

RGP 3207-6207HS
SPIRITUALITY AND SUFFERING
Cross-listed to the Theology Department
January-April 2010

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#206—office hours: Wednesday 10-12
or by appointment

Thursday, 2pm-4pm
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Description This course is a critical exploration of religious responses to suffering, with special attention given to the Judeo-Christian traditions. Focal issues will include the relation of love and spiritual transformation to suffering, the role of religious models or exemplars of suffering, and religious experience and problems of theodicy.

Objectives Students will be able to articulate, analyse, and critically evaluate significant themes in Hebrew, Jewish, Christian, and Buddhist responses to suffering, as these develop in various general historical phases. This includes the comprehension and appreciation of concepts and practices associated with suffering and theodicy. For specific details, see the various class handouts, “Possible Discussion Questions”, distributed for many of the readings.

Required Books (available at Crux Bookstore, Wycliffe College)

- Stephen Mitchell, tr., *The Book of Job*, New York: HarperPerennial, 1992 (1987).
- Victor Frankl, *Man's Search for Meaning* (any edition).
- Charles Guignon, ed., *Dostoevsky: The Grand Inquisitor with related chapters from The Brothers Karamazov*, Indianapolis, Indiana: Hackett Publishing Co., 1993.
- Dorothee Soelle, *Suffering*, Everett R. Kalin, tr., Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984.
- Pope John Paul II, *On the Christian Meaning of Human Suffering*, Boston: St. Paul's Books and Media, 1984.

Required Book for Advanced Degree Students

Elie Wiesel, *Night*, Bantam Books, 1960 (or any other edition. I did not ask Crux to order copies of this book).

Reserve Reading Some required reading selections, listed on the course syllabus (p. 5), will be available on Reserve in the Regis College Library and some readings will be distributed as handouts in class. See the Reserve Reading list on p. 6 of this course outline.