

**Fall Term 2024**

**History of Religion 260**

**Anglican Saints:**

**Living the Virtuous Life**

**Huron’s Licentiate in Theology Program**

**Huron University College Land Acknowledgment**

Huron is situated on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron, and Lenape peoples, whose sharing and stewardship of the land has been governed by the Dish with One Spoon treaty since time immemorial. We are guided by this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship, and respect. Huron University College acknowledges its past role in perpetuating colonial and exclusionary relations. Because religious and ecclesial institutions were instrumental in such relations, we consider it our particular responsibility as a Faculty of Theology to work towards justice and reconciliation.

**Course Dates:** October 31st – December 19th, 2024

**Time:** Thursdays from 7 – 9 P.M. (CT); 8 – 10 P.M. (ET)

**Delivery:** Hosted via Zoom

**Instructor:** The Rev. Daniel F. Graves, BA (York), MDiv (Trinity College), ThM (Trinity College). Theologian-in-Residence, Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora, ON

**Contact:** fr.daniel.graves@gmail.com **Phone:** (647) 378-5795

**Course Description**

Christianity has typically understood holiness of life as a life lived according to the Christian Virtues. The Christian virtues join the four cardinal virtues of classical antiquity (Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance) with the three theological virtues (Faith, Hope, and Love). In this eight-week course, we will be asking the question, “What does the virtuous life look like?” by examining the lives of several saints in the Anglican calendar from several periods in the history of the English Church – Bede’s *Life of St. Cuthbert*, Eadmer’s *Life of St. Anselm*,Turgot’s *Life of St. Margaret of Scotland,* William Roper’s *Life of Sir Thomas More,* Foxe’s Life and *Death of Thomas Cranmer*, Buckeridge’s funeral oration on Lancelot Andrewes, Izaak Walton’s *Life of John Donne*, Mackay’s biographical sketch of Henry Budd, and Lytton Strachey’s chapter on Florence Nightingale from Eminent Victorians.

**Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes**

The objectives of this are three-fold:

1. To introduce students to the fundamentals of Christian moral thought through an understanding of the ‘Christian Virtues’ (the four cardinal virtues of classical antiquity and the three theological virtues articulated in early and medieval Christian thought)
2. To introduce students to several key figures of the Anglican tradition through historical hagiographical material, and to analyse how the life-writers extol the ‘Christian Virtues’ in the ‘lives’. We will pay close attention to the literary device of ‘moral exemplarity’. In addition, we will ask historical-critical questions of the texts to discern if we can separate the hagiography from the history.
3. To learn how to preach the Anglican Sanctorale (saints’ calendar).

**Required Texts**

Selections and very short excerpts/selections from early philosophical texts and from various saints’ lives will be available on the Google Classroom.

**Course Outline/Plan**

**Topics and Readings**

Week 1:

* The Christian Virtues – what are they and how were they established?
* What is ‘saint’? Saints in the Anglican tradition. The Anglican sanctorale.
* The principle of ‘moral exemplarity’ – the Plutarchian tradition; funeral oratory

Readings: short selections on the virtues from classical sources (Plato, Aristotle, Cicero, Seneca) and medieval sources (Aquinas). A short passage from Jessica Martin on ‘moral exemplarity’ from Jessica Martin, *Walton’s Lives*.

Week 2: Medieval English lives

Readings: Bede’s *Life of St. Cuthbert*, Eadmer’s *Life of St. Anselm*, Turgot’s *Life of St. Margaret of Scotland*, Ælfric’s *Life of St. Edmund*, Bede’s *Life and Death of Hilda, Abbess of Whitby.*

Week 3: Tudor lives and martyrologies

Readings: William Roper’s *Life of Sir Thomas More*, Foxe’s *Life and Death of Thomas Cranmer* **+ other selections from Foxe**

Week 4: Seventeenth Century Lives, exemplarity and the birth of Biography

Readings: Buckeridge’s funeral oration on Lancelot Andrewes; Izaak Walton’s *Lives of Donne*, *Herbert, & Hooker*

Week 5: Nineteenth Century Lives and the transformation of Biography

Readings: (amongst others) Mackay’s biographical sketch of Henry Budd; *Florence Nightengale* in Lytton Strachey’s *Eminent Victorians*;

Week 6: Cinematic Lives of Saints.

* Students will select a saint of their choice who has been the subject of a cinematic treatment and be prepared to discuss the interpretation in class.

Week 7: Sermons prepared by Students

Week 8: Sermons prepared by Students; consolidation

**Method of Evaluation and Criteria for Grading** (only for students choosing to be evaluated for full course credit)

*One Document Study 20%*

500-750 words – An analysis of one of the saints’ lives studied in this course

1. What are the key virtues in the life of the subject being communicated by the author? i.e, what is ‘exemplary’ about the life, and what are we intended to emulate?
2. How does the author use the ‘data’ of the life of the subject to articulate the virtues being highlighted?
3. Are there any criticisms of the subject? Any embarrassing stories that need to be explained away?
4. Can we separate the hagiography from the historical facts?

*Sermon 20%*

Imagine you have been asked to preach a 7-10 minute sermon for a mid-week service on a saints’ day for one of the saints studied in this course. Write a 7-10 sermon on one of the saints to be presented during the last two classes (also submit the text to the instructor)

1. Consider how the biblical lectionary text of the day illuminates the life of the Saint.
2. How does this saint point us toward Christ?
3. How might the life of this saint encourage our own journey into holiness?

*Write a Saint’s Life 40 %*

1200-1500 words – Select any saint from the Anglican Calendar and write a saints’ life of your own. Do some external research to learn about the life of the saint, using both ancient sources and modern scholarship on the saint you are writing about.

1. Don’t simply re-write someone else’s saints’ life, but take the data from the life and from other historical research as your starting point
2. Consider which virtues are worth highlighting in the saints’ life and use the data you have discovered about the saint’s life to illustrate those virtues as you tell the story of their life.
3. Consider how you honestly reflect on difficult (or embarrassing) aspect of the saint’s life? Do you exclude them altogether? Do you simply relate them as a way of showing that all saints are still sinners? Do you turn the story around to your advantage as storyteller?

*Participation 20 %*

All students are expected to participate in weekly lectures and class conversations, and to engage in conversation on the Google classroom. This mark reflects the level of student engagement in each of the eight weeks.

**Due Dates**

Document Study – Due Week 4

Sermon – Due Week 7

Saint’s Life – Due two weeks after Week 8/conclusion of Course

**Huron Grade Descriptors**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  A+   |  90-100    |  One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level |
|  A |  80-89   |  Superior work which is clearly above average |
|  B |  70-79 |  Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory |
|  C |  60-69 |  Competent work, meeting requirements |
|  D   |  50-59 |  Fair work, minimally acceptable |
|  F |  below 50 |  Fail |

**Student Code of Conduct**

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work, and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf.

**Statement on the Recording of Class Activities**

Students may not record or distribute any class activity, including conversations during office hours, without written permission from the instructor, except as necessary as part of approved accommodations for students with disabilities. Any approved recordings may only be used for the student’s own private use.

Online courses within the Licentiate in Theology Program are recorded for student engagement purposes. These recording are only used by the registered students of the class and made available through a restricted video hosting site to respect both privacy and intellectual property. Should a student be uncomfortable with this practice, they can contact the course instructor or the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca

**Support Services**

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should contact the LTh Program Director, Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca.



THIS COURSE HAS BEEN APPROVED BY HURON’S FACULTY OF THEOLOGY COMMITTEE

FOR THE SPRING TERM OF THE LTH PROGRAM, 2024.