

THE ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY
Spring 2016

Tuesday

6:00-8:30 p.m.

SP601 Foundations of Christian Spirituality

Dr. Art Thomas

Course Description:

An examination of spiritual theology, conversion, means of spiritual growth [including ascetical and mystical dimensions], disciplines, prayer, and spiritual guidance as understood in various faith traditions. Three credits.

Course Requirements:

- Students should expect to read *at most* 900 pages of required reading.
- Students should expect to write *at most* 22 double-spaced pages. These will be comprised of the following:
 1. A spiritual autobiography paper of at least 12 pages in length (typed and double-spaced) utilizing concepts of spiritual theology covered in class. Students must define and describe the concepts based on the assigned readings and research. End notes are required. The first paper will be 40 % of the final grade.
 2. A 10-12 page continuation of the student's spiritual autobiography describing any experiences that parallel or resemble concepts studied during the remaining half of the course. Students must define and describe the concepts of spiritual theology based on the assigned readings and research. End notes are required. The second paper will be 40 % of the final grade.
- In addition to reading, writing and class participation, students should expect to produce or participate in these additional graded learning activities:
 1. An oral presentation on one of the required readings with no additional research needed. 10% of the final grade
 2. A final quiz. There will be a quiz on the terms of spiritual theology as found in the glossary. Students will match the terms from a list with definitions as found on the study sheet. Some definitions will be written from memory. This will count as 10 % of the final grade. There will be extra credit questions involving filling in the blanks.
 3. Class discussion of the readings

Required Texts:

Barton, Ruth Haley. Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2006. ISBN 9780830833337.

Beaseley-Topliffe, Keith, ed. The Upper Room Dictionary of Christian Spiritual Formation. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 2003. ISBN 0-8358-0993-5.

Chan, Simon. Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1998. ISBN 0-8308-1542-2.

Griffin, Emilie. Wonderful and Dark is This Road: Discovering the Mystic Path. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2004. ISBN 1-55725-358-7.

Smith, Gordon T. Beginning Well: Christian Conversion & Authentic Transformation. Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2001. ISBN 0-8308-2297-6.