

SPRS 2512: SPIRITUALITY AND LIBERATION

Fall 2006 Syllabus

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The aim of this course is to explore a contemplative-prophetic spirituality which is grounded in contemporary history. We will consider calls to prayer and to personal/societal conversion within the context of the earth and of our world. Liberation and ministry will be considered, particularly in relation to the marginalized and oppressed. Opportunity for interaction with individuals and groups struggling with liberation issues is an option for members of this seminar, as a way of grounding our reflection in direct experience.

TEXTS

Brown, Robert McAfee, Spirituality and Liberation

Gateley, Edwina, I Hear a Seed Growing

Course Reader available at Copy Central (on Hearst off Euclid)

and **one** book in a particular area of your interest in relation to Spirituality and Liberation

REQUIREMENTS

- Active and informed participation in seminars
- Assigned readings
- Optional praxis activities (to be explained in class)
- Periodic reflection papers (approx. 3 pages, typed); focus for reflection papers will be provided in class
- 3-4 page paper on book of choice
(focus: What 2 or 3 insights are most meaningful, new, and/or challenging to you from your book of choice? How does this book relate to any of the themes of the course? What does it reinforce, add, etc? Be specific.)
- Final Reflection (due final class)

Grading

40% Informed class participation (If possible, please let me know beforehand if you need to miss a class)

40% Reflection papers

20% Paper on book of choice

A resource persons' fee (\$5 maximum) may be asked of each class participant.

READING LIST

(Some suggestions for your book of choice)

Bard, Marjorie, Shadow Women: Homeless Women's Survival Stories

Brown, Robert McAfee, Unexpected News: Reading the Bible with Third World Eyes

Gutierrez, Gustavo, We Drink From Our Own Wells

Harris, Maria, Proclaim Jubilee! A Spirituality for the Twenty-First Century

Ilibagiza, Immaculee, Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust

Ingram, Catherine, In the Footsteps of Gandhi: Conversations with Spiritual and Social Activists

Kavanaugh, John, Still Following Christ in a Consumer Society

Leddy, Mary Jo, Radical Gratitude

Loeb, Paul Rogat, ed. The Impossible will Take a Little While

Masters, Jarvis Jay, Finding Freedom: Writings from Death Row

Puleo, Mev, The Struggle is One: Voices and Visions of Liberation

Rakoczy, Susan, Great Mystics and Social Justice: Walking on the Two Feet of Love

Russell, Letty, et al, Inheriting Our Mother's Gardens

Taylor, Mark Lewis, The Executed God: The Way of the Cross in Lockdown America

Wink, Walter, The Powers That Be

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(subject to change)

September 7

CLASS ORIENTATION

September 14

CONTEMPLATION AND THE WORLD: THE CONTEXT

Reading

Declaration of Peace

Fitzgerald, Constance, "Impasse and Dark Night"

Harris, Maria, "Themes in a Century: Challenges for Jubilee,"
Proclaim Jubilee!

Loeb, Paul Rogat, ed., Introduction to The Impossible Will Take
A Little While

Neal, Marie Augusta, "A Reflection on Leviticus 25:1-28,"
A Socio-Theology of Letting Go, pp. 5-7

Recommended:

Macy, Joanna and Molly Young Brown, "To Choose Life,"
Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives, Our
World

Rayan, Sam, "The Search for an Asian Spirituality of Liberation"

September 21

PERSPECTIVES: SPIRITUALITY AND THE POOR

Reading

Untener, Kenneth, "How Should We Think About the Poor?"

Nolan, "Stages of Growth in Helping the Poor"

Brown, Spirituality and Liberation (ch. 1-5; pp. 1-72)

Reflection paper due today (suggested questions for reflection
provided in class)

September 28

TOWARD AN INTEGRATED SPIRITUALITY

Reading

Brown, Spirituality and Liberation (pp. 73-end)

October 5 **PRAYER AND PRAXIS: “CREATIVE DISLOCATION”**

Reading

Gateley, I Hear a Seed Growing (Parts I-IV)

Remen, Rachel Naomi, “In the Service of Life”

n.b. praxis check-in this week

Guest Speaker (tentative)

October 12 **PERSPECTIVES: MINISTRY AND CONVERSION**

Reading

Gateley, I Hear a Seed Growing (Parts V and VI)

Reflection paper due this week

October 19 **PERSPECTIVES: PERSONAL AND PLANETARY**

Reading

Earth Charter

TBA

Video: “*The Student, the Nun, and the Amazon*”

October 26 **READING WEEK: NO CLASS**

November 2 **RESISTANCE AND CONTEMPLATION**

Reading

Douglass, *Resistance and Contemplation* (pp. 46-108;
137-149)

“The Yin-Yang of Resistance and Contemplation”

“The Revolution is the Kingdom”

“Revolution Through Solitude”

November 9 **LIBERATING NONVIOLENCE**

Reading

Clark, “The Tridents Within”

Wink, "Jesus' Third Way" & "Practical Nonviolence" (*The Powers That Be*)

Merton, "Peace and Protest" (*Faith and Violence*)

Merton, "Toward a Theology of Resistance" (*Faith and Violence*)

Recommended:

Ackerman and DuVall, "Resisting Terror" (*The Impossible Will Take a Little While*)

Zinn, "The Optimism of Uncertainty" (*The Impossible Will...*)

Reflection paper due this week

November 16

NONVIOLENCE IN ACTION

Reading:

Rakoczy, "Be Reconciled: Four South African Voices" (*Great Mystics and Social Justice*)

TBA

Video: "A Force More Powerful"

November 23

HAPPY THANKSGIVING! (No class)

November 30

TOMBS AND DAYBREAK: PERSONAL AND SOCIAL

Reading

Book of choice

Mather: "Come Forth: Naming the Tombs, Making the Daybreak"

Prepare Theological Reflection on Praxis

December 7

SPIRITUALITY AND LIBERATION: CHALLENGES ON THE JOURNEY

Reading

Book of choice (for in-class discussion)

Paper due on book of choice

December 14

BRINGING TOGETHER AND LOOKING AHEAD

Final reflection due