

SPIR 70403/80403: Martyrs, Monks, and Mystics: The History of Christian Spirituality
3 Semester Hours

Instructor: Timothy Robinson

Prerequisites: none

Description of Content: This course introduces students to the history and historiography of Christian spirituality. Emphasizing the global scope of Christian spirituality within its various cultural contexts, the course surveys significant persons, movements, and themes comprising the diverse history of the Christian quest for encounter with the Sacred. The course will involve the practice of various spiritual exercises drawn from the history we study and consideration of what the spiritualities of the past inform the spiritual life today.

Class Procedures: Lectures, small group discussions, films, spiritual practices

Requirements:

1. Attendance and informed participation in the class sessions
2. Weekly response papers (1-2 pages)
3. Paper on a classic spiritual text/figure (4-6 pages)
4. Practice of a spiritual exercise and final reflection paper on the experience
5. For Doctor of Ministry students: 15-20 page research paper

Texts:

1. Philip Sheldrake, *Spirituality: A Brief History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013): ISBN: 978-1118472354; \$35.95
2. Rachel Wheeler, *Desert Daughters, Desert Sons: Rethinking the Christian Desert Tradition* (Liturgical Press, 2020): 978-0814685006, \$19.95
3. Wendy Farley, *The Thirst of God: Contemplating God's Love with Three Women Mystics* (Westminster/John Knox, 2015): 978-0664259860, \$25.00.
4. Other readings made available at the beginning of the semester

Grading Procedures:

1. Participation: 10%
2. Weekly responses: 30%
3. Spiritual classic paper: 30%
4. Final reflection on practice: 30%
5. For D.Mins.: Research paper 40%; Participation: 10%; Weekly responses, 25%; Reflection on practice, 25%