

SPIR 70970/80970/90970: Eros of God: The Song of Songs in Christian Spirituality
3 Semester Hours

Instructor: Timothy H. Robinson

Prerequisites: none

Description of Content:

This course will explore the historical role of the Song of Songs in Christian and Jewish mysticism and spirituality, and possibilities for its role in contemporary spirituality. Through a close examination of the text and its history of reception, engagement with recent scholarly treatments (Feminist, Womanist, eco-hermeneutical, and Queer), and artistic, poetic, and musical appropriations of the Song, we will consider what the history of this text, with its close association of sexual and spiritual desire, has to say to us today.

Class Procedures:

Lectures, discussion, student presentations

Requirements:

All students:

- Attendance and informed participation
- Sermon or liturgy
- Creative project
- 10-12 page paper

D.Min. students:

- Attendance and participation
- Sermon
- 20-25 page paper

PhD Students:

- Attendance and participation
- Creative project
- 1,000 pages of extra reading
- 20-25 page research paper

Texts:

- Michael Fishbane, *The JPS Bible Commentary: Song of Songs* (Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 2015). ISBN: 978-0827607415, \$55.00
- Denys Edwards, *Eros and Allegory: Medieval Exegesis and the Song of Songs* (Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1995). ISBN: 978-0879079567, \$39.95

- Excerpts from Timothy Robinson, ed., *Brill Companion to the Song of Songs in Christian Spirituality* (will not be released until 2020: copies of excerpts will be supplied by instructor)
- Various articles on Feminist, Womanist, Queer, and ecological interpretations of the Song and its reception history: will be identified in syllabus and copies supplied by instructor when not available through ATLA.
- Primary source selections from the history of Song reception, will be identified in syllabus and copies supplied by instructor