

Syllabus
SP 5252 Spirituality of Irenaeus:

Thursday, 2:10-5:00

Mudd 205

Course Description: “The glory of God is the human person fully alive, and the life of the human person is the vision of God” (Irenaeus). Key themes in this seminar will be: 1) human beings in image and likeness of God; 2) freedom in process of human growth; 3) role of Spirit in spirituality; 4) meaning of “vision” as life-giving and transformative; 5) links between Eucharist and resurrection of flesh. Questions for consideration include: How biblical is this approach? How culturally rooted is it? How valuable is it today? Designed for Advanced MA, STL, PhD. Limit 10. Written permission of instructor required.

Requirements: Readings, discussion, research paper, presentations. Reading knowledge of French and/or Spanish desirable. Greek and/or Latin would be a plus!

Objectives: Through study of Irenaeus 1) to develop an understanding of the elements of patristic anthropology key to spirituality; 2) to develop an understanding of the relation of the Trinity to the process of human growth; and 3) to develop skills for interpretation.

Texts: Mary Ann Donovan, *One Right Reading? A Guide to Irenaeus*. Collegeville: Liturgical, 1997. Read in conjunction with the assignments below.
The critical edition of Irenaeus’ *Adversus haereses* is on reserve in the library.

Course Outline

February 2 Organizational business - method of work in course; definitions.
Reading for next class: D. Jeffrey Bingham, *Irenaeus’ Use of Matthew’s Gospel in Adversus haereses* (Louvain: Peeters, 1998), pp.1-12.

Part 1: Foundational.

February 9 Irenaeus: context: Bible. *Reading for next class:* Dennis Minns, *Irenaeus* (Washington, DC: Georgetown, 1994), pp.10-22. Michael Allen Williams, *Rethinking “Gnosticism”* (Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton, 1996), pp.7-28.

February 16 Irenaeus: context: Lyon; Valentinian Gnosticism.
Reading for next class: Yves M.-J. Congar, *Tradition and Traditions*, Michael Naseby, trans. Part I (London: Burns & Oates, 1963), pp. 1-84.

February 23 Irenaeus on Rule of Faith. *Reading for next class:* Eric Osborn, *Irenaeus of Lyons* (Cambridge, England: Cambridge University, 2001), pp.27-59.

March 2 Irenaeus on God and Creation: his methodology.
Recommended reading for next class: Antonio Orbe, *Antropología de San Ireneo* (Madrid: Pontifical University of Salamanca, 1969), pp.7-224.

Part 2: Anthropology

March 9 Human beings: Creation. *Recommended reading for next class:* Antonio Orbe, *Antropología de San Ireneo*, pp.225-479.

March 16 Human beings: Fall. *Recommended reading for next class:* Antonio Orbe, *Antropología de San Ireneo*, pp.480-532.

March 23 Human beings: Redemption.

March 27-31 Spring Recess

Part 3: Spirituality

April 6 Elements of spirituality: review definition. *Recommended reading for next class:* Ysabel de Andia, *Homo Vivens: Incorruptibilité et divinisation de l'homme selon IRÉNÉE* (Paris: Études augustiniennes, 1986), pp.13-32.

April 13 Divinisation *Recommended reading for next class:* Ysabel de Andia, pp.237-258.

April 20. Eucharist and resurrection.
Recommended reading for next class: Ysabel de Andia, pp.259-346.

April 27 “Vision”, life, and transformation.

May 4 Is there a mysticism here?

Conclusion.

May 11 Presentations. Summary and evaluation.