

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

Course Profile - Fall Term 2008

Course: T 501: Process Theology

Instructor: Monica A. Coleman

Prerequisite: Systematic Theology I, Systematic Theology II or its equivalent or by permission of instructor

Statement of Goals

- To convey the process worldview and its key characteristics
- To selectively survey basic theological methods and selected Christian doctrines
- To offer process interpretations of non-Christian faiths
- To situate process theology among classical theology and contemporary theological movements
- To develop students' articulation and expression of process theology around issues that are both personally compelling and theologically innovative

Outline and content of course:

The Process Worldview

Process Theology and Christian Doctrines

Christology, Theodicy, Original Sin, Eschatology, Biblical Interpretation

Process Theology and non-Christian faiths

Judaism, Goddess religions

Process Theology and social-political movements

Liberation Theology, Black and Womanist Theologies, Ecological Theology

Required work for course:

Class Attendance. Come to class. Be on time.

Participation. Each student is expected to complete the assigned reading and come to class prepared to participate in class discussions.

Class discussion leaders. Each student will take turns leading class discussion on the assigned reading.

Book summary. Each student will write, present and distribute to classmates a two-page (2) summary of an unassigned book on process philosophy/ process theology.

Paper presentation. Each student will give a brief class presentation of her or his paper topic.

Papers. Each student will write one term paper (15-17 pages; M.Div./ M.A.; 18-20 pages Ph.D.) that will address an issue or concept that is central to process theology or which represents the unique departure of a particular thinker.

Required Reading:

Read these two books before the first class.

Mesle, C. Robert. Process Theology: A Basic Introduction. St. Louis: Chalice, 1993.

Hartshorne, Charles. Omnipotence and Other Theological Mistakes. Albany: SUNY Press, 1984.

Other required texts:

Christ, Carol P. She Who Changes: Re-Imagining the Divine in the World. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003.

Cobb, Jr., John B. Christ in a Pluralistic Age. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1975.

Coleman, Monica A. Making a Way Out of No Way: a Womanist Theology. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.

Farmer, Ronald L. Beyond the Impasse: The Promise of a Process Hermeneutic. Macon, GA: Mercer UP, 1997.

Griffin, David R. God, Power and Evil: A Process Theodicy. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1976.

Keller, Catherine E. Apocalypse Now and Then: A Feminist Guide to the End of the World. Boston: Beacon, 1996.

Lubarsky, Sandra and David R. Griffin. Jewish Theology and Process Thought. Albany: SUNY, 1996.

McDaniel, Jay B. Of God and Pelicans: A Theology of Reverence for Life. Louisville: WJK, 1989.

Ogden, Schubert M. Faith and Freedom: Toward a Theology of Liberation. Nashville: Abingdon, 1979.

Suchocki, Marjorie Hewitt. The Fall to Violence: Original Sin in Relational Theology. New York: Continuum, 1994.

Process Studies. Vol 18, no. 4 (Winter 1989) – entire journal.

Recommended Text:

Bowman, Donna and Jay McDaniel. Handbook of Process Theology. St. Louis: Chalice, 2006.