

**GRADUATE THEOLOGICAL UNION  
DOCTORAL SEMINAR IN CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY**

SP 5090 - Fall 2007  
DSPT 3 (corner Arch/Vine)  
Mondays 2:10-5:00 p.m.

**Instructors:** Barbara Green, O.P. Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology  
(510) 883-2076; [bgreen@dspt.edu](mailto:bgreen@dspt.edu)  
office hours Monday-Thursday by appointment; DSPTroom 208)

Francis X. McAloon, S.J. Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley  
(510) 549-5031; [fmcaloon@jstb.edu](mailto:fmcaloon@jstb.edu)  
office hours by appointment

**Course Description:**

This seminar will introduce students to the research field of Christian Spirituality, and to the structure and content of the Doctoral Program in Christian Spirituality at the GTU. It will also initiate students into the techniques of research, introduce some methodologies appropriate to this interdisciplinary field, and promote skills in organizing and writing. The seminar will be specifically geared to the needs and interests of doctoral students in Christian Spirituality but doctoral students from other fields who are interested in the field are welcome.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will be able to discuss the implications of several current understandings of Christian Spirituality as an academic field.
2. Students will be able to use the protocol of the Christian Spirituality area to plan their doctoral studies.
3. Students will be able to identify some significant resources (faculty, library, program) at the GTU and UCB that are pertinent to doctoral students in Christian Spirituality.
4. Students will be able to locate books, periodical literature, and research databases in the GTU Library so that they can employ them in doctoral level research.
5. Students will be able to employ the “Turabian” style for text, footnotes, and bibliography in scholarly writing.
6. Students will be able to produce a doctoral level research paper that meets the standards of the GTU “research readiness” requirement.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Reading of all assigned material preparatory to each meeting.
2. Attendance at all meetings of the seminar; active and informed participation in the discussion.
3. Reflection and/or synthesis papers as assigned.
4. Research Paper. The topic, bibliography, and outline of the paper will be submitted (Oct. 30) and approved prior to the composition of the paper. A copy of a draft of the complete paper will be due at the start of class on November 26, a copy to each instructor and member of the class. A 20 minute version of the paper will be presented orally in class on December 3. The paper, in final form, is due to the mailbox of each instructor by 4 pm on Dec. 14. It is to be 20-25 pages in length, typed without errors, on regulation white paper, in standard font (12 point). It is to be free of errors in spelling, grammar, sentence structure, diction, etc. and in accord with the GTU policy on inclusive language. Notes and bibliography are to be according to the style sheet in Turabian’s *Manual* (6th ed.). This paper, which will be one of those submitted for “research readiness” qualification, should be comparable to the one for the special comprehensive in Christian spirituality, demonstrating focus, interdisciplinarity, engagement with theology, etc. It should aim toward being of publishable quality.

**Required Texts:**

- Berling, Judith. *Understanding Other Religious Worlds*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.
- Holder, Arthur, ed. *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*. Oxford and Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.
- Huff, Anne Sigismund. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1999.
- Lescher, Bruce H. and Elizabeth Liebert, *Exploring Christian Spirituality: Essays in Honor of Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM*. New York and Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2006.
- Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

**Additional Texts Available on Reserve in GTU Library:**

- Dreyer, Elizabeth A. and Mark S. Burrows, eds. *Minding the Spirit: The Study of Christian Spirituality*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.

**Evaluation:**

- 40% Research Paper
- 20% Class Conference Paper Presentation
- 20% Other Short Writing Assignments (including draft of research paper)
- 20% Class Participation

**DATE****TOPIC AND ASSIGNMENT****PART ONE: GETTING STARTED****Sept. 10      What is Spirituality?**

Guest participant: Sandra Schneiders

- Read: 1. *Minding the Spirit* (on reserve), essays by Schneiders, McGinn, Principe, & Schneiders (## 1-4)
2. *Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality*, Introduction and essay by Schneiders (# 1)
3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Sheldrake (# 1)
4. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, preface and ch. 1 (as we work through this book, be prepared to respond verbally to the exercises that will have been designated)

Write: A one paragraph descriptive definition of spirituality as you understand it from your reading. Be prepared to discuss the definition.  
Write a 1-sentence summary of the descriptive definition each writer offers, as you understand it from careful reading (do Schneiders once); be prepared to discuss these.  
E-mail copies of these to all participants by noon on the previous Sunday.

**Sept. 17      Research Tools in the Field of Spirituality**

Library presentation: Kris Veldheer (research librarian) in the Teaching Lab at the library, 2:10 p.m.

- Read: 1. GTU Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
2. Review for Research Readiness Form
3. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, ch. 2

Prepare: A select bibliography (using Turabian, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.) on some topic in the field of Christian Spirituality. Include at least one item of each of the following: magazine, scholarly journal, essay or chapter in edited volume, book, encyclopedia or dictionary, foreign language reference, web resource. Include the Turabian citation number that assisted you; please e-mail your collection to all participants by Sunday noon. Print out and annotate the entries of others, indicating Turabian citation numbers.

## **PART TWO: WORKING IN THE FIELD**

### **Sept. 24            Biblical Spirituality**

- Read:    1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Green and Thurston (## 2-3)  
          2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Donahue (# 4)  
          3. “Biblical Foundations for Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol  
          4. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, ch. 3

### **Oct. 1                History of Spirituality**

Guest participant: Joseph Driskill

- Read:    1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Sheldrake (# 26) and Stewart, McGuckin, Wiethaus, Raitt, Butler Bass/Stewart-Sicking, and Young (## 4-9)  
          2. “History” and “Bibliography for History Exam” in Area Protocol  
          3. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, ch. 4

### **Oct. 8                The Human Subject of Spirituality**

Guest participant: Richard Gula

- Read:    1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Edean, Lonsdale, Loades, and Spohn (## 13-16)  
          2. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Schneiders (# 10)  
          3. Robert Orsi, *Between Heaven and Earth*, ch. 5  
          4. *GTU Guidelines and Procedures for Review of Research Involving Human Subjects*  
          5. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, ch. 5

Write:    A 1-2 page analytical paper on how differing conceptions of the human subject affect one’s approach to spirituality.

**MEET WITH ONE OF THE INSTRUCTORS TO DISCUSS PAPER TOPIC (anticipate that these appointments will need to have been set previously)**

### **Oct. 15              The Divine “Subject” of Spirituality**

Guest Participant: Michael Dodds

- Read:    1. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by McIntosh, Thompson-Uberuaga, and Hughes (## 10-12)  
          2. *Minding the Spirit* (on reserve), essay by Ashley (# 11)  
          3. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, chs. 6-7

Write: A 1-2 page reflection on how the ideas you encountered in the readings affect your conception of God and the implications of this for an approach to spirituality.

**October 22**

**READING WEEK**

**Oct. 29            Interdisciplinarity and the Non-Theological Disciplines in the Study of Spirituality**

Guest participant: Judith Berling

- Read:
1. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essays by Berling, Dahill, Russell, Burton-Christie (## 2, 5-7)
  2. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Coleman, Ruffing, Russell, García-Rivera, Hollywood, and White (## 17-22)
  3. “Special Comprehensive Exam: A Field Related to Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
  4. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, chs. 8-9
  5. Packet on Interdisciplinarity (handout)

*PAPER TOPIC, THESIS STATEMENT, ABSTRACT, ARGUMENT, OUTLINE, BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE at the beginning of each class, a copy to each instructor*

**Nov. 5            The Dialogue with the Spiritualities of Other Religious Traditions**

Guest participant: Lillian Dube

- Read:
1. Berling, *Understanding Other Religious Worlds* (especially chs. 1-6)
  2. *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Barnes and Kwok (## 23, 30)
  3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essays by Boys and García-Rivera (## 8-9)
  4. “Special Comprehensive Exam: A Spirituality Not Within the Christian Tradition” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol
  5. *Writing for Scholarly Publication*, chs. 10-11

Prepare: A 2-3 page report on resources (faculty, courses, library collections) available at the GTU and UCB for the study of a spiritual tradition other than Christianity. E-mail a copy to each seminar participant by Sunday noon..

**Nov. 12            Self-implication, Practice, and the Practicum**

Guest Participant: Elizabeth Liebert

- Read:
1. *Minding the Spirit* (on reserve), essay by Frohlich (# 5)
  2. *Blackwell Companion*, essay by Liebert (# 28)
  3. *Exploring Christian Spirituality*, essay by Lane (# 3)
  4. “Practicum” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

Prepare: After digesting the reading and the description of the practicum from the area protocol, ask one or two colleagues who have completed this requirement what they did for their practica, what they learned, how they were challenged. With that theoretical and experiential background, briefly write out the contours of a practicum (one you are doing or would like to do). Write two

learning goals for yourself: What would you be trying to learn as a scholar and practitioner of Christian Spirituality in the course of this practicum? (Do the above in 1 page.) Then ponder, for our discussion: 1) How does the proposed practicum engage “the human person fully in act” (Frohlich p, 71)? 2) How do you expect this practicum to address/challenge you, and in what way is it self-implicating?

**Nov. 19**            **No Class – AAR/SBL and SSCS Meetings in San Diego**

**Nov. 26**            **The Special Comprehensive in Christian Spirituality**

**PENULTIMATE DRAFT PAPERS DUE (HARD COPIES) TO INSTRUCTORS and to each member of the class at the start of class**

Guest participants: Beth Ford, Theresa Ladrigan-Whelpley, Alyssa Ninan Nickell

Read: *Blackwell Companion*, essays by Hay, Perrin, Burton-Christie, and Battle (## 24-5, 27, 29) **[or tba by students]**

2. “Special Comprehensive Exam: The Field of Christian Spirituality” in Christian Spirituality Area Protocol

**Dec. 3**            **Class Conference**

Prepare: To present a 20 minute version of your paper, followed by 10 minutes of discussion.

**Dec. 10**            **Course Evaluation**

Prepare: To complete course evaluation form, and to celebrate the semester’s learning and companionship!

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE to school mailbox of each instructor (PLEASE SUBMIT A HARD COPY TO EACH INSTRUCTOR, ALONG WITH COMPLETED RESEARCH READINESS FORMS)**