

Course Outline: 2018-19



RS2112F/2228F

Spirituality, Old and New.

Location: V208

Day(s): Tuesday

Time: 11:30-2:20

Instructor(s): Darren Marks

Contact info: dmarks@uwo.ca or HUC X279 (office HUC theology 319B)

TA: TBD

Office hours: Wed 1-3:20 or by appointment.

Prerequisites Required for this Course:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course, and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Syllabus:

This course will examine central themes and issues in the study of spirituality in *academic* scholarship. It will pay particular attention to methodological issues and definitions in the first half of the course before turning to explore aspects of spirituality in contemporary culture in the latter half. Our particular foci will be:

Aims and Objectives:

- a. Provide a methodological 'grammar' (and understanding of basic issues) for the student to engage in the study of spirituality as it exists in the academy.
- b. Provide an understanding, historically and philosophically, for the shift in spirituality and religion as a whole in modernity and post-modernity in the West and consider consequences of that shift for religion and spirituality.
- c. Provide a critical understanding of new forms of spirituality in contemporary culture, especially in terms of secularization.
- d. Demonstrate via peer and instructor interrogations the cultural use of spirituality in our political, social and economic discourse.

Course Materials:

Each week lists the required readings found in the Huron University College library reserve system or further in the UWO system. Readings listed as *for further reading* are not required but provide a bibliography for students wishing to go deeper in an area and for essay purposes. In class presentations and required readings therein are in bold type.

Assignments & Method of Evaluation of Assignments:

- a. A series of peer shared in-class interrogations on questions of relevance, 10 in total. (30%). This is a short 150 word reflection on the question assigned the week earlier. The written work will be handed in to instructor.
- b. An essay (2500 words) on topic mutually agreed by instructor and student (25%). *This is due last class.*
- c. Final take home examination due 10 days after the beginning of the examination period as per university policy (35%).
- d. Reading grade, self assessed (10%).

Additional Statements:

1. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices during Tests and Exams

It is not appropriate to use technology (such as, but not limited, to laptops, PDAs, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and is distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

2. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following web site: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."

3. Plagiarism-detecting Software/Computer Marking

A) All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

4. Support Services:

- UWO Registrar's Office: <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

- Huron's Faculty of Theology, Office of the Dean:
http://www.huronuc.on.ca/faculty_of_theology/info_for_current_students
- Faculty of Theology office: srice@uwo.ca, 519-438-7224, ext. 289
- Huron's Writing Skills Centre: http://www.huronuc.on.ca/student_life/writing_services
- UWO's Mental Health website: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to this website for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
- UWO Student Support and Development Services:
http://communications.uwo.ca/current_students/student_services.htm

5. Accommodation for absences:

a) Non-medical absences:

For non-medical grounds, the student must submit a request to the instructor in writing prior to the due date of an assignment, and immediately in the case of a test. (Or as soon as possible following a non-medical emergency) Students are protected under the Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy and so written requests need only include a broad and general explanation of the situation, and the approximate length of time required. At the discretion of the instructor, the granting of extensions and re-scheduled tests may require the student to submit supporting documentation to the Academic Counsel Office or Dean of Theology who will then make the determination as to whether accommodation is warranted.

- b) **Medical absences:** See also the Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness —Undergraduate Students, at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

For work representing 10% or more of the overall grade for the course, a student must present documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet his/her academic responsibilities. Documentation must be submitted as soon as possible to your Faculty Dean's office (Huron Arts & Social Science students should take their documentation to the Academic Counsellor, through the Academic Services Centre at Huron), together with a Request for Relief specifying the nature of the accommodation requested. The request and documentation will be assessed and appropriate accommodation will be determined by the Dean's office in consultation with the instructor(s.) Academic accommodation will be granted ONLY where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete his/her academic responsibilities.

The UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) and Request for Relief are available at the Student Centre website (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>), Huron University College Academic Counselling website (www.huronuc.on.ca) or from the Dean's Office or Academic Services Centre at Huron.

A. METHODS AND ISSUES IN SPIRITUALITY

Week One: Contemporary Spirituality: Stupid or Postmodern?

David Webster, *Disspirited: How Contemporary Spirituality Makes Us Stupid, Selfish and Unhappy*, Zero Books, 2012, pp 1-51.

Week Two: Introduction to Spirituality and Religion in Modernity

Webster, *Disspirited* pp 52-76.

Steve Bruce, 'The Demise of Christianity in Britain', in *Predicting Religion: Christian, Secular and Alternative Futures*, Grace Davie. Paul Heelas (eds), (Ashgate: 2008), pp 53-64.

Peter Berger, 'Religious America, Secular Europe', in *Religious America, Secular Europe*, Peter Berger, Grace Davie (eds), (Ashgate: 2009), 1-23.

R1

Week Three: Conceptual Approaches to Spirituality I

Denise Carmody and John Carmody, *Mysticism: Holiness East and West*, pp 3-27.

Paul J Griffiths (2006), 'On the Future of the Study of Religion in the Academy', *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 74(1): 66-78

Graham Ward (2006), 'The Future of Religion', *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 74(1): 178-93.

R2

For further reading:

Bernard McGinn, *Foundations of Mysticism (Volume One of The Presence of God)*, pp 291-343.

M deCerteau, *The Mystic Fable*

Richard Woods (ed), *Understanding Mysticism* (this volume is a series of short collected influential original essays that are very good and too long to cite)

Week Four: Conceptual Approaches to Spirituality II

Danièle Hervieu-Léger, 'Individualism Religious and Modern: Continuities and Discontinuities' in *Rethinking Church, State and Modernity: Canada between Europe and America* (eds) Lyon and van Die. pp 52-69.

R3

Week Five: The Function of Spirituality I: The Religious Imagination

N D O'Donoghue, 'Mystical Imagination,' in *Religious Imagination*, J P Mackey (ed) pp186-205.

R4

For further reading:

William Johnston, *The Mirror Mind*

G Parrinder, *Mysticism in the World's Religions*

Week Six: The Function of Spirituality II: Myth and Symbol

Paul Tillich, 'The Religious Imagination,' in *Myth and Symbol*, F W Dillistone (ed) pp 15-34.

Mircea Eliade, 'Myths, Dreams and Mysteries,' in *Myth and Symbol*, F W Dillistone (ed) pp 35-50.

Veikoo Anttonen. 'Does the Eliadean Notion of the Sacred Make a Difference?' *Bulletin of the CSSR*, 2007, 36(3): 66-70.

R5

For further reading:

Roy Rappaport, *Ritual and Religion in the Making of Humanity*

F Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*

Week Seven: The Function of Spirituality III: Typologies

Robert S Ellwood Jr, *Mysticism and Religion*, pp 67-81

Abd al-hakeem Carney, 'Twilight of the Idols? Pluralism and the mystical praxis in Islam', *International Journal of the Philosophy of Religion* (2008), 64: 1-20

R6

For further reading:

Stephen Katz (ed), *Mysticism and Philosophical Analysis*

Stephen Katz (ed), *Mysticism and Religious Traditions*

F C Happold, *Mysticism*

Week Eight: Postmodernity and Spirituality

Don Cupitt, *Mysticism after Modernity*, pp 1-43

Yves Lambert, 'Religion in Modernity as a New Axial Age: Secularization or New Religious Forms?', *Sociology of Religion* 1999, 60:3, p 303-33.

R7

For further reading:

Carl Raschke, 'New Age Spirituality,' in *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, Peter van Ness (ed) pp 203-221

Mark C Taylor, *Erring: A Postmodern a/theology*

F Nietzsche, *Thus Spake Zarathustra*

B. MODERN FORMS OF SPIRITUALITY

Week Nine: Historical Forms as Precursors to Secular Spirituality

Andrew S Grenville, 'For by Him All Things Were Created . . . Visible and Invisible" Sketching the Contours of Public and Private Religion in N America', in *Rethinking Church, State and Modernity*, Lyon and van Die (eds) pp 211-28.

Kate Hunt, 'Understanding the Spirituality of People who do not go to Church;', in *Predicting Religion*, pp 159-170.

Mark I Wallace, 'The European Enlightenment,' in *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, Peter van Ness (ed) pp 75-101

Nancy Frankenberry, 'The American Experience,' in *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, Peter van Ness (ed) pp 102-26.

R8

Week Ten: Spirituality, Sexuality and Liberation

Joan H Timmerman, *Sexuality and Spiritual Growth*, chapters 1-4

Hugh Urban, 'Magia Sexualis: Sex, Society and Liberation in Modern Western Esotericism' in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 72 (2004) 695-733.

Andrew Yip, 'The Self as the Basis of Religious Faith: Spirituality of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Christians', in *Predicting Religion*, pp 135-47.

Week Eleven: Spirituality, Feminism and Ecology

Mary Farrell Bednarowski, *The Religious Imagination of American Women*, pp 44-85.
 Laura Levitt, 'Feminist Spirituality', in *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, Peter van Ness (ed) pp 305-35.
 Charlotte Dormandy, *The Flowering of the Romantic Spirit*, in *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, Peter van Ness (ed) pp 157-84.

R9

Week Twelve: Spirituality and Vocation/Identity/Ethics

James R Horne, *Mysticism and Vocation*, pp 1-55
 Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and The Spirit of Capitalism*, chapter IV 'The Religious Foundations of Worldly Asceticism'
 Olivier Tschannen, 'The Evolutionary Principle in the Study of Religion and Society', in *Predicting Religion*, pp 40-50.

Week Thirteen: Spirituality and Culture

Darren C Marks, *In the Face of Anomie: Batman from Golden age Autoark to Modern Combinard*, Americana (2009):
http://www.americanpopularculture.com/journal/articles/fall_2009/marks.htm
 Helen Cameron, 'The Decline of Church in England as a Local Membership Organization: Predicting the Nature of Civil Society', in *Predicting Religion*, pp 109-20.
 Happel, Thomas and Van Ness, 'Culture' in Peter van Ness (ed), *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, pp 465-543.

R10

For further reading:

T Adorno and M Horkheimer, 'The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception,' in *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*