

**Derrida and Theopolitical Issues**

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Professor of Theology and Religion

Prerequisites: None

**Spring 2022** Wed. 1:00-3:30pm

*Derridean deconstruction will have been  
the greatest ethico-political warning of our time  
--Cixous, 1994*

*What if someone came along who changed  
not the way you think about everything  
but everything about the way you think?*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Jacques Derrida (1930-2004) was one of the few thinkers, in the latter half of the twentieth century, who profoundly and radically transformed our understanding of writing, reading, con/texts, and textuality. The scope of Derrida's thinking is incomprehensible. A person of *prayers and tears*, as John Caputo describes, Derrida was a prominent philosopher-theologian/ theologian-philosopher who never kept his political and ethical passion separate from the uninterrupted theological/philosophical reflections. Derrida audaciously fought against all form of apartheid and exclusion, wherever they took place; and passionately and consistently spoke and lived the cosmopolitan justice, compassion, and hospitality. Derrida is regarded as a key thinker for the study of religion/theology. This course examines several theopolitical and philosophical issues in Derrida's thinking such as deconstruction, religion, justice, hospitality, cosmopolitanism, and forgiveness.

**CLASS PROCEDURE**

Presentations, lectures, and in-depth discussion of the issues

**REQUIREMENT AND GRADING**

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|--|----------------------------|
| Two <i>Letters</i> to Derrida:         | 20 points (10 points each) |
| <i>My Lexicon</i> --Critical Concepts: | 20 points                  |
| Presentation:                          | 20 points                  |
| Qualifying Exam Paper:                 | 40 points                  |
- 4,000~5,000 words for M.Div/MTS/MACS;
  - 5,000~6,000 words for D.Min/Th.M/ Ph.D.
- *This requirement is subject to change depending on the size and pedagogical need of the class.*

**COURSE TEXTS**

Caputo, John D. *What Would Jesus Deconstruct: The Good News of Postmodernism for the Church*. Baker Academic, 2007. ISBN-10: 0801031362. \$16.35  
 Derrida, Jacques. *Acts of Religion*. Ed. Gil Anidjar. Routledge, 2002. ISBN-10: 0415924014. \$33.95.

- \_\_\_\_\_. On Cosmopolitanism and Forgiveness. Routledge, 2001. ISBN-10: 0415227127. \$22.95.
- McCance, Dawne. Derrida on Religion: Thinker of Difference. Key Thinkers in the Study of Religion. 2009; New York: Routledge, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-1845532765. \$39.95.
- Naas, Michael. *The End of the World and Other Teachable Moments: Jacques Derrida's Final Seminar*, 2014. New York: Fordham University Press, 2014. ISBN-13: 978-0823263295. \$24.00
- Royle, Nicholas. Jacques Derrida. Routledge Critical Thinkers. London and New York: Routledge, 2003. ISBN-10: 0415229316. \$23.57