



MA in Christian Spirituality
(Validated by The University of Winchester)

Contemporary Spirituality

May 2012

Aims

- To introduce students to recent developments in the academic study of spirituality through a range of disciplinary perspectives.
- To consider the emergence of new expressions of spirituality within contemporary culture.
- To examine a range of Christian and non-Christian writing on spirituality.
- To compare and contrast ideas about spirituality within eastern and western spiritual traditions.
- To examine the relation between current thinking about spirituality and recent developments in other fields such as psychology.
- To explore the relation between sacred and secular expressions of spirituality.
- To consider how philosophical and literary narratives shape our understanding of the spiritual quest.

Credit value

20 credits

Course Content

The search for 'spirituality' is one of the most striking aspects of our contemporary Western culture. Many people seek greater spiritual depth to their lives within a secular, materialist and postmodern culture and frequently this does not involve an institutional religious commitment. At the same time, the word 'spirituality' is increasingly used in discussions about public life, for example, in education, healthcare or business. Contemporary debates about the nature of spirituality thus offer an important point of contact between people of different faith traditions and between sacred and secular worldviews. This module explores expressions of spirituality in contemporary society through a variety of different disciplinary approaches and seeks to bring Christian spirituality into a fruitful dialogue with non-Christian perspectives.

Contemporary Spirituality

21st-24th May 2012

Monday

5.30	Induction to the Module	LN
6.30	Supper	
7.15	Spirituality in the Modern World: Revolution or Empty Taxonomy?	LN
8.45	Informal social in bar/pub trip	

Tuesday

9.15	Losing our Religion?: Spirituality, Philosophy and the Emerging Church?	LN
10.45	Break (coffee/tea)	
11.15	Psychology, Philosophy and Spirituality in a New form?	PM
12.45	College Prayers (optional)	
1.00	LUNCH	
2.00	Spiritus and Psyche – Psychological and Spiritual Approaches	PT
3.30	Break (coffee/tea)	
4.00	Freud and the Unconscious/Jung, Stages of Life and Individualisation	PT
6.30	SUPPER (for residential participants)	
	Library open after supper/Optional film (popcorn provided)	

Wed

9.15	The Cosmic Story	LI
10.45	Break (tea/coffee)	
11.15	The Body and Spirituality	LI
12.45	College Prayers (optional)	
1.00	LUNCH	
2.00	Can We Talk about God?	BP
3.30	Break (tea/coffee)	
4.00	Tutorials/Private Study	
6.30	SUPPER (for residential participants)	
7.15	Understanding 'the Secular'	BP
8.45	Bar open	

Thurs

9.15	Narrative and Spirituality Text Seminar: Richard Kearney, 'Where do Stories Come From?'	DO
10.45	Break (coffee/tea)	
11.15	Contemporary Fiction and the Spiritual Question: Ian McEwan	DO
12.45	College Prayers (optional)	
1.00	LUNCH	
2.00	Spirituality and the 'Trans Human'	MB
3.30	Break	
4.00	Spirituality and Film	MB
5.30	Finish	

(Tutors: Michael Burdett, David O'Hara, Lisa Isherwood, Patrick Moore, Barnabas Palfrey, Louise Nelstrop, Peter Tyler)

Outline structure

The module will be taught by means of a three-day intensive plus an opening evening. There will be 18 hours of classroom teaching consisting of formal lectures, text seminars and work in small groups. There will also be time allocated for meeting with a personal tutor to introduce further study material and the topics for assessed essays. The library will be open throughout the course.

Learning outcomes

On completion of the module students should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Critically evaluate recent developments in contemporary spirituality through an interdisciplinary approach including theology, philosophy, sociology, psychology and literary studies.
- Relate Christian spirituality to non-Christian spiritualities in contemporary context.
- Critically evaluate selected texts by Christian and non-Christian writers on contemporary spirituality.
- Relate recent developments in the academic study of spirituality to developments in other academic disciplines such as psychology and philosophy.
- Relate developments in contemporary spirituality to pastoral practices such as psychotherapy.
- Be able to use literary texts to reflect on contemporary spirituality.

Transferable skills

- Demonstrate skills of interpretation and reflection.
- Reflect upon and discuss complex material and issues.
- Work under self-direction and self-organisation to accomplish tasks and to meet set deadlines.
- Select, comprehend and interpret relevant primary and secondary literature.
- Critically analyse and assess primary and secondary literature.
- Express ideas cogently in written form.

Learning methods

The intensive module will be a combination of lectures with discussion, interactive textual seminars and group work. Students will be provided with reading lists and tutorial support to enable them to continue further personal study after the intensive and to prepare a paper for assessment.

Assessment

One essay of 5,000 words.

Indicative Bibliography

(i) The Spirituality Revolution

- Caputo, John. (2001) *On Religion*. London: Routledge
- Hay, David. (2006) *Something There: The Biology of the Human Spirit*. London: DLT
- Kohn, Rachael. (2003) *The New Believers: Re-Imagining God*. London: Harper Collins
- Lanzetta, Beverly. (2007) *Emerging Heart: Global Spirituality and the Sacred*. Ausberg, Minneapolis: Fortress Press
- Lynch, Gordon. (2007) *The New Spirituality: An Introduction to Progressive Belief in the Twenty-first Century*. London and New York: IB Taurus
- Tacey, David. (2004) *The Spirituality Revolution: The Emergence of Contemporary Spirituality*. Hove and New York: Brunner-Routledge

(ii) The Cosmic Story

- Dobson, Geoffrey. (2005) *A Chaos of Delight. Science, religion and Myth and the Shaping of Western Thought*. London: Equinox
- Lathrop, Gordon, W. (2003) *Holy Ground. A Liturgical Cosmology*. Minneapolis: Fortress.
- O'Murchu, Diarmuid. (2004) *Evolutionary Faith: Rediscovering God in Our Great Story*. New York: Orbis
- (2008) *Ancestral Grace. Meeting God in Our Human Story*. New York: Orbis
- Sheldrake, Rupert & Matthew Fox. (1997) *Natural Grace. Dialogues on Science and Spirituality*. London: Bloomsbury.
- Swimme, Brian & Thomas Berry. (1994) *The Universe Story. From the Primordial Flaring Forth to the Ecozoic Era. A Celebration of the Unfolding of the Cosmos*. New York: Harper Row
- Winter, Miriam Therese. (2009) *Paradoxology. Spirituality in a Quantum World*. New York: Orbis.

(iii) The Body and Spirituality

- Betcher, Sharon. (2007) *Spirit and the Politics of Disablement*. Minneapolis: Fortress.
- Coyte, Mary Ellen, Peter Gilbert & Vicky Nicholls. (2007) *Spirituality, Values and Mental Health. Jewels for the Journey*. London: Jessica Kingsley
- Glücklich, Ariel. (2001) *Sacred Pain. Hurting the Body for the Sake of the Soul*. Oxford: OUP
- Ind, Jo. (1993) *Fat is a Spiritual Issue*. London: Mowbray
- Sheldrake, Philip. (2001) *Befriending Desire*. London: DLT
- Vandereycken, Walter & Ron van Deth. (1996) *From Fasting Saints to Anorexic Girls*. London: Athlone Press.

(iv) Psychology and Contemporary Spirituality

- Bettleheim, B. (1983) *Freud and Man's Soul*. London: Chatto and Windus
- Bryant, C. (1984) *Jung and the Christian Way*. London: DLT
- Francis, L.J. (2005) *Faith and Psychology*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd
- Freud, S. (1986) *Essentials of Psycho-Analysis*. London: Penguin
- Jung, C.G. (1983) *Selected Writings*. London: Fontana
- (1964) *Memories, Dreams and Reflections*. London: Collins
- Neu, J. ed (1991) *The Cambridge Companion to Freud*. Cambridge: CUP

Palmer, M. (2007) *Freud and Jung on Religion*. London: Routledge
 Schermer, V.L., (2003) *Spirit and Psyche*. London: Jessica Kingsley
 Tyler, P.M. (2010) *Healing the Butterfly: Reflections on the Relationship between Psychotherapy/Counselling and Christian Spiritual Direction* in 'Vinayasadhana: Journal of Psycho-Spiritual Formation' Vol 1, No 1. January 2010
 Ulanov, A and Dueck, A. (2008), *The Living God and Our Living Psyche. What Christians Can Learn from Carl Jung*. Cambridge: Eerdmans
 Ulanov, A. (2000) *The Wisdom of the Psyche*. Canada: Daimon

(v) Spirituality East and West

Du Boulay, Shirley. (2003) *Beyond the Darkness: A Biography of Bede Griffiths*. Alresford: O Books.
 Griffiths, Bede. (1954) *The Golden String*. London: Harvill Press.
 Griffiths, Bede. (1982) *The Marriage of East and West*. London: Collins and Springfield Illinois: Templegate.
 Hick, John & Paul Knitter. (eds) (1987) *The Myth of Christian Uniqueness*. London: SCM Press.
 King, Robert H. (2001) *Thomas Merton and Thich Nhat Hanh: Engaged Spirituality in an Age of Globalization*. New York: Continuum.
 Merton, Thomas. (1968) *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*. New York: New Directions.
 Merton, Thomas. (1973) *The Asian Journal of Thomas Merton*. London: Sheldon.
 Panikkar, Raimon. (1978, 1999) *The Intrareligious Dialogue*. New York: Paulist Press.
 Pierce, Brian. (2005) *We Walk the Path Together: Learning from Thich Nhat Hanh and Meister Eckhart*. New York: Orbis.
 Swindells, John. (ed.) (1997) *A Human Search. Bede Griffiths Reflects on his Life*. London: Burns and Oates.
 The Dalai Lama. (1997) *The Good Heart*. London: Rider

(vi) Understanding the Secular

Bruce, Steve. (2003) 'The Demise Of Christianity In Britain' in Grace Davie, Paul Heelas, Linda Woodhead, eds. *Predicting Religion: Christian, Secular And Alternative Futures*. Aldershot: Ashgate. 53-63.
 Davie, Grace and Paul Heelas, Linda Woodhead, eds. (2003) 'Introduction' in *Predicting Religion: Christian, Secular and Alternative Futures*. Aldershot: Ashgate. 1-14.
 Davie, Grace. (1994) *Religion In Britain Since 1945*. Oxford: Blackwell.
 Flanagan, K. and Jupp, P. (2007) *The Sociology of Spirituality*. Aldershot: Ashgate.
 Heelas, Paul and Linda Woodhead. (2005) *The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion Is Giving Way To Spirituality*. Oxford: Blackwell.
 Voas D. & Crockett A. (2005) 'Religion in Britain: Neither believing nor belonging', *Sociology* 39(1): 11-28

(vii) Spirituality and the 'Post-Human'

Badminton, Neil. (ed.) (2000) *Posthumanism*. Basingstoke: Palgrave. Esp. Ch. 10.
 Dick, Philip K. (1968,1999) *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* London: Milenium.
 Hayles, Katherine N. (1999) *How We Became Posthuman*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Esp. Chs. 7 and 10.

Lyotard, Jean-Francois. (1991) 'Can Thought go on without a Body?' in *The Inhuman*. Tr. Geoffrey Bennington and Rachel Bowlby. Oxford: Polity Press.
Noble, David F. (1997). *The Religion of Technology*. New York: Random House. Esp. Ch.10.
Talbot, Steve. (2007). *Devices of the Soul*. O'Reilly. Esp. Part 4.

(viii) Narrative, Identity and Spirituality

Arendt, Hannah. (1958) *The Human Condition*. Chicago, University of Chicago Press.
S. Hauerwas and Gregory L. Jones. (1989) *Why Narrative?* London: Erdmans
Hinchman, Lewis P. & Sandra K. Hinchman. (eds.) (1997) *Memory, Identity, Community: The Idea of Narrative in the Human Sciences*. New York: SUNY Press.
Kearney, Richard. (2002) *On Stories*. London: Routledge.
MacIntyre, Alasdair. (1981) *After Virtue*. Notre Dame Ind: Notre Dame Press. Esp. 190-209.
Nash, Christopher. (1990) *Narrative in Culture: the uses of storytelling in the sciences, philosophy and literature*. London: Routledge.
Ricoeur, Paul. (1991). 'Life in Quest of Narrative' in David Wood (ed.) *On Paul Ricoeur: Narrative and Interpretation*. London: Routledge.
Ricoeur, Paul. (1991). 'Narrative Identity' in David Wood (ed.) *On Paul Ricoeur: Narrative and Interpretation*. London: Routledge.

(ix) Film and Contemporary Spirituality

Anker, Roy M. (2004) *Catching Light: Looking for God in the Movies*. Eerdmans.
Christianson, E.S., Francis, P. and Telford, W.R. (eds) (2005) *Cinema Divinité: Religion, Theology and the Bible in Film*. SCM.
Johnston, Robert K. (2000) *Reel Spirituality: Theology & Film in Dialogue*. Baker Press.
Marsh, Clive. (2004) *Cinema and Sentiment: Film's Challenge to Theology*. Paternoster Press.

(ix) Contemporary Fiction and the Spiritual Quest

Clark, Roger & Any Gordon (2005) *Ian McEwan's Enduring Love*. London: Continuum
McEwan, Ian (1998) *Enduring Love*. London: Vintage.
The website IanMcEwan.com offers a full bibliography of McEwan's works and secondary literature as well as other useful resources.

(x) Thomas Moore and the Care of Souls

Hillman James, *Re-Visioning Psychology* (William Marrow, 1971)
Thomas Moore, *The Planets Within* (Lindisfarne, 1990)
Care of the Soul (Harper, 1994)
The Re-Enchantment of Everyday Life (Harper, 1996)