



Theology of Spanish Mysticism

Course Details

Course Designator & Number: TLDO 3515

Number of Credits: 3

Language of Instruction: Spanish

Contact Hours: 45 hours

Course Description

The mystic experience is one of the major themes of Christian Theology. Its roots lie in the most ancient Biblical doctrine, and in the New Testament it receives its fullest expression in the letters of the Apostle Paul. Some of the most important writings of Christian mysticism come to us from the theological writers of 16th century Spain, namely, Saint John of the Cross and Saint Teresa of Jesus.

The purpose of this course is to present the essential writings on Christian mysticism within the context of the ecumenical Christian tradition. To accomplish this, the richness of this theology must be presented with a dual focus. On the one hand, students will be brought to a global understanding of the historical development and formation of these theological concepts and arguments within the context of Western culture. On the other hand, students will be presented with a more specific vision of the concrete theological proposals of mysticism and its way of connecting with God, as well as be offered a guide and tools for spiritual growth based on rational analysis and personal experience.

Finally this course will establish a dialogue with the human sciences and encourage students to critically reflect on the connection between faith and reason.

Course Objectives

- For students to gain knowledge and appreciation for the Christian tradition of mysticism, especially the tradition which comes from 16th century Spain.
- For students to engage in the dialogue between faith and reason
- For students to receive information and tools for their own spiritual development

Methodology

This course will be taught through lecture, discussion, and in-class reading of the classic texts of Spanish mysticism. Student interaction and participation is highly encouraged, and to this end the class will feature multiple debates and group discussions. We will also take full advantage of our exceptional location in Toledo and visit some of the sites where the great mystical experiences of the 16th century occurred.

Course Prerequisites

Spanish 1004

Required Reading / Materials

For each topic, student will be oriented toward specific reading from this general bibliography:

ANDRÉS MARTÍN, M., Historia de la mística de la Edad de oro en España y América, B.A.C., Madrid, 1994.

BENEDICTO XVI, Audiencia General, Miércoles 2 de febrero de 2011. Santa Teresa de Jesús.

BENEDICTO XVI, Audiencia General, Miércoles 16 de febrero de 2011. San Juan de la Cruz.

CILVETI, Ángel L., Introducción a la mística española, Cátedra, Madrid, 1975.

CRUZ, San Juan de la., Obra completa, Alianza, Madrid, 1991.

DELUMEAU, J., La Reforma. Labor, Barcelona, 1967.

FARRELY, B, O.P., Eckart, Tauler y Seuze. Vida y doctrina del Maestro y sus dos mejores discípulos, Edibesa, Madrid, 2000.

FERRATER MORA, J., Diccionario de Filosofía, Alianza, Madrid, 1979.

JESÚS, Sta. Teresa de., Obra completa, B.A.C., Madrid, 1986.

LÓPEZ-BARALT, L y PIERA, L. El sol a media noche. La experiencia mística: tradición y actualidad, Trotta, Madrid, 1996.

LOYOLA, San Ignacio., Obra completa, B.A.C., Madrid, 1963.

MARTÍN VELASCO, J, El fenómeno místico. Estudio comparado, Trotta, Madrid, 1999.

MARTÍN VELASCO, J, La experiencia mística. Estudio interdisciplinar, Trotta, Madrid, 2004.

OROZCO DÍAZ, E., Estudios sobre S. Juan de la Cruz y la mística del Barroco, Universidad de Granada, Granada, 2 vol. 1994.

PEÑALVER GÓMEZ, P., La Mística española (siglos XVI y XVII), Akal, Madrid, 1997.

ROSSI, R., Juan de la Cruz. Silencio y creatividad, Trotta, Madrid, 1996.

SCHOLEM, G., Las grandes tendencias de la mística judía, Siruela, Madrid, 1996.

UNDERHILL, E., La mística. Un estudio sobre la naturaleza y el desarrollo de la conciencia espiritual, Trotta, Madrid, 2006.

Grading

Grading Rubric

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
A	93–100	Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
A-	90–92	Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
B+	87–89	
B	83–86	
B-	80–82	Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
C+	77–79	
C	73–76	
C-	70–72	Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to fully meet the course requirements.
D+	67–69	
D	60–66	

Letter Grade	Score or Percentage	Description
F	0–59	Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I.

Summary of How Grades Are Weighted

Students will be evaluated through written assignments and exams. The professor will provide details of how they are weighted in the final grade during the course introduction.

Course Content

Unit 1

Constructing the Concepts of Christian Mystical Theology

- Foundation of Christian Mysticism in Greek Philosophy: body and soul, knowledge of the Good in Platonic philosophy
- Mysticism in the Old and New Testament
- Saint Augustine and the foundations of Medieval mysticism
- Mystics of Germany and the Netherlands (13th and 14th centuries)
- Mysticism in the Protestant Reformation and the Catholic Counterreformation

Unit 2

The Canon of Christian Mystical Theology

- Establishing the canon: different paths of mysticism
- Saint Ignatius of Loyola's contribution to mystic theology: study *The Spiritual Exercises* and the *Spiritual Diary*
- Theological-mystical doctrine of Saint John of the Cross: the soul's relationship to God, mystic poetry, mystic periods, doctrine of the dark night of the soul
- The spirituality of Saint Teresa of Jesus: mystic writings, analysis of *Las Moradas* as a compendium of mystic theology, study Saint Teresa's form of prayer and relationship with God

Unit 3

Mystic Theology Among the Sciences

- Anthropology: the transcendence of man, forms of symbolism
- Sociology: the impact of mystic experiences on the faith community
- Psychology: the possibility of mystic psychology

Unit 4

Conclusions

- A personal look at the mystic experience: personal conclusions

Policies

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and punctuality are mandatory in order to earn full marks. The final grade will take into consideration preparation required for class (i.e. readings) and participation in class discussions. If you miss any meetings without an excused absence from the on-site director, your final grade will be dropped accordingly. In the case of absences, it is the student's responsibility to find out what information was given in class including any announcements made.

University of Minnesota Policies & Procedures

Academic integrity is essential to a positive teaching and learning environment. All students enrolled in University courses are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in disciplinary action. The University Student Conduct Code defines scholastic dishonesty as follows:

Scholastic Dishonesty

Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering forging, or misusing a University academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

Within this course, a student responsible for scholastic dishonesty can be assigned a penalty up to and including an “F” or “N” for the course. If you have any questions regarding the expectations for a specific assignment or exam, ask.

Student Conduct

The University of Minnesota has specific policies concerning student conduct. This information can be found [on the Learning Abroad Center website](#).