

RGP 3206-6206HF (2011)
CLASSICS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
(cross-listed to the Theology Department)

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or by appointment

Monday 2pm-4pm
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Course Description

The course develops major themes in the history of Christian spirituality, through a close reading of selections by Plato, Origen, Pseudo-Dionysius, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Gregory of Palamas, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and Dorothy Day. Special attention will be given to ideas of “love”.

Course Objectives

Students will be able to describe, analyse, and critically evaluate various general themes in Christian spirituality, as these developed historically. See the course syllabus on pp. 5-6 for the list of readings within which these themes will be more specifically contextualized (the writings of Plato, Origen, Pseudo-Dionysius, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, St. Gregory of Palamas, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and Dorothy Day). For specific details, see the various class handouts, “Possible Discussion Questions”, distributed for many of the readings. Also, students will be able to articulate and appreciate the significance of these themes in Christian Spirituality for various pastoral settings.

Required Books (available at the Crux Bookshop, Wycliffe College)

Plato, *The Symposium*, Christopher Gill, tr., Penguin, 1999.
Julian of Norwich, *Revelation of Love*, John Skinner, tr. and ed., New York: Doubleday, Anchor Books, Image Books, 1996.
Gregory Palamas, *Gregory Palamas: The Triads*, John Meyendorff, ed., New York: Paulist Press, 1983.
Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness: The Autobiography of Dorothy Day*, San Francisco: Harper, 1997.

Also, for Advanced Degree Students only: Grace Jantzen, *Power, Gender and Christian Mysticism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995).

Some required reading selections will be available on Reserve in the Regis College Library. See the Reserve Reading list on p. 6 of the course outline. The required readings focus on the writings of specific individuals. For those who are interested in a survey background of Christian Spirituality, see Gordon Mursell, ed., *The Story of Christian Spirituality: Two Thousand years from east to West* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001). There is a copy on Reserve.