ADTH101601 Introduction to Christian Theology: Spirituality Secular & Christian
4 Credits, Fall 2015

Instructor:  Prof. James M. Weiss,  james.weiss@bc.edu Office: Stokes North 435
Telephone:  617 552 3897   Office Hours:   After class or by appointment
Schedule: Stokes 121 North, Tuesdays September 1 to December 15, 6:15 to 9:15

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
This course considers the tradition of Christian theology with a focus on spirituality. To begin, we also examine spirituality as a general human reality apart from religion. Then we study forms of Christian spirituality and community, both Catholic and Protestant, historical and modern. In addition to historical material, we anchor our work in personal accounts of spiritual development by Etty Hillesum and Kathleen Norris, modern writers who blend both traditional and new spiritual approaches. Spiritualities examined are classic Catholic and Protestant forms, including: Augustine, Benedictines, Francis of Assisi, Ignatius, Francis de Sales, Puritans, Quakers, Vatican II, and spirituality of the workplace.

Course Objectives
1. Students will gain factual knowledge about definitions of different kinds of spirituality, chiefly Christian, by comparisons among different kinds, through readings & videos.
2. Students may learn to apply course materials to contemporary trends in society, where the term "spirituality" has numerous definitions and applications.
3. Students will develop skills in expressing themselves in oral discussion and in writing.
4. Students will demonstrate skill in considering cultural settings and the impact of culture, gender, and age in spirituality as demonstrated by the readings, lectures, and discussions. This skill is also learned by paying attention to perspectives of each and every classmate!
5. The student will demonstrate ethical or spiritual sensitivity as demonstrated in the readings, lectures, and discussions.

VERY IMPORTANT ABOUT E-MAIL !!

All E-mail communication to the class is sent to your BC AGORA account. Even though you may use a personal e-mail server (gmail, hotmail, etc.) to communicate with the professor, and he will respond to you at that address, his general communication with the entire class will be to your BC e-mail.

SO – pay attention! -- if you normally read e-mail on a different account, set your BC account to forward e-mail. You are responsible for all e-mails sent to you.
Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term Essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Assigned October 6, due October 20, 6 PM by e-mail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Assigned December 8, due December 15, 6 PM by e-mail</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes (10)</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29; Oct. 6, 27; Nov. 10, 17, 24; Dec. 1, 8</td>
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WCAS Grading System The undergraduate grading system has twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course.

Grade Reports. All students must log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O’Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Texts/Readings (Required)
1. Richard Foster, Streams of Living Water
2. Richard Rolheiser, The Holy Longing
3. Etty Hillesum, A Life Interrupted and Letters from Westerbork
4. Kathleen Norris, Dakota: A Spiritual Geography
5. John Neafsey, A Sacred Voice is Calling
6. Various articles online in O’Neill reserves, including the major readings on Protestantism from Dillenberger and Welch, will be found on O’Neill E-reserves. You must know (or learn) how to use E-reserves. Handouts will be used for some classic authors (Ignatius, Francis, etc.)

Readings (Recommended)
An intriguing work, related to this course, is Peter Tufts Richardson, Four Spiritualities A Psychology of Contemporary Spiritual Choice
A standard reference work in the field is Philip Sheldrake, ed., The New Westminster Dictionary of Christian Spirituality

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA or another approved format. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.
Request for Accommodations and about Disabilities

If you have a physical or a learning disability and will request help for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and documentation are required for accommodations.

http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance

Students must attend all classes, arrive by the beginning, and remain for the entire class. Leaving class at the break equals a full absence, unless excused. **Excused absence** requires permission for an urgent and documentable reason. To have your absence excused, you must communicate your reason to the professor within 24 hours after class and receive his agreement that the absence is excused. An excused absence does not count against you, but see the Policy on Missed Quizzes and the note on missed participation below. **Unexcused absence** is absence without communication or permission. With the first unexcused absence, your final grade will be dropped by .20 (e.g., from 2.9 [=B] to 2.7 [=B-]); upon your third, by .30 and so forth.

Even with an excused absence, you must meet all assignment deadlines. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate's notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due.

Since you receive participation points, if you miss class, you cannot make up participation points. Absences not typically excused include family celebrations, vacations, and picking people up from airport or train. Absence for religious holidays is excused, but only if reported to professor in advance. If circumstances require excessive absence from class, you should withdraw from class. Attendance policies may vary by instructor.

My policy on attendance is in conformity with the Woods College Policy. My policy above is spelled out in ways related to this course. Here is the text of the full Woods College Policy:

**Attendance**

Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays. Circumstances may necessitate a departure from this policy. Contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.
New Feature on Participation
You receive a participation advisory grade around mid-term. If you earn a final participation grade of C+ or higher, your participation grade will be based on your classroom discussion. If you receive a grade of C or lower, then half your participation grade will be the value of your quiz scores. I can explain the educational theory for this if you ask me.

Policy on Missed Quizzes
If you miss a quiz, you must submit in the following class a one-paragraph summary of each of the readings that was assigned for the quiz you missed. This is true except for the “double credit” quiz on Protestantism, held either Nov. 19 or 26. That quiz will not allow a later make-up, but a 4 to 5 page paper. ** Note: That quiz is worth two quizzes.

Course Syllabus and Assignments
New, additional readings will help us meet the 4 credit hours of instructional time offered for this course. Please do not raise questions about length of reading assignments. They are heavier now across the board at Woods College because you receive 4 credit hours.

Standard academic policy across the USA is that you spend 2 hours per week for every credit hour earned. For this four-credit course, that would mean an average of 8 hours per week of study time spent on assignments and readings.
COURSE MEETINGS, TOPICS, READINGS, & ASSIGNMENTS

1) September 1  Christian Theology, Tradition, & Meanings of Spirituality

   Introduction to the course content and the process of shared learning

   Lecture on Spirituality. This opening lecture will refer to these readings and topics which will be on NEXT week’s quiz.

   (1) Topics: Seekers, Dwellers, and Practitioners

   (2) Online reserve articles by Roy, Camus, Kurtz, Rolheiser, chapters 1 and 2

   (3) Handouts by Newsweek, Mercadante, Daniel

2) September 8  Experiences & Practices of Spirituality

   Readings Due: Newsweek “In Search of the Spiritual”; Rolheiser, Roy, Camus, Kurtz, Mercadante, Daniel

   Quiz on contents of all above readings

   Discussion on Roy and Camus: How do the persons and experiences in Roy and Camus help us understand theories of spirituality in the readings and the first lecture?

   Lecture on a form of contemporary secular spirituality: 12 Step Programs as Spiritual
   See article by Kurtz

   Introduction to Etty Hillesum

3) September 15  1- A Life in Spiritual Transformation, Part 1
                2- Christian Spirituality: Values & Practices

   Readings Due: Hillesum, pages 3-156 (some omissions, announced in previous class), and reading by/about St. Augustine (online reserve for course)

   Quiz on contents of Etty Hillesum reading

   Discussion of Etty Hillesum, Part I

   Lecture to conclude last week’s material and begin the fundamentals of Christian spirituality (incl. articles by Downey and Byron in coursepack)

4) September 22  1- A Life in Spiritual Transformation, Part 2
                2- Christian Spirituality, Jesus’s Basic Teachings

   Readings Due: Hillesum, pages 156-270 (some omissions), 273-296, 361-364

   Quiz on contents of Etty Hillesum

   Discussion of Etty with concluding Lecture on her and influences of classic Christian spirituality and Lecture on Byron, Downey, and Rolheiser chaps. 2,3 and on Jesus’s Farewell Discourse, Sermon on the Mount, and 3 Parables (Handouts)
5)  September 29  Christian Spirituality: Incarnational & Catholic Varieties

Readings for Lecture: Materials on Jesus (above, all handouts), Downey, Byron, Rolheiser chaps.3, 4, 5, Foster, ch. 7; also Foster, ch. 4 (pp. 99-106), also selections from and about St. Ignatius Loyola and St. Francis de Sales

Quiz on Byron, Downey, Foster, Rolheiser, & materials on Jesus

Lecture on incarnational spirituality and prayer

Lecture on classic forms of Roman Catholic spirituality

Discussion at end of class, time permitting

6)  October 6  Christian Spirituality: Incarnational & Catholic Varieties

Discussion of previous class materials, continued

Reading for Lecture: Foster, chapter 3

Quiz on Foster, chapter 3

Lecture on spirituality in the holiness tradition

Mid-Term Essay assigned tonight, due Saturday, October 18 by 6 PM

7)  October 13  NO CLASS

8)  October 20  Catholicism in Transition since 1960

Reading  Selections from Vatican II, *Gaudium et Spes*

Lecture on changes in Catholicism after Vatican II

Video on Roman Catholicism

Preparatory comments on *Dakota*

8)  October 27  Incarnational Spirituality (Catholic & Protestant)

Readings Due: Dakota, pages 1-24; 60-78; 90-101; 107-123; 126-134; 155-158; 160-179; 196 (from "Monks have long")-204, 208-220

Selections from *The Rule of St. Benedict*
Quiz on *Dakota* as well as on last week’s lecture on Catholicism after Vatican II

Discussion of (1) Roman Catholicism, (2) *Dakota*

Concluding lecture on Catholicism and *Dakota*

9) November 3 Protestant Spirituality, Part 1

Readings on Luther and Calvin Due: Dillenberger & Welch chapter 2 & chapter 3, online; Foster, chapter 6; Allik (Handout from previous week)

Lecture on principles and varieties of Protestant spirituality

10) November 10 Protestant Spirituality, Part 2

Readings Due: Dillenberger & Welch, ch. 5 (Online reserve) Foster, ch. 4

Quiz on all Protestantism readings and lectures to date

Lecture on alternative types of Protestant spirituality: Baptist, Puritan, Quaker

Video in class on varieties of Protestantism: mainline progressive; fundamentalist/evangelical; pentecostal

Discussion of Protestantism

11) November 17 Catching up on previous material & Introduction to Spirituality of Everyday Life

Discussion of Protestantism; also discussion of the possibility of finding spirituality in one’s job or applying it to one’s job

Readings Due: Haughey and Keeley articles, online reserve;

Quiz on Haughey and Keeley articles

12 & 13 & 14) November 24, December 1 & 8 Spirituality in Personal Life

Reading due for November 24: Neafsey, chapters 1-5
Reading due for December 1: Neafsey, chapters 6-10

Quiz on Nov. 24 and December 1 on contents of Neafsey

Discussions and lectures on finding one’s own spirituality

Final Essay assigned December 8 in class; due by e-mail at time of last class Dec. 15