART ONE: DISCIPLINARY STRUCTURES

N.B. Logistics for Readings after Feb. 24 will be discussed in class.

February 3: Introduction to the History of Christian Spirituality

Introduction of Class Participants; Introduction to class format;

How to study and research

Determining Content and Standards of Student Evaluation:

What do you want to learn? And, How do you want to be evaluated?

Creating a Writing Community in this Class

Required Reading:

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.]

February 10: The Academic Discipline of the History of Spirituality

What is the Academic Study of Spirituality? The purpose of this class is to distinguish one's personal appeal to a spiritual theme, text, image, etc. from an academic analysis of any given spiritual theme, text, image, etc.

Be prepared to discuss Sheldrake. What is his thesis and argument? (Use the template for note-taking on my webpage to help you focus your thoughts for discussion:

<http://courseweb.fst.edu/pryds/Study/notes.pdf>)

Required Reading:

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

Sheldrake, Introduction, ch. 1-3,

This class session will include a required workshop at the GTU library on research skills at 3:30-5:00.

PART TWO: ANCIENT/EARLY MEDIEVAL CHRISTIANITY

February 17: Models of Asceticism: Fasting, Self-Mortification, Abstinence, Solitude. One Model: Virginit

Narrowing a Topic into Manageable Parts

Required Reading:

- Huff, Ch. 5 “Using Exemplars”
- Sheldrake, Ch. 7 “Interpreting Spiritual Texts”
- Ps-Athanasius, On Virginit (In Reader I)
- Peter Brown, “The Notion of Virginit in the Early Church,” in Christian Spirituality vol. I, pp. 427-443 (In Reader I)
- Jacques Fontaine, “The Practice of Christian Life: The Birth of the Laity,” in Christian Spirituality, vol. I, 453-91 (In Reader I)

Recommended Reading:

- Susanna Elm, Virgins of God. The Making of Asceticism in Late Antiquity
- Dyan Elliott, Spiritual Marriage. Sexual Abstinence in Medieval Wedlock [for the medieval application of this]

Feb. 24 Christian Monasticism

Assessing Which Editions of a Primary Text to Use
Monastic Rules

Required Reading:

- The Rule of St. Benedict: <http://www.kansasmonks.org/RuleOfStBenedict.html>
- K. Ware and J. Leclercq, “Ways of Prayer and Contemplation: Eastern and Western,” in Christian Spirituality, vol. I, 395-426 (In Reader I)
- Huff, Ch. 7 “Making an Outline”

What are our other texts/ topics? You Decide.

March 2: Sanctity

Presenter:

Required Reading:

- Huff, Ch. 6 “Title and Abstract”
- P. Brown, “The Holy and the Grave,” in The Cult of the Saints (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1981), pp. 1-22. (In Reader I)

March 9:

March 16:

No Class Meeting on March 23: Reading Week

March 30:**Required Reading:**

Huff, Ch. 7 “Introduction and Conclusion”

April 6**Required Reading:**

Huff, Ch. 9 “Presentation:

April 13**Required Reading:**

Huff, Ch. 10 “First Full Draft”

April 20**Required Reading:**

Huff, Ch. 11 “Revision”

April 27**Required Reading:**

Huff, Ch. 11, “Submission, Revision....”

PART SIX: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**May 4****May 11**

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

May 18 (if needed)