

**St. Mary's University College
Faculty of Education
Graduate Diploma of Religious Education Program**

**THEO 505
Spiritual Traditions in Christianity
Fall 2011**

Instructor: Joanne Smithwick, B.Ed., B.RE., M.R.E., MTh.

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Term Dates:

Sept. 6 - Dec. 10

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An overview of Christian Spirituality and the universal call to holiness. Attention will be given to understanding Christian Spirituality as it relates to contemporary Christian living and the quest for integration of mind, body and soul. This study will be rooted in Christian Tradition and Scripture with emphasis on our human search for meaning. Students will also grow in awareness of the great variety of Christian spiritualities.

LEARNER OUTCOMES:

1. TO BECOME KNOWLEDGEABLE AS TO THE ESSENTIALS OF CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY
2. TO FOCUS ON ENHANCING ONE'S PERSONAL SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

COURSE DESIGN AND DELIVERY:

THE COURSE IS AN ON-LINE COURSE USING THE ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE MOODLE PLATFORM. ACCESS TO MOODLE COURSES CAN BE FOUND AT [HTTP://MOODLE.STMU.AB.CA/](http://moodle.stmu.ab.ca/)

REQUIRED READINGS:

QUEST FOR THE LIVING GOD: MAPPING FRONTIERS IN THE THEOLOGY OF GOD BY ELIZABETH A. JOHNSON
(AVAILABLE FROM ST. MARY'S BOOKSTORE NOW)

ADDITIONAL READINGS:

POSTED ON MOODLE

LEARNING TASKS OVERVIEW:

LEARNING TASK NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF LEARNING TASK	PERCENT OF FINAL GRADE	
Learning Task #1	First Paper (See Rubric for First Paper as well as descriptors below))	25%	
Learning Task #2	Second Paper (See Rubric for Second Paper as well as descriptors below))	25%	

Learning Task #3	Three One-page assignments posted. (see One Page Assignment Rubric)	15%	
Learning Task #4	On-line discussion initiated by the instructor. Each week you will be asked to participate in the on-line discussion. These discussions are critical in an on-line course. It is the only opportunity you have to interact with each other and learn from each other. This is the time when specific questions and issues can be raised which center on the readings and assignments. (see Weekly On-line Discussion Rubric)	35%	

A detailed, suggested daily schedule of Course Topics. This schedule may change to meet the emerging needs and dynamics of the participants in the course.

Date	Topic	Readings and Tasks	Due Dates
Sept. 6-19	Ancient Story, New Chapter	Read Chapter one of the text. Discussion starter is posted by instructor. Read posted passage from <u>Tomorrow's Catholic</u> by Michael Morwood. (First one page assignment)	Discussion: Sept. 19-26. Due Oct. 3
Sept. 19-26	Gracious Mystery, Ever Greater, Ever Nearer	Read Chapter two of the text. Discussion starter is posted by instructor. Read posted excerpt from <u>Tomorrow's Catholic</u> by Michael Morwood.	Discussion: Sept. 26-Oct. 3
Sept 26-Oct. 3	The Crucified God of Compassion and the Liberating God of Life	Read Chapters three and four. Discussion starter is posted by instructor. Read passage from The Heart of Christianity by Marcus Borg. (Second one page assignment)	Discussion: Oct. 3-10. Due Oct. 17
Oct. 3-10	God Acting Womanish and God who Breaks Chains	Read Chapters five and six. Discussion starter is posted by instructor. Read Chapter Five: "Universal Call to Holiness" from Vatican II Document named Lumen Gentium (can be found on the internet by typing in (Dogmatic Constitution on the Church). Third one page assignment.	Discussion Oct. 10-17. Due Nov. 14
Oct. 17-24	Work on First Paper		Due Oct. 24
Oct. 24-31	Accompanying God of Fiesta	Read Chapter seven. Discussion starter is posted by instructor.	Discussion Oct. 31 - Nov. 7

Oct. 31- Nov. 7	Generous God of Religious	Read Chapter eight. Discussion starter posted by instructor.	Discussion Nov. 7-14
Nov. 7-14	Creator Spirit in the Evolving World	Read Chapter nine. Discussion starter posted by instructor.	Discussion Nov. 14- 21
Nov. 14-21	Trinity: The Living God of Love	Read Chapter ten. Discussion starter posted by instructor.	Discussion Nov. 21- 28
Nov. 28- Dec. 10	Work on the Second Paper	Open forum (questions and comments re course learnings.	Due Dec. 10

CHANGES TO SCHEDULE:

Please note that changes to the schedule may occur in response to student questions and conversations.

LEARNING TASKS AND ASSESSMENT

- 1. LEARNING TASK 1: First Paper (5-6 pages, no more than 6 pages) 20% (double-spaced, font 12) A reflection paper focusing on your image of God: your image of God in childhood, how it changed or did not change as you matured. What caused the changes or what may have hampered them? What influence, if any, has Johnson's text had on your image of God? Include some direct quotes from Johnson's text in your paper. Please use MLA or APA referencing. Due: Oct. 24. (See Rubric's for the First Paper)**

LEARNING TASK 2: Second Paper (5-6 pages, no more than 6 pages) 20% (double-spaced, font 12) A research paper based on any one theme from Johnson's text. Please connect your chosen theme to some specific quotes from Johnson's text. Use at least three references other than the text. Please use MLA or APA referencing. Due Dec. 10. (See Rubric's for the Second Paper)