

Biblical Radicalism / Summer 2009

May 21-June 11, 2009
Gardencourt 206
Monday-Friday, 9:00-11:30 a.m

Instructor: Christopher Elwood
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This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Course Description:

This course will introduce you to selected movements in the history of Christianity, from medieval to modern times, that have emphasized the necessity of a distinctive biblical, theological, and social witness that stands in opposition to culture. We will examine closely three movements—the thirteenth and fourteenth-century Franciscans, Anabaptist groups of the sixteenth century, and the twentieth-century Catholic Worker movement—as representative of a diverse tradition of biblical radicalism. In addition, you will have the opportunity to research another figure or movement that typifies a radical approach to faith and practice. In our explorations, we will seek to gain clearer understandings of the characteristics of this tradition and its unique contributions to Christian witness.

Students taking this course should have completed at least one semester of the History of Christian Experience.

Goals and Objectives:

The goal of the course is to help students develop their capacity for faithful and coherent theological expression in pastoral practice.

Students will

- gain a basic understanding of traditions of biblical radicalism,
- sharpen their skills of theological interpretation through the close reading and discussion of primary sources,
- develop an ability to make responsible and relevant use of historic theological writing,
- clarify their own theological and ethical positions.

Required Books:

Francis and Clare: The Complete Works. Ed. Regis Armstrong, OFM and Ignatius C. Brady, OFM. New York: Paulist Press, 1986. ISBN-10: 0809124467 ISBN-13: 978-0809124466 (FCCW in the syllabus)

Early Anabaptist Spirituality: Selected Writings. Ed. Daniel Liechty. New York: Paulist Press, 1994. ISBN-10: 0809134756 ISBN-13: 978-0809134755 (EAS in the syllabus)

Dorothy Day: Selected Writings. Ed. Robert Ellsberg. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 2005. ISBN-10: 1570755817 ISBN-13: 978-1570755811 (DDSW in the syllabus)

On Library Reserve:

N.B. All required reading not taken from the three required books for the course, should be posted on the CAMS system: <http://mail.lpts.edu/estudent>.

Armstrong, Regis J. *St. Clare of Assisi: The Early Documents.* New York: Paulist Press, 1989.

Armstrong, Regis J., J.A. Wayne Hellmann, and William J. Short, ed. *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents.* 3 vols. New York: New City Press, 1999.

Burr, David. *Spiritual Franciscans: From Protest to Persecution in the Century After Saint Francis.* University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003.

Carter, Craig A. *Rethinking Christ and Culture: A Post-Christendom Perspective.* Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.

Day, Dorothy. *The Long Loneliness: The Autobiography of the Legendary Catholic Social Activist.* HarperOne, 1996.

- Hauerwas, Stanley, and William H. Willimon. *Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1989.
- Hirzel, Martin Ernst, and Martin Sallman. *John Calvin's Impact on Church and Society, 1509-2009*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2009.
- House, Adrian. *Francis of Assisi: A Revolutionary Life*. New York: Paulist Press, 2003.
- Irwin, Joyce. *Womanhood in Radical Protestantism, 1525-1675*. New York: Edwin Mellen, 1987.
- Kienzle, Beverly Mayne and Pamela J. Walker, ed. *Women Preachers and Prophets through Two Millennia of Christianity*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
- McGinn, Bernard, ed. *Apocalyptic Spirituality*. New York: Paulist Press, 1979.
- Niebuhr, H. Richard. *Christ and Culture*. New York: Harper, 1951.
- Raitt, Jill, ed. *Christian Spirituality: High Middle Ages and Reformation*. New York: Crossroad, 1987.
- Snyder, C. Arnold, and Linda A. Huebert Hecht, ed. *Profiles of Anabaptist Women*. Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfrid Laurier Press, 1996.
- Stassen, Glen, Dianne Yeager, John Howard Yoder. *Authentic Transformation*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Troeltsch, Ernst. *The Social Teachings of the Christian Churches*. 2 vols. Trans. Olive Wyon. London: Allen and Unwin, 1931.
- Troester, Rosalie. *Voices From Catholic Worker*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993.
- West, Cornel. *Prophesy Deliverance! An Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity*. Westminster John Knox, 1982/2002.
- Williams, George Hunston. *The Radical Reformation*. 3rd ed. Kirksville, Missouri: Sixteenth Century Publishers, 1992.
- Williams, George Hunston, ed. *Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1957.
- Yoder, John Howard. *The Politics of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.
- Yoder, John Howard. *The Original Revolution: Essays on Christian Pacifism*. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2003.
- Zwick, Mark and Louise Zwick. *The Catholic Worker Movement: Intellectual And Spiritual Origins*. New York: Paulist Press, 2005.

Requirements:

1. Preparation for class and active, thoughtful participation in discussion (15%);
2. A short research paper (5 pages) on a radical figure or movement of the student's choice (to be turned in and presented in class on **June 9**) (35%) [see list below];
3. A synthetic paper (10 pages) that explores a theme running through the readings of this course, and that locates the student's own developing theological and ethical stance in relation to the emphases identified as characteristic of biblical radicalism (due **June 15**) (50%).

All required written work should be submitted, electronically, to the instructor's email inbox.

Radical figures and movements – a beginning list:

Medieval and Early Modern:

Jakob Amman (Amish)
 Mary Cary
 Cathars (Gnostic groups)
 Ann Hutchinson
 Joachim of Fiore
 Margaret Fell (Quakers)
 George Fox (Quakers)
 Marguerite Porete (Beguines)
 Fausto Sozzini (Polish Brethren)
 Waldensians

Nikolai Berdyaev (Russia)
 Philip Berrigan (US)
 Josephine Butler (Brit.)
 Hélder Câmara (Brazil)
 Ernesto Cardenal (Solentiname, Nicaragua)
 Albert Cleage (US)
 Antônio Conselheiro (Brazil)
 Anna Julia Cooper (US)
 Mary Daly (US)
 Kortwright Davis (Caribbean)
 Jacques Ellul (France)
 Marcus Garvey (Caribbean)

Sarah Grimké and Angelina Grimké Weld (US)
 Gustavo Gutierrez (Peru)
 William Wade Harris (W. Africa)
 Frances Ellen Harper (US)
 bell hooks (US)
 Ellice Hoskins (Brit.)
 Hutterites
 Chung Hyun Kyung (Korea)
 Ann Lee/Shakers (US)
 Aimee Semple McPherson (US)
 Mennonites
 Lucretia Mott (US)

Modern:

Aladura (W. Africa)

A.P. Nirmal (India)
Rastafari (Caribbean)
Elizabeth Cady Stanton (US)

Howard Thurman (US)
Sojourner Truth (US)
M. M. Thomas (India)

Lev Tolstoy (Russia)
Watchtower/Jehovah's
Witnesses

Citation Policy:

Citations in your papers should follow the Seminary standard, which is based on these guides:

- Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 6th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1996.
- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2003.

Copies of these guides are available at the library and in the Academic Support Center.

Academic honesty:

All work turned in to the instructor is expected to be the work of the student whose name appears on the assignment. Any borrowing of the ideas or the words of others must be acknowledged by quotation marks (where appropriate) and by citation of author and source. Students unfamiliar with issues relating to academic honesty can find help from the staff in the Academic Support Center and should make use of the available resources at an early date, since violations of seminary policy on academic honesty can lead to a failing grade for the course.

Accessibility and Accommodation:

Students requiring accommodation for a physical or learning disability should be in contact with the Director of the Academic Support Center (ASC; kmapes@lpts.edu) within the first few days of the course and should speak with the instructor as soon as possible to arrange appropriate adjustments. Students with environmental or other sensitivities that may affect their learning are also encouraged to speak with the instructor.

Inclusive Language:

The use of inclusive language in course work is a policy of Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Direct quotations from theological texts and translations of the Bible do not have to be altered to conform to this policy. In your own writing, however, avoid language for people that leaves out part of the population or perpetuates stereotypes. Do not assume masculine gender when the gender of the person is unknown. When referring to God, you are encouraged to use a variety of images and metaphors. See http://www.lpts.edu/Academic_Resources/ASC/avoidinggenderbiasinlanguage.asp.

Calendar of Topics and Assignments:

May 21 Introductions: delineating radicalism/debating Christ and Culture

TH

Required reading:

Ernst Troeltsch, *Social Teachings*, 1: 331-343

H. Richard Niebuhr, "Types of Christian Ethics," in Glenn Stassen, et al., *Authentic Transformation*, 15-29

John Howard Yoder, "How H. Richard Niebuhr Reasoned: A Critique of Christ and Culture," in Stassen, et al., *Authentic Transformation*, 71-82

Recommended background:

George Williams, "Introduction," *Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers*

H. Richard Niebuhr, *Christ and Culture*, 45-82

Craig A. Carter, "Introducing a Post-Christendom Typology of Christ and Culture," in *Rethinking Christ and Culture*, 111-127, 129

May 22 Francis of Assisi, the Little Brothers, and following Jesus

F

Required reading:

Regis Armstrong and Ignatius Brady, Introduction to *Francis*, FCCR 3-21

Francis of Assisi, Selected writings ("The Testament," "The Earlier Rule," "The Later Rule," ...), FCCR

Thomas of Celano, *First Life* (selection) 1:1-7, 9-13, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, I:182-196, 201-213

Recommended background:

Adrian House, *St. Francis: A Revolutionary Life*, esp. 287-289
Francesco (Film: Liliana Cavani, 1989)

May 26

T

The Franciscans and a New Age

Required reading:

Francis of Assisi, Selected writings (“Admonitions,” “The Prayer Before the Crucifix,” “Canticle of Brother Sun,” “The Parchment Given to Brother Leo”) FCCR

Thomas of Celano, *First Life* 1: 21-22, 2:1-4, in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, I:234-239, 258-267

Joachim of Fiore, *The Book of Concordance*, in Bernard McGinn, ed., *Apocalyptic Spirituality* 97-112, 129-134

Recommended background:

J. A. Wayne Hellmann, “The Spirituality of the Franciscans,” in Jill Raitt, ed. *Christian Spirituality: High Middle Ages and Reformation*, 31-50.

Brother Sun, Sister Moon (Film: Franco Zeffirelli, 1972)

May 27

W

Clare of Assisi and a women’s movement

Required reading:

Regis Armstrong and Ignatius Brady, Introduction to *Clare*, FCCR 169-185

Clare of Assisi, Writings, FCCW 189-234

Francis, Writings to St. Clare and her sisters, FCCR 40-47, 160, 162

Thomas of Celano, *First Life* 1:8, 2:10 in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, I:196-199, 284-287

Recommended background:

J. A. Wayne Hellmann, “The Spirituality of the Franciscans,” in Jill Raitt, ed. *Christian Spirituality: High Middle Ages and Reformation*, 31-50.

May 28

TH

Franciscan spirituals: poverty and controversy

Required reading:

Francis of Assisi, “Letter to Saint Anthony,” “Letter to the Entire Order,” FCCW

A Mirror of the Perfection (Sabatier), in *Francis of Assisi: Early Documents*, III:255-256

Angelo of Clareno, “A Letter to the Pope,” and Peter John Olivi, “Letter to the Sons of Charles II,” in Bernard McGinn, ed., *Apocalyptic Spirituality* 149-181

Angelo of Clareno, *A Chronicle or History of the Seven Tribulations* (selection) <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/clareno-inq.html>

Recommended background:

David Burr, *Spiritual Franciscans* 1-41, 305-313

The Name of the Rose (Film: Jean-Jacques Annaud, 1986)

May 29

F

Radicalism and Reformation: introductions

Required reading:

Daniel Liechty, Introduction to *Early Anabaptist Spirituality*

Felix Mantz, “Letter from Prison,” EAS

Hans Schlaffer, “Instruction,” EAS

Hans Denck, Concerning True Love,” EAS

“Trial and Martyrdom of Michael Sattler,” In Williams, ed., *Spiritual and Anabaptist Writers* (or <http://www.homecomers.org/mirror/martyrs057.htm>)

Recommended background:

Martyrs Mirror images,

<http://www.bethelks.edu/mla/holdings/scans/martyrsmirror/>

June 1

M

Anabaptists, Christendom, and community

Required reading:

Thomas Müntzer, "Sermon Before the Princes"

Peter Walpot, "True Yieldedness and the Christian Community of Goods," EAS 137-196

Recommended background:

James Stayer, "Community of Goods," Hans Hillerbrand, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Reformation* (LPTS E.M. White Library Reference Room : Ref. BR 302.8 O93 1996)

C. Elwood, "Calvin's Ecclesial Theology and Human Salvation," in *John Calvin's Impact on Church and Society, 1509-2009*

June 2

T

Radical reform and women

Required reading:

C. Arnold Snyder and Linda A. Huebert Hecht, ed., *Profiles of Anabaptist Women*, 70-81, 124-139, 384-405

Menno Simons, "Meditation on the Twenty-fifth Psalm" EAS

Recommended background:

Keith Thomas. "Women and the Civil War Sects." *Past and Present* 13 (1958) 42-62.

Joyce Irwin, *Womanhood in Radical Protestantism, 1525-1675*, xi-xxx, 1-8, 200-202, 210-214

Irvin E. Burkhardt, "Menno Simons on the Incarnation." *Mennonite Quarterly Review* 4 (1930): 113-139, 178-207; 6 (1932): 122-123

June 3

W

Dorothy Day and Catholic Social Activism

Required reading:

Robert Ellsberg, "Introduction" to *Selected Writings*, DDSW xvii-xliii

Dorothy Day, "Day After Day," "The Long Way Home," "In Fields and Factories," "Peter Maurin" (selections) DDSW, 51-52, 70-71, 3-48, 235-251, 123-127

Peter Maurin, *Easy Essays* (selections),

<http://www.catholicworker.com/maurin.htm#Change>; and

<http://www.catholicworker.com/pmlabor.htm>

Recommended background:

Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story (Film: Michael Rhodes, 1996)

June 4

TH

The Catholic Worker and its theological sources

Required reading:

Dorothy Day, "Politics and Principles," "Gifts of the Spirit," "Therese" (selections) DDSW, 261-280, 298-302, 306-317, 157-173, 187-196, 201-203

Recommended background:

Mark Zwick, and Louise Zwick, *The Catholic Worker Movement*, 250-278, 344-346

The Flowers of St. Francis (Film: Roberto Rossellini, 1952)

June 5 F	Research Day—No Class
June 8 M	Research Day—No Class
June 9 T	Student Presentations Research paper due
June 10 W	Dorothy Day and strains of contemporary radicalism Required reading: Dorothy Day, “On Pilgrimage” (selections) DDSW, 253-257, 331-336, 339-340, 358-363 John Howard Yoder, “The Original Revolution,” in <i>The Original Revolution</i> , 13-33 Cornel West, “Afro-American Revolutionary Christianity,” in <i>Prophesy Deliverance!</i> , 131-147
June 11 TH	Conclusions
June 15 M	Synthetic paper due