



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

**CORE MODULE 2**

**January 2013**

**The Contemporary Study of Christian Spirituality**

**Aims**

- To investigate the relationship between Christian spirituality and theology.
- To introduce students to different methodological approaches to the study of Christian spirituality, including philosophical, political, literary and aesthetic approaches.
- To introduce students to the terms 'modernity' and 'postmodernity' and provide students with an understanding of how modern and postmodern thinking shapes the contemporary understanding of Christian spirituality.
- To examine recent discourses such as feminism in terms of their impact on contemporary understandings of Christian spirituality.
- To provide students with critical tools to analyse the impact of the contemporary world on Christian spirituality through specific texts, literary works and examples of individual struggle.

**Credit value**

20 credits

**Course Content**

This module builds on Core Module 1 and further encourages students to develop their analytical and interpretative skills. We begin by revisiting some of the definitions of Christian spirituality given in Core Module 1 and asking further questions about *what* we are studying and *how* and *why* we might study Christian spirituality as an academic subject. Rather than examining historical perspectives, in this module students will be encouraged to interrogate the relationship between Christian spirituality, theology and other disciplinary approaches from the human sciences. In the course of this we will explore how 'modernism' and 'postmodernism' impact on Christian theology and spirituality.

The considers contemporary discussions of spirituality through film and in general. The second day traces the importance of Ignatius for modern approaches to spirituality and the considers spirituality in urban and rural contexts, before examining some of the theory relating to whether Christian spirituality is primarily experience or language. Day 3 then considers both feminist and political approaches to spirituality. It considers how questions of gender might shape and, indeed, challenge, our understanding of Christian spirituality. We shall explore the question of how we image the divine through reflection on the controversial 'Christa' image. We then go on to explore the political responses to the spiritual journey and how these map onto a distinctive Christian response to the contemporary world. The final day turns to the role of literature and the visual arts in relation to spirituality, focusing particularly on modern and postmodern approaches to art and literature. The module ends with an exploration of what the discipline of psychology can bring to an understanding of contemporary children's spirituality.

**Outline structure**

The module will be taught by means of a three-day intensive plus an opening evening lecture. There will be 12 classroom sessions of 1½ hours each, consisting of formal lectures, text

seminars and work in small groups, as well as a film. 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.

### **Course outline**

21<sup>st</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> January 2013

#### Monday

2.30	Registration	
3.00	Reading Spirituality 1: The Spirituality of Film	AWo
4.15	Coffee	
4.15	<i>Library Induction for new students</i>	JM
5.30	<i>Induction for new students</i>	LN
6.00	Induction for all students	LN
6.30	Supper	
7.15	Informal social in bar	

#### Tuesday

9.15	Reading Spirituality 3: Ethnography and Anthropology	LN
10.45	Break (coffee/tea)	
11.15	Reading Spirituality 6: Feminist Approaches	KK
12.45	College Prayers (optional)	
1.00	LUNCH	
2.00	Text Seminar: 'The Christa'	KK
3.30	Break (coffee/tea)	
4.00	Essay Writing Seminar (optional)	LN
6.30	SUPPER (for residential participants)	
	Library open after supper	

#### Wed

9.15	Early Quaker Spirituality	BPD
10.45	Break (tea/coffee)	
11.15	The Spiritual Revolution	BPD
12.45	College Prayers (optional)	
1.00	LUNCH	
2.00	Reading Spirituality: Political/Liberation Approaches	BP
3.30	Break (tea/coffee)	
4.00	Reading Spirituality 4: Post-Liberalism: Grammar	BP
6.30	SUPPER (for residential participants)	
7.15	Film:	LN
	Library open after supper	

#### Thurs

9.15	Reading Spirituality 7: Defining a New Genre: Spirituality and Literature	EC
10.45	Break (coffee/tea)	
11.15	Reading Spirituality 8: Literary Approaches: Postmodernity and Critical Theory	EC
12.45	College Prayers (optional)	
1.00	LUNCH	
2.00	Reading Spirituality 9: Psychology and Children's Spirituality	EB
3.30	Finish	

### **Learning outcomes**

Having completed this module successfully learners should:

- Have an understanding of the relationship between Christian spirituality, theology and other disciplinary approaches within the human sciences.
- Have acquired skills of interpretation and reflection.
- Have an understanding of the discourses of modernity and postmodernity and their impact on contemporary Christian theology and spirituality.
- Have acquired the cognitive skills to reflect upon and discuss complex material and issues in a rational and controlled way.

- Have demonstrated the personal skills to work under self-direction and self-organisation to accomplish tasks and to meet set deadlines.
- Be able to select, comprehend, interpret and critically analyse relevant primary and secondary literature.
- Have acquired the necessary skills to produce a written presentation on the material studied.

### **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**

Below are some suggestions for preliminary reading in each of the areas covered on this module. There are, of course, many other useful books on these topics in Sarum library.

#### • **Studying Christian Spirituality (General)**

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Ashley J Matthew           | 'The Turn to Spirituality?' The Relationship between Theology and Spirituality' <i>Christian Spirituality Bulletin</i> (Fall, 1995) |
| Astell Ann W               | 'Postmodern Christian Spirituality: A Coincidentia Oppositorum?' <i>Christian Spirituality Bulletin</i> (Summer, 1996)              |
| Clifford Anne M.           | 'Re-memembering the Spiritual Core of Theology: A Response' <i>Christian Spirituality Bulletin</i> (Fall, 1995)                     |
| Dreyer, E.A. & Burrows, M. | <i>Minding the Spirit</i> . John Hopkins Press, 2005. Esp. Chs. 1-4.  |
| Heelas P & Woodhead L      | <i>The Spiritual Revolution: Why Religion is Giving Way to Spirituality</i> (Blackwell, 2005)                                       |
| Kourie, C.                 | 'The "Turn" to Spirituality in Acta Theologica, Supplement 8, 2006  |
| McGinn, B.                 | 'Letter and Spirit: Spirituality as an Academic Discipline' <i>Christian Spirituality Bulletin</i> (Fall, 1993)                     |
| Sheldrake, P.              | <i>Explorations in Spirituality: History, Theology and Social Practice</i> . New York: Paulist. 2010.                               |
| Schneiders S.M.            | 'Spirituality as an Academic Discipline: Reflections from Experience' <i>Christian Spirituality Bulletin</i> (Fall, 1993)           |
| Tacey David                | 'The Rising Waters of the Spirit' <i>Studies in Spirituality</i> 13 (2003)  |
| Waaajman K.                | 'Spirituality - A Multifaceted Phenomenon' <i>Studies in Spirituality</i> 17 (2007)   |

#### • **Film and Contemporary Spirituality**

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| Anker, Roy M   | <i>Catching Light: Looking for God in the Movies</i> . Eerdmans. (2004)          |
| Christianson, E.S., Francis, P and Telford, W.R. (eds) | <i>Cinema Divinité: Religion, Theology and the Bible in Film</i> . (2005) SCM.   |
| Cargal Timothy B,                                      | <i>Hearing a Film: Seeing a sermon: preaching and popular movies</i> (WJK, 2008) |
| Deacy Christopher and Ortiz Gaye                       | <i>Theology and Film: Challenging the Sacred Secular Divine</i> (Blackwell 2008) |
| Johnston, Robert K.                                    | <i>Reel Spirituality: Theology &amp; Film in Dialogue</i> . Baker Press. (2000)  |
| Kreitzer Larry,  | <i>Gospel Images in Fiction and Film</i> (Sheffield Academic Press, 2002)        |

- Lynden John, *Film as Religion: Myth, Morals and Rituals* (NY Univ Press, 2003)
- Marsh, Clive. *Cinema and Sentiment: Film's Challenge to Theology*. Paternoster Press. (2004)
- Mitchell Joylon and Plate S Brent, *The Religion and Film Reader* (Routledge, 2007)
- Pungente John *Finding God in the Dark: Taking the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius to the Movies* (Novalis, 2004)
- and Williams Monty, *Religion and Film: An Introduction* (Tuaris, 2007)
- Wright Melanie,

- **Ethnography and Anthropology**

- Antes, P., A. W. Geertz, et al. *New approaches to the study of religion*. Berlin, Walter de Gruyter. 2004.
- Asad, T.1982. 'The Construction of Religion as an Anthropological Category.' in *Genealogies of Religion: Discipline and Reasons of Power in Christianity and Islam*. Baltimore : Johns Hopkins Univ. Press. pp. 27-54.
- Bowden, John R, *Religions in Practice: An Approach to the Anthropology of Religion* (Pearson, 2010).
- Bowie Fiona *The Anthropology of Religion: An Introduction* (Blackwell, 2000, repr. 2006)
- Bowie Fiona 'An Anthropology of Religious Experience: Spirituality, Gender and Cultural Transmission In the Focolare Movement', *Ethnos*, (2003) 68:1, 49 -72.
- Brunner E and Turner V (eds) *The Anthropology of Experience* (Chicago, 1986).
- Csordas, T. J. 2004. *Asymptote of the Ineffable: Embodiment, Alterity, and the Theory of Religion*. *Current Anthropology* , Vol. 45 (2): pp. 163-185.
- McClintock Fulkerson, M, *Place of Redemption: Theology for a Worldly Church* (OUP, 2007)
- Scharen, C and Vigen AM, *Ethnography as Christian Theology and Ethics* (Continuum, 2011).
- Stringer MD *On the Perception of Worship: The Ethnography of Worship in Four Christian Congregations in Manchester* (University of Birmingham Press, 1999)
- Swinton J and Mowat H, *Practical Theology and Qualitative Research* (SCM, 2006).
- Tanner, K, *Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology* (Fortress, 1997).
- Tedlock B. 'From Participant Observation to the Observation of Participation: The Emergence of Narrative Ethnography' *Journal of Anthropological Research* 47 (1991), 1, 69-94.
- Turner E. 'Advances in the Study of Spirit Experience: Drawing together many threads' *Anthropology of Consciousness* 17 (2006) 2, 41.

- **Quaker Spirituality**

- Dandelion, Pink *The Quakers: a very short introduction*, Oxford: OUP, 2008
- Dandelion, Pink *Introduction to Quakerism*. Cambridge: CUP, 2007
- Gwyn, Douglas *The Apocalypse of the Word*, Richmond, IN; Friends United Press, 1986.
- Moore, Rosemary, *The Light in their Consciences: the early Quakers in Britain 1646 – 1666*, University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press.

- **The Spiritual Revolution**

- Bruce, S. (2003), 'The Demise of Christianity in Britain,' in Davie, G, Heelas, P, Woodhead, L., eds. *Predicting Religion: Christian, secular, and alternative futures*, Aldershot: Ashgate, pp. 53 – 63.
- Bruce, S. (2011) *Secularisation*. Oxford, OUP.
- Dandelion, P and Collins, P. (2009), *The Quaker Condition: The Sociology of a Liberal Religion* Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
- Davie, G. (1994), Oxford: Blackwell.
- Davie, G. (2000), *Europe: the exceptional case. Parameters of Faith in the Modern World*, London: Darton, Longman and Todd.
- Day, Abby (2011). *Believing in Belonging: Belief and Social Identity in the Modern World*, Oxford: OUP.
- Heelas, P., Woodhead, L, Seel, B., Szerszynski, B., Tusting, K., (2005) *The Spiritual Revolution: why religion is giving way to spirituality*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Warner, R, (2010) *Secularization and Its Discontents*. London: Continuum.

- **Feminist Spirituality**

- Clague, J. 'The Christa: Symbolizing My Humanity and My Pain' in *Feminist Theology* Vol.14.1 2005. Pp. 83-108. (included in pre-course reading)
- Clifford, A. *Introducing Feminist Theology*. Orbis. 2001.
- Daphne Hampson (ed.) *Swallowing a Fishbone: Feminist Theologians Debate Christianity*. SPCK, 1996.
- Loades, Ann. (ed.) *Feminist Theology: A Reader*. SPCK. 1990.
- Parsons, S. (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Feminist Theology* CUP, 2002
- Slee, Nicola *Faith and Feminism*. DLT, 2003.
- Sneiders S.M. 'Feminist Spirituality: Christian Alternative of Alternative to Christianity?' *Beyond Patching: Faith and Feminism in the Catholic Church* (Paulist Press: 1991, revised 2004)
- Wolski Conn, Joann (ed.) *Women's Spirituality: Resources for Christian Development*. Paulist, 1996.

- **Political/Liberation Spirituality**

- Griffin, John Howard *Thomas Merton: The Hermitage Years*. Burns & Oates, 1993.
- Merton, Thomas *Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander*. Burns and Oates, 1968.
- Merton, Thomas *Contemplative Prayer*. DLT, 1973.
- Merton, Thomas *The Hidden Ground of Love: Letters on Religious Experience and Social Concerns*. Collins Flame, 1990.
- Merton, Thomas *The Intimate Merton: Thomas Merton's Life from his Journals*. Lion, 1999.
- Merton, Thomas *The Road to Joy: Letters to Old and New Friends*. Collins
- Merton, Thomas *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*. (various editions) Flame, 1990.
- Pramuk, Christopher *Sophia: The Hidden Christ of Thomas Merton*. Liturgical Press, 2009.
- Shannon W., Bochen C., & O'Connell P. (eds) *Thomas Merton Encyclopaedia*, Orbis Books, 2002.
- Tyler, P. M. 'Thomas Merton: Ikon of Commitment for the Postmodern Generation'. *The Way Supplement*, 2000/98.

- **Postmodern Christian Spirituality (General)**

- Barnes, Julian *The History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters*. Jonathan Cape, 1989.

- Cahoone, L. (ed.) *From Modernism to Postmodernism: An Anthology*. Blackwell, 1996. esp. 'Introduction' and Chs 1,3 and 32.
- Caputo, J. *On Religion*. London: Routledge, 2007, esp. pp. 125-141
- Caputo, J. *What Would Jesus Deconstruct?* MI: Baker Academic, 2007.
- Docherty, Thomas *Alterties*. Oxford University Press, 1966.
- Kerr, F. *Theology after Wittgenstein*, Oxford: Blackwell, 1986.
- Kermode, Frank *The Sense of an Ending*. Oxford, 2000.
- Lynch, G. *The New Spirituality*. London & New York: I.B. Tauris, 2007.
- Pattison, George *Art, Modernity and Faith*. 1991, SCM Press Ltd
- Vanhoozer, K. J. 'Theology and the Condition of Postmodernity: A Report on Knowledge (of God)' in K. Vanhhozer (ed.) *The Cambridge Companion to Postmodern Theology*. C.U.P., 2003. esp. pp.3-25.
- Ward, G. 'Introduction, or, A Guide to Theological Thinking' in G. Ward (ed.) *The Postmodern God*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1997

- **Postmodernity and Critical Theory**

- Barratt, David et al (eds) *The Discerning Reader*. Inter-varsity Press, 1995.
- Blanchot, M., *The Sirens' Song*, Branch Line, 1982, especially 'The Sirens' Song'.
- Heidegger, M., *On the Way to Language*, Harper, 1971, especially 'Language in the Poem'.
- Raine, K., *Defending Ancient Springs*, Golgonooza Press, 1985, especially 'The Use of the Beautiful'. (Included in pre-course reading)
- Yeats, W. B. *Collected Poems*, Macmillan, 1950, especially 'Under Ben Bulben'

- **Literature and Spirituality**

- Eagleton, T. *Literary Theory: An Introduction*, Blackwells, 2008.
- Rivkin, J. and Ryan M. (eds) *Literary Theory: An Anthology*, second edition, Blackwell, 2004., especially the introduction to, and sections 4 and 7 of, Part Four
- Stevens, W., *The Necessary Angel*, Faber & Faber, 1960, especially 'The Noble Rider and the Sound of Words'
- Yeats, *Essay and Introductions*, Macmillan, 1961, especially 'A General Introduction for my Work'.

- **Psychology and Spirituality**

- Ferrucci, Pierro *What We May Be*. Crucible, 1982
- Watts, Alan. *The Wisdom of Insecurity*. Rider, 1992
- Zweig, Connie & Adams, Jeremiah (eds) *Meeting the Shadow*. Putnam, 1991
- Storr, Anthony *The Art of Psychotherapy*. Secker & Warburg, 1979
- Mearns, Dave & Thorne, Brian *Person Centred Counselling in Action*. Sage, 1988

- **Post-Liberalism: Grammar and/or Experience**

Political Spirituality indicative bibliography (no pre-course set reading)

- **Political/Liberation Spirituality**

- Fletcher, Paul, *Disciplining the Divine: Toward an (Im)political Theology*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2009  
 [The first half of this work is dominated by Fletcher's powerful critique of 'social trinitarianism' (including in the political theologian, Jürgen Moltmann)]
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo, *A Theology of Liberation*, rev. ed. [1988]. London: SCM, 2001) [this SCM edition incorporates a few significant revisions and 'clarifications' to the original *Teología de la liberación* (1971), and a new Introduction, by Gutiérrez]
- Gutiérrez, Gustavo, *We Drink from our Own Wells: The Spiritual Journey of a People*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1984

- Gutiérrez, Gustavo, *On Job: God-talk and the Suffering of the Innocent*. Maryknoll: Orbis, 1987
- Martinez, Gaspar, *Confronting the Mystery of God: Political, Liberation, and Public Theologies*. London and New York: Continuum, 2001
- Metz, Johann Baptist, *Faith in History and Society: Towards a Practical Fundamental Theology*. New York: Seabury, 1980
- Metz, Johann Baptist, 'Communicating a Dangerous Memory' in Fred Lawrence, ed., *Communicating a Dangerous Memory: Soundings in Political Theology*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1987
- Metz, Johann Baptist, *Love's Strategy: The Political Theology of Johann Baptist Metz*, edited by John K. Downey (Harrisburg, Pa.: Trinity Press International, 1999)
- Dorothee Soelle *Dorothee Soelle: Essential Writings*, ed. Oliver, Dianne L., ed.. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2006
- Tracy, David, 'On Naming the Present' [1990] in David Tracy, *On Naming the Present: God, Hermeneutics, and Church*, Concilium Series. London: SCM, 1994