

**Spirituality, Old and New
RS2112 and 2228**

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2:45 pm or by appointment.

Lecture: Wed. 15:30-17:30

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.

Readings

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.

This is designed to avoid the high-cost of course packs and students can at their leisure photocopy for a lesser charge the assigned readings.

Course Outline

A. METHODS AND ISSUES IN SPIRITUALITY

Week One (Sept 14): Introduction to Spirituality and Religion in Modernity

Paul Sands et al, 'Spirituality and Religiousness amongst American Jews', *International Journal for the Psychology of Religion* 18:238-255 (2005).

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.

Week Two (Sept 21): 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.

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 Three (Sept 28): 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.

Week Four (Oct 5): The Function of Spirituality I: The Religious Imagination

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

For further reading:

William Johnston, *The Mirror Mind*

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

Week Five (Oct 12): 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.

For further reading:

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

F Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy*

Week Six (Oct 19): 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

For further reading:

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

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

F C Happold, *Mysticism*

Week Seven (Oct 26): 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.

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 Eight (Nov 2): 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.

Week Nine (Nov 9): 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 Ten (Nov 16): 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.

Week Eleven (Nov 23): Spirituality and Vocation

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 Twelve (Nov 30): Spirituality and Culture

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.

For further reading:

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

Week Thirteen (Dec 7): The Politics of Spirituality

William Katerberg, 'Consumers and Citizens' Religion, Identity and Politics in Canada and the United States', in *Rethinking Church, State and Modernity*, (eds) Lyon and van Die, pp 283-303.

SJD Green, 'Alexis de Tocqueville, Pantheism and the Religion of Democracy' in *Predicting Religion* pp 183-91

Don Cupitt, *Mysticism after Modernity*, pp 57-146

For further reading:

E Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, pp 418-33.

Carl Schmitt, *Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty*

Sam Reimer, 'A Generic Evangelicalism? Comparing Evangelical Subcultures in Canada and the United States', in *Rethinking Church, State and Modernity*, (eds) Lyon and van Die, pp 228-248.

General Remarks

Assessment:

- a. An in-class presentation (20%).
- b. An essay (2500 words) on topic mutually agreed by instructor and student (45%). *This is due last class.*
- c. Final take home examination due examination date set by the University (35%).

Please note: For seminar purposes, after the first hour the class will be broken into two sections with one remaining in the lecture hall and the other moving for the second hour and seminar presentations. Professor Marks and TA will randomly move to assessment of each group.

Attendance: Success is related to regular attendance and preparation for each course. There will be no formal record of attendance.

Email: As per University policy, all email correspondence must come through your UWO account, and is to be treated as if a registered letter and thus as official correspondence. Please use appropriate discretion.

Seminars: Seminars are your chance to synthesize material and to present it to your peers. Each seminar is not to exceed 30 minutes in length, of which, 10 minutes should be left for peer questions.

Late Submissions: Unless notified and accompanied by formal letters (doctor, dean etc) all papers that are late will lose academic standing. The scale is as follows: 1-3 days late (10%), 3-5 days (25%). No paper five or more days late will be accepted.

Essays: All essays are assumed to be academic papers. As such, they are expected to have a bibliography, follow a standard (MLA, APA, Chicago or CBE styles) citation and a standard academic format (refer to *Western Calendar*).

In cases of a medical absence: please consult the UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at the following link: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf>. A downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is available under the heading, "Medical Documentation," at the following link: <<https://studentservices.uwo.ca>>. Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

In cases of non-medical absence: 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 Counsellor who will then make the determination as to whether accommodation is warranted.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is an academic offence and will be treated as such. Students who are in doubt as to the nature of this offence should consult their instructor, Department Chair or the Dean, as well as the *Huron University College Statement on Plagiarism*, available at the reference desk in the HUC Library and at <http://www.huronuc.on.ca/plagiarism.pdf>. In addition, students may seek guidance from a variety of current style manuals available at the Reference Desk in the HUC Library. Information about these resources can be found at: www.huronuc.on.ca/library&computing/styleguides.htm

Plagiarism detection software may be used in this course. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form.

The act of plagiarism is a very serious academic offence and faculty are obligated to report incidents to the various Deans for academic sanction. It is defined as "the act of appropriating the literary composition of another, or parts or passages of his writings, or the ideas or language of the same, and passing them off as the product of one's own mind".

Special or Supplemental Circumstances: Students who have special needs or extraordinary situations are asked to refer to the *Western Calendar*.

Some Useful Urls on Essay Writing:

<http://webster.commnet.edu/writing/writing.htm>

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/faqsfirst.html>

<http://web.uvic.ca/wguide/Pages/MasterToc.html#Essays>

Student Conduct: Membership in the community of Huron University College and the University of Western Ontario 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. The academic and social privileges granted to each student are conditional upon the fulfillment of these responsibilities.

In the classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. You may avoid any unnecessary disruption of the class by arriving in sufficient time to be seated and ready for the start of the class, by remaining silent while the professor is speaking or another student has the floor, and by taking care of personal needs prior to the start of class. If you are late, or know that you will have to leave class early, be courteous: sit in an aisle seat and enter and leave quietly.

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. 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>).

3. Accommodation for absences:

If documentation is required for either medical or non-medical academic accommodation, then such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to your Faculty's Dean's office (or academic counselor), and not to the instructor. It will be the Dean's office that will determine if accommodation is warranted.