



**MA Christian Spirituality
MA Theology, Imagination & Culture
(Validated by The University of Winchester)**

Literature and Spirituality

April 2013

This course explores the relationship between English literature and Spirituality through an enquiry into how biblical themes and classical myths shape and are re-shaped by the modern literary imagination.

Aims

- To equip students with the tools necessary to analyse modern English fiction and poetry.
- To consider in some depth selected works of modern English literature and poetry.
- To enable students to identify key biblical and classical sources in selected novels and poetry.
- To enable students to use primary and secondary sources to analyse the spirituality of the novelists and poets studied.
- To explore the relationship between Christian Spirituality and English Literature.

Credit Value

20 credits

Course Content

- literary critical, historical and philosophical approaches to the study of English literature.
- close textual analysis of a selection of works of English fiction and poetry from the 17th to 20th century.
- the reworking of classical and biblical themes in modern English literature.

- the relationship between literature and spirituality as academic disciplines.
- the role of the literary imagination in shaping perspectives on the spiritual quest in modernity and postmodernity.
- the prophetic voice in modern English literature.

Outline Structure

The course will be delivered through a combination of lectures with discussion and interactive, student-led seminars. Students will be provided with reading lists and tutorial support to enable them to continue with further personal study after the intensive and to prepare an essay for assessment. A pre-course reading list and selected articles will be available before the course commences.

Learning Outcomes

Having completed this module successfully students should:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Have acquired the critical tools for analysing works of modern English fiction and poetry.
- Be able to elucidate how biblical and mythic patterns are rehearsed in modern English literature.
- Be able to offer an in-depth appreciation of a particular writer or poet in terms of their contribution to reflection on the nature of Christian spirituality.
- Be able to present a well-reasoned view of the relationship between Christian spirituality and English literature.

Transferable skills

- Have acquired the cognitive skills to reflect upon and critically discuss complex material and issues in the study of English literature.
- 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 and interpret relevant primary and secondary literature.
- Be able to offer a critical analysis of primary and secondary literature.
- Have competence in presenting ideas both orally and in written form.

Assessment

One essay of 5,000 words.

Course Tutors

Edward Clarke Jane Gledhill, Patrick Moore and Louise Nelstrop.

	Time	Activity	Tutor	Location
Tuesday	4.30pm onwards	Registration		Reception Desk
	5.30	Literature, Theology and Spirituality: Theoretical Underpinnings	LN	Cavell
	6.30	SUPPER for all participants		Refectory
	7.15	George McDonald, CS.Lewis: Spirituality and Imagination	LN	Cavell
	8.45	Informal social in bar		Common Room
Wednesday	8.15	BREAKFAST (for residential participants)		Refectory
	9.15	Arcadia and the English Garden	PM	Cavell
	11.00	BREAK		Common Room
	11.15	The Battle of the Books	PM	Cavell
	1.00	LUNCH		Refectory
	2.00	Tutorials /Private Study		Cavell
	3.30	BREAK		Common Room
	4.00	Poetry and Spirituality	JG	Cavell
	5.15	Finish		
	6.30	SUPPER (for residential participants)		Refectory
	7.15	FILM		
Thursday	8.15	BREAKFAST (for residential participants)		Refectory
	9.15	Mary Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i>	JG	Cavell
	11.00	BREAK		Refectory
	11.15	George Elliot's <i>Silas Marner</i>	JG	Cavell
	1.00	LUNCH		Refectory
	2.00	Text Seminar: Yeats's The Tower and The Winding Stair	EC	
	3.30	BREAK		Common Room
	4.00	W. B. Yeats and Jesus the Imagination	EC	Cavell
	5.45			
	6.30	SUPPER (for residential participants)		Refectory
	7.15	Wallace Stevens's Interior Paramour	EC	
Friday	8.15	BREAKFAST (for residential participants)		Refectory
	9.15	Stevens's Late Poems	EC	
	11.00	BREAK		Common Room
	11.15	English Literature and Tradition	EC	Cavell
	1.00	LUNCH		Refectory
	2.00	Text Seminar: Edwin Muir's The Labyrinth	EC	Cavell
	3.30	BREAK and finish		Common Room

Facilitators: Edward Clarke, Jane Gledhill, Patrick Moore, and Louise Nelstrop

Cathedral Services: **7.30 am Morning Office & Eucharist**

5.30 pm Choral Evensong

Indicative Bibliography

- **General Reading**

- Alter, Robert. *The Art of Biblical Narrative*. London: Harper Collins 1996.
- Alter, Robert, and Frank Kermode, *The Literary Guide to the Bible*, Belknap Press, 1990
- Baldwin A. & Sarah Hutton (eds). *Platonism and the English Imagination*.
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1994
- Barton, John, 'Reading the Bible as Literature; Two Questions from Biblical Critics',
in *Literature and Theology*, vol 1 (2), Sept 1987.
- Blakesly John, 'Pictures from the Fire? Austin Farrer's Biblical Criticism and St.
John's Gospel', in *Literature and Theology*, vol 1 (2), Sept 1987.
- Countryman, William. *The Poetic Imagination*. London: Darton Longman and
Todd 1999.
- Docherty, Thomas. *Alterities*. Oxford: Clarendon Press 1996
- Ferretter, Luke. *Towards a Christian Literary Theory*. Palgrave, 2003.
- Fiddes, Paul. *Freedom and Limit*. London: St Martin's Press 1991
- Fiddes, Paul. *The Promised End*. Oxford: Blackwell 2000
- Fiddes, Paul. *The Novel. Spirituality and Modern Culture*. Cardiff: University of
Wales Press 2000.
- Frye, Northrop. *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature*. London: Routledge &
Kegan Paul 1983.
- Jasper, David. *The Study of Literature and Religion*. Basingstoke and London:
MacMillan 1989.
- Jasper, David, 'The Study of Literature and Theology', *The Oxford Handbook of English
Literature and Theology* (David Jasper with Andrew Hass and Elizabeth Jay) (2007)
- Jasper David, 'From Theology to Theological Thinking: The Development of Critical
Thought and its Consequences for Theology' in *Literature and Theology*, vol 9 (3), Sept
1995.
- Jay, Elizabeth, 'Now and In England' *The Oxford Handbook of English Literature and
Theology* (David Jasper with Andrew Hass and Elizabeth Jay) (2007)
- Jenkins, Timothy, 'Janet Martin Soskice, *Metaphor and Religious Language*' in *Literature
and Theology*, vol 3 (2), July 1989. Also see Janet Martin Soskice's response in the same
volume.
- Kermode, Frank, *The Genesis of Secrecy: On the Interpretation of Narrative* (Camb. Mass,
Harvard Uni Press, 1979).
- Knight, Mark. *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. London: Continuum
2009.

Levine, Joseph M. *The Battle of the Books: History and Literature in the Augustan Age*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press 1994.

Tate, Andrew. *Contemporary Fiction and Spirituality*. London: Continuum 2008.
London: Continuum 2009.

Mursell, Gordon. *English Spirituality 2 Volumes*. London: SPCK 2001.

Rowell, Geoffrey, Kenneth Stevenson and Rowan Williams (eds). *Love's Redeeming Work*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2001.

Tillich, Paul, *A Theology of Culture*

Vann Ness, Peter H. ed., *Spirituality and the Secular Quest*, SCM Press 1996

Walhout, Clarence, and Leland Ryken, (eds.) *Contemporary Literary Theory: A Christian appraisal*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991.

Wheeler, Michael. *Heaven Hell and the Victorians*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1994.

Wright, Terry R. *Theology and Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 1998.

Wright, Terry R. *The Genesis of Fiction*. Aldershot: Ashgate 2007.

Also look for articles in the following journals, which are dedicated to the field of literature and theology:

1. Christianity and Literature
2. Religion and Literature
3. Literature and Theology

- **Texts and secondary literature**

Mary Shelley *Frankenstein*

Gilbert, Sandra M. and Susan Gubar. *The Madwoman in the Attic*. Yale University Press 1979.

Knight, Mark. *An Introduction to Religion and Literature*. London: Continuum 2009 Ch.1.

Moers, Ellen. *Literary Women*. London: the Women's Press 1978 (Chapter 5).

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. A New Casebook edited by Fred Botting London: Macmillan 1995.

George Eliot *Silas Marner*

Uglow, Jennifer. *George Eliot* London: Virago 1987

Haight, G.S. *A Century of George Eliot Criticism* London: Methuen 1986

Hodgson, Peter C. *Theology in the Fiction of George Eliot* SCM Press 2001

Swinden, Patrick. *Silas Marner: Memory and Salvation* Twayne's Masterwork Studies New York 1992

Frances Horovitz Poems

Horovitz, Frances. *Collected Poems*. Newcastle: Bloodaxe Books 1985.

Horovitz, Michael. 'Francis Horovitz: Poet – The Reality of Love' in *Words International* 1987 pp.44-47.

Sewell, Brocard. (ed.) *Frances Horovitz, Poet: A Symposium* Aylesford: The Aylesford Press 1987.

Yates and Stevens

Muir, Edwin, *Collected Poems* (London: Faber and Faber, 1984)

Muir, Edwin, *The Estate of Poetry* (London: Hogarth Press, 1962)

Raine, Kathleen, *Defending Ancient Springs* (Ipswich: Golgonooza Press, 1985)

Stevens, Wallace, *Collected Poetry and Prose* (New York: Library of America, 1997)

Yeats, W. B., *The Collected Poems* (London: Macmillan, 1950)

Yeats, W. B., *Essays and Introduction* (London: Macmillan, 1961)

C.S. Lewis and Imagination

Primary

George MacDonald, *The Fantastic Imagination* <http://gaslight.mtroyal.ca/ortsx14.htm>

C. S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

C.S. Lewis, 'Bluspels and Flalansferes: A Semantic Nightmare', in idem *Selected Literary Essays*.

(There are many other books by Lewis and MacDonald that you might also want to look at).

Secondary

Jeffrey, David Lyle, 'C.S. Lewis, the Bible, and Its Literary Critics' *Christianity and Literature* 2000, 50/1, 95-109. – **General Theory**

Arnell, Carla A, 'On Beauty, Justice and the Sublime in C. S. Lewis's *Till We Have Faces*' *Christianity and Literature* 2002, 52/1, 23-33.

Dearborn K, *Baptized Imagination: The Theology of George MacDonald* (Ashgate, 2006)

Downing, David C. S. 'Lewis: Apostle to the Imagination' *Christianity Today*, 1971, 16/1, 10-12.

Gray, William *Death and fantasy: essays on Philip Pullman, C. S. Lewis, George MacDonald and R. L. Stevenson*.

Gray, William, *Fantasy, myth and the measure of truth: tales of Pullman, Lewis, Tolkien, MacDonald, and Hoffman*.

Hooper, Walter 'Past Watchful Dragons: The Fairy Tales of C. S. Lewis' in Huttar Charles A. (ed.) *Imagination and the Spirit: Essays in Literature and the Christian Faith Presented to Clyde S. Kilby* Grand Rapids 1971), pp. 277-340

Hoyer, Robert, 'Imagination and Faith: A Response to Mary Warnock', *Theology* 1989, 92/747, 181-7.

Hoyer, Robert, 'C.S. Lewis on the Epistemic Significance of the Imagination' *Soundings* 1991, 74, 215-41.

Lee D. Rossi The politics of fantasy: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien

Lindskoog Kathryn *Surprised by C.S. Lewis, George MacDonald & Dante: an array of original discoveries.*

Lindsley Art , ' The Importance of Imagination for C.S. Lewis'
<http://www.lewissociety.org/articles.php#4>

Marshall Cynthia, *Essays on C. S. Lewis and George MacDonald: Truth, Fiction and the Power of the Imagination* (NY, 1991).

Purtill Richard *Lord of Elves and Eldils: Fantasy and Philosophy in C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien*, (1974), chapters 1-3, 8.

Schakel Peter J..*Reason and imagination in C.S. Lewis: a study of Till we have faces*

Sadler, Glenn Edwards 'The Fantastic Imagination of George MacDonald', in Huttar Charles A. (ed.) *Imagination and the Spirit: Essays in Literature and the Christian Faith Presented to Clyde S. Kilby* Grand Rapids 1971), pp. 215-228

Warnock Mary, *Imagination* (London, 1976) – offers criticism of Lewis's approach to imagination.

Wood, Ralph C, 'The Baptized Imagination: C. S. Lewis's Fictional Apologetics' *Christian Century* 1995 111/25, 812-15.

Zuck, John E, 'Religion and Fantasy', *Religious Education* 1975, 70/6, 586-604.