



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

MEDIEVAL SPIRITUALITY

April 2012

Aims

- To reflect on the broad sweep of Christian spirituality and religious experience in the Medieval period.
- To explore the relationship between theology and Christian spirituality in this period.
- To examine the impact of the Crusades on the spirituality and religious life of the Medieval period, and their significance for Islamic-Christian relations.
- To reflect on the differing aspects of spirituality and spiritual development experienced in the Medieval religious orders.
- To consider the role of the hermit and the anchorite in Medieval religious tradition.
- To begin an exploration of the multi-faceted spirituality of Meister Eckhart.
- To explore the life and spirituality of Medieval women mystics in England and Europe.

Credit value

20 credits

Course Content

This course begins by sketching out the broad sweep of Christian spirituality in the Medieval period. Against this backdrop we shall reflect on the interface between theology and Christian spirituality, and consider the impact of the Crusades on the religious life of the period. We shall examine specific examples of Medieval religious life and spirituality: the religious orders, the life and work of Meister Eckhart, and the hermit/anchorite tradition in the Medieval Church. We shall consider the religious experience of some of the women mystics of the period, both in England and on the continent and medieval drama will be studied as an example of spirituality at a popular level.

Medieval Spirituality

16-19th April 2012

Monday

- 4.00 Registration
- 6.30 Supper
- 7.15 Medieval Spirituality: An historical Overview PM
- 8.45 Informal social in bar

Tuesday

- 9.15 Spirituality and the Religious Orders PM
- 10.45 Break (coffee/tea)
- 11.15 Text Seminar: Spirituality and the Religious Orders PM
- 12.45 College Prayers (optional)
- 1.00 LUNCH
- 2.00 Hermits and Anchorites in Medieval Tradition LN
- 3.30 Break (coffee/tea)
- 3.45 An Introduction to Medieval Devotion and Theology 1100-1500 LN
- 6.30 SUPPER (for residential participants)

Wed

- 9.15 Female Spirituality LN
- 10.45 Break (tea/coffee)
- 11.15 Text Seminar: Medieval Women Mystics and Visionaries LN
- 12.45 College Prayers (optional)
- 1.00 LUNCH
- 2.00 Convivencia and Crusade: Islamic-Christian Relations in the Middle Ages1 PT
- 3.30 Break (tea/coffee)
- 4.00 Convivencia and Crusade: Islamic-Christian Relations in the Middle Ages2 PT
- 6.30 SUPPER (for residential participants)
- 7.15 Medieval Spanish Art (Film 1 hour) PT

Thurs

- 9.15 Meister Eckhart and the Rhineland Tradition LN
- 10.45 Break (coffee/tea)
- 11.15 Text Seminar: Meister Eckhart and the Beguines LN
- 12.45 College Prayers (optional)
- 1.00 LUNCH
- 2.00 Tutorials/library time
- 3.30 Break
- 4.00 Devotion and Drama in Medieval England LN
- 5.30 Finish

(Tutors: Patrick Moore, 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 13 classroom sessions of 1-1½ hours each, consisting of formal lectures, text seminars, work in small groups, and 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.

Learning outcomes

Having completed this module successfully learners should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Appreciate the broad sweep of history that comprises the Medieval period, and the place of religious and spiritual experience within it.
- Critically evaluate selected Western Medieval schools of spirituality.
- Understand something of the difficulties women in the Church at this time, both lay and religious.
- Assess the impact of the Crusades on Christian relationships with other faiths, especially Islam.
- Appreciate the place and function of the hermit/anchorite tradition within the structure of the Medieval Church.
- Identify aspects of Medieval spirituality and religious experience that may have meaning for today's church and pastoral ministry.

Transferable skills

- To have acquired skills of interpretation and reflection.
- To have acquired the cognitive skills to reflect upon and discuss complex material and issues in rational and controlled way.
- To have demonstrated the personal skills to work under self-direction and self-organisation to accomplish tasks and to meet set deadlines.
- Selection, comprehension and interpretation of relevant primary and secondary literature.
- Criticism and analysis of primary and secondary literature.
- Written presentation.

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

MEDIEVAL SPIRITUALITY: INDICATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

Monastic Traditions

Benedictine

- Butler, C., *Western Mysticism* (London: Constable, 1927)
- Chittister J., *The Rule of Benedict: Insights for the Ages* (New York: Crossroad, 1992)
- de Waal, E., *Seeking God: The Way of St Benedict* (London: Collins, 1996)
- LeClercq, J., *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God* (New York: Fordham University Press, 1982)
- LeClercq, Jean, *Memoirs from Grace to Grace* (Petersham: St Bede's Publications, 2002)
- Stewart, Columba *Prayer and Community: The Benedictine Tradition* (London: DLT, 1998)

Cistercians

- Casey, M., *Cistercians and Cluniacs: St. Bernard and William* (Cistercian Publications, 1970)
- De Waal, E., *The Way of Simplicity* (DLT, 1998)
- Elder, E. R., *The New Monastery*, (Cistercian Pub., 1998)
- Leclercq, J., *Women and Saint Bernard of Clairvaux* (Cistercian Publications 1989)
- Pennington, B., *Light from the Cloister* (Paulist Press, 1991)
- Tobin, S., *The Cistercians: Monks and Monasteries of Europe* (Herbert Press, 1995)
- Williams, D., *The Cistercians in the Early Middle Ages* (Gracewing, 1998)

Dominican

- Ashley, B., *The Dominicans* (Liturgical Press, 1980)
- Conrad, R., *The Catholic Faith: A Dominican Vision* (Chapman, 1994)
- Mills, J., *Justice, Peace, and Dominicans 1216 – 2001* (Dominican, 2001)
- Radcliff, T., *I Call You Friends* (Continuum, 2001)
- Tugwell, S., *Early Dominicans* (SPCK, 1982)
- Tugwell, S., 'The Spirituality of the Dominicans' in *Christian Spirituality II*, ed Raitt

Franciscan

- Cuthbert, Father, *Romanticism of Saint Francis* (Longmans, Green & Co, 1924)
- Dunstan, P., Chapter in *A History of Pastoral Care* (ed. G. R. Evans)
- Eccleston, S.-P., *Coming of the Franciscans* (Mowbray, 1964)
- Hellmann, J. A.W., in *Christian Spirituality II* ed. Raitt
- Little, A.G., *Franciscan History and Legend* (Manchester, 1937)
- Moorman, J., *Franciscans in England* (Mowbray, 1974)

Medieval Theology and Devotion

Mankind (online) A rough translation is available at
<http://research.uvu.edu/mcdonald/3610/mankind.html>

The York Cycle, the Crucifixion (Middle English is available here:
<http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/AnoYork.html> Modernised version is available here: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/~reed/yorkplays/york.html> (both sites give most of the plays)

Aers David, 'Humanity of Christ: Reflections on Orthodox Late Medieval Representations' in D. Aers and L Staley, *The Powers of the Holy: Religion, Politics and Gender in Late Medieval English Culture* (University Park, 1996), pp. 15-43.

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- Swanson, R., *Religion and Devotion in Europe 1215 – c 1515* (CUP, 1995)
- Szarmach, Paul (ed.), *An Introduction to the Medieval Mystics of Europe* (New York: SUNY, 1984).
- Tobin, Frank *Mechtild von Magdeburg: A Medieval Mystic in Modern Eyes* (Columbia, SC: Camden House, 1995).
- Turner, Denys *The Darkness of God: Negativity in Christian Mysticism* (New York: Cambridge University, 1995).
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- Thomas á Kempis, *The Imitation of Christ*, ed. Harold C. Gardiner (New York: Image / Doubleday, 1955)
- <http://www.csulb.edu/~lkermode/medramawebpages.htm> (Lists a number of very useful web-resources for medieval drama, with introductions, pictures etc)

Hermits and Anchorites

- Ancrene Wisse/Ancrene Riwe (primary text)
- Anson, P., *The Call of the Desert*, (London: SPCK, 1964)
- Dyas, D., Edden, V., and Ellis, R. (eds.), *Approaching Medieval English Anchoritic and Mystical Texts* (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2005)
- Farmer, D. H., *Christ Crucified: The Meditations of the Monk of Farne* (Leominster: Gracewing)
- Gunn Cate, *Ancrene Wisse: From Pastoral Literature to Vernacular Spirituality* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2005).
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- Nichols JA and Shank LT (eds.), *Medieval Religious Women II: Peace Weavers* (Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications Inc, 1987)
- Anne Savage & Nicholas Watson (eds and trans.), *Anchoritic Spirituality: Ancrene Wisse and Associated Works*, Classics of Western Spirituality 73, (New York: Paulist Press, 1991)

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- Bowie, F. and Davies, O. (eds.), *Hildegard of Bingen: An Anthology* (London: SPCK, 1990)
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Meister Eckhart and the Rhineland Tradition

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The Crusades and Islam

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