

**St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute
Fall 2021**

Class Day & Time: Tuesday, 6:00 – 8:30 pm
Course Name & Number: SP/ST609 Spiritual Theology

Instructor: Dr. John Hayes

Course Description: This course provides an orientation and immersion in the theological understanding of Christian spirituality, understood as the Christian's lived response to the Gospel's invitation to deepening conversion of heart and mind to God in Christ through the Holy Spirit. Authentic Christian spirituality, grounded in scripture and tradition, is always relational and communal, strengthening the Christian for prophetic and healing engagement with the world. The course requires close reading of selections from a wide spectrum of ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary spiritual writers that focus on the working of grace, the development of virtue, spiritual growth, ascetical practices, prayer and contemplation, and religious experience.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 900 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** Required writing assignments include eight one-page reflection papers (single spaced, 12 font) and a 15-20-page (double spaced, 12 font) research paper on a spiritual writer that the student wishes to study more deeply.
- **Other:** Because the material will be covered in seminar format, active student participation in class discussions is essential.

Required Texts:

Bernard McGinn (editor), *The Essential Writings of Christian Mysticism*, (Modern Library, 2006) ISBN 0-8129-7421-2.

David Bentley Hart, *The Experience of God: Being, Consciousness, Bliss*, (Yale University Press 2013) ISBN 978-0-300-16684-2.

Olivier Clement, *The Roots of Christian Mysticism, text and commentary*, (New City Press, 1995) ISBN 1-56548-029-5

Ann and Barry Ulanov, *Primary Speech, A Psychology of Prayer*, (Westminster John Knox, 1982) ISBN 0-8042-1134-5

Vincent Pizzuto, *Contemplating Christ: The Gospels and the Interior Life*, (Liturgical Press, 2018) ISBN 1-56548-029-5

Mark A. McIntosh, *Mystical Theology*, (Blackwell, 2003) ISBN1-55786-907-3.

MAT Degree Learning Outcomes Addressed by This Course:

Students will be able to –

1. Analyze Christian texts, convictions, and practices within the major developments and diversities of Christian tradition.
2. Interpret the world in all its dimensions theologically.

MAT Degree Learning Outcomes Addressed by This Course:

Students will be able to demonstrate -

1. A firm understanding of the Christian Scripture and pertinent Church Tradition through the ability to apply that understanding in analyzing and responding to pastoral / ministry encounters
2. An ability to contextualize practical skills in ministry, as appropriate to a student's locus of ministry (e.g., team building, conflict mediation, planning, resource location, mentoring, preaching, etc.)