

Topics Course Descriptions Fall 2009



MONS 468 01A

Monasticism in the British and Irish Isles: From Its Origins to the Dissolution

3 credits

Greg Peters

WEB CLASS—No Campus

When Augustine of Canterbury arrived on British soil in 598 there was already a flourishing Christian Church, including a robust monastic observance. Nearly 1000 years later King Henry VIII tried to eradicate this monasticism with the dissolution of the monasteries. This course will examine the history of monasticism as practiced by those people that lived in the British and Irish islands during the early and medieval Christian eras. Students will read primary texts in translation, complete a research project and actively participate in online discussions. Students who chose may attend a three day residential session at St. Andrew's Abbey in Valyermo, CA. October 12-15, 2009.

DOCT 468 01A

Christ and the Religions

3 credits

Michael Byron

Wednesdays, 6:00-9:15 PM

This course will explore various approaches undertaken today by several representative Christian theologians and movements in their attempts to account for the singular relevance and importance of Christ in the context of other world religions. Aware of an intensified critical historical consciousness, and attentive to the implications of interreligious dialogue for contemporary Christological reflection, this course will introduce and evaluate some proposals for integrating these experiences with a Christian understanding of Jesus Christ.

SPIR 468 01A/HHTH 468 01A

History of Christian Prayer

3 credits

Mary Forman, OSB

Tuesday/Thursday, 8:00-9:30 AM

Christians have explored a wide variety of prayer forms to express their relationship with God. The course will focus on the historical, cultural, social and religious influences on the diverse forms of prayer, from the early church to modern time. Particular attention will be given to primary texts in translation that are representative of Christian individuals and groups through the ages.

LTGY 468 01A/SPIR 468 02A**Liturgy and Christian Spirituality**

3 credits

Don Saliers

Weekends: September 18-19, October 9-10, October 30-31, November 6-7, December 4
Friday 6:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-12 noon, 1-3 p.m.

This course studies the rich and varied ways in which particular Christian rites both form and express a faithful way of life. Drawing on classical Roman Catholic and contemporary ecumenical sources, we will examine patterns and qualities of participation in Word, Sacrament, music and prayer (including *lectio divina*). Particular attention is given to theological reflection on human subjectivity and agency--desire, emotion, motives, and moral/ethical engagement. Specific pastoral/liturgical proposals about contemporary liturgical reform/renewal will be offered.

SPIR 468 03A**What to Make of Saint Uncommer: Approaches to Christian Hagiography**

3 credits

Helen Rolfson, OSF

WEB CLASS—No Campus

The *lives* of the saints constitute a theological and literary form that is well worth the effort to study in detail. The genre began very early, with the stories of the martyrs being transmitted as precious legacy to the Church, and it developed throughout the ages in various ways in different places, some of them even occasionally bizarre. The course examines: the place of stories of the saints in Christian teaching and lore; the way in which this genre contributes to theological understanding; the intent of the writer(s); an approach to hagiographical exegesis; exercises in analysis of hagiographical literature; the work of the Bollandists; the liturgical and pastoral implications of hagiography; the connection between hagiography and popular religion. A web-based course, it will be conducted in seminar style as much as this medium allows.