

REGENT COLLEGE SUMMER 2015 ONE PAGE SYLLABUS

SPIR/THEO 557: THE WORSHIPING SELF: WORSHIP AS A WAY OF LIFE

Julie Canlis

June 1-12, 8:30-11:00 am

2 or 3 graduate credit hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will expand our concept of worship from something that happens (or that 'we do') on a Sunday to that which encompasses our entire week – and the whole of our lives. We will examine Christ's role as priest of our worship; our role as 'priests' of creation; and the Trinitarian interplay between the two. We will spend time on structured elements of Christianity like the church calendar, liturgy and tradition; we will compare differing Christian traditions' understanding of worship throughout the year; we will see how the church sought to consecrate time and space, even as it tried to move worship out into the everyday avenues of our lives as mothers, farmers, artists, commuters, ministers and more. Above all else, we will begin to understand how worship is central to our becoming human again, in Christ.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should be able to...

1. Joyfully re-cast themselves as priests of creation, offering back to God the whole world and everything in it.
2. Understand the Trinitarian basis for a sacramental understanding of our relationship to the world, as well as competing 'stories' which would erode this calling.
3. Become more aware of the mediating priesthood of Christ in all of our life, worship, and relationships.
4. Understand the historical development of liturgy, the purpose of liturgy, appreciate differing traditions of liturgy (or non-liturgy), and develop a personal liturgy.

COURSE OUTLINE

First Week: Theological bones for worship in our ordinary life

Day 1 The Setting for Worship: the cosmos, with humans as priests

Day 2 **Priests of Creation:** called to voice creation's praise

The Sacraments: the model for our life in the world?

Day 3 **Unitarian vs. Trinitarian Worship:** setting the stage for failure or freedom

Day 4 **Christ as the new Priest of Creation:** the six days of re-creation

Day 5 **The Spirit and the Future of Creation**

Second Week: Enfleshed Practicalities: So if all of life is worship, why go to church?

Day 6 **Worship & Church:** a Trinitarian understanding

Day 7 **Worship & Liturgy:** an early-church perspective

Day 8 **Worship & Stuff:** a Protestant confession

Day 9 **Worship & Time:** a Jewish orientation

Day 10 **Worship & the Self:** a contemporary meditation

REQUIRED TEXTS

J.B. Torrance, *Worship, Community, and the Triune God of Grace* (IVP: 1997).

Robert Farrar Capon, *An Offering of Uncles* - get the edition that is part of his trilogy: *Romance of the Word* (Eerdmans: 1996)

Abraham Heschel, *The Sabbath* (Farrar, Straus, Giroux: 2005)

If you are familiar with the liturgical yr: Joan Chittister, *The Liturgical Year* (Nelson: 2010)

OR

If you aren't familiar with the liturgical yr: Mark Galli, *Beyond Smells and Bells* (Paraclete: 2008)

Please note that the Regent College Bookstore offers a 20% discount on regularly priced books

A full syllabus outlining the course assignments & submission deadlines, drop deadlines, and polices, is available on Moodle moodle.regent-college.edu/login