

SPIR 70053/80053 : Eros of God: The Song of Songs in Christian and Jewish 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, 20% of grade
- Reading journals, 30% of grade
- Sermon or liturgy, 25% of grade
- Creative project, 25% of grade

D.Min. students:

- Attendance and participation, 20% of grade
- Reading journals, 20% of grade
- Sermon, 20% of grade
- 15-20 page research paper, 40% of grade

Texts:

- Timothy Robinson, ed., *A Companion to the Song of Songs in the History of Spirituality* (Brill, 2021). ISBN: 978-9004387027. The retail price is not relevant for this reference work. The book is available in the TCU Library as an e-book and the publisher will make paperback copies available to enrolled students for \$25.00
- Ilana Pardes, *The Song of Songs: A Biography* (Princeton University Press, 2019), ISBN: 978-0691146065, \$24.95
- Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon* (New York: Vintage International, 1977 and 2004), ISBN: 978-1400033423, \$16.00
- We will frequently consult the following commentaries, although it is not necessary to purchase all of them. They will be on reserve in the TCU Library:
 - Michael Fishbane, *JPS Commentary: Song of Songs* (Philadelphia: Jewish

Publication Society, 2015)

- Renita J. Weems, “The Song of Songs: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections,” in *Introduction to Wisdom Literature, the Book of Proverbs, the Book of Ecclesiastes, the Song of Songs, the Book of Wisdom, the Book of Sirach*, ed. Leander E. Keck, New Interpreter’s Bible 5 (Nashville: 1997)
- J. Cheryl Exum, *Song of Songs* (The Old Testament Library), (Westminster / John Knox, 2005), ISBN: 978-0664221904
- Primary source selections from the history of Song reception, will be identified in syllabus and copies supplied by instructor