

HIST/SPIR 574: MARTIN LUTHER THE FIRST PROTESTANT MYSTIC?

Ron Rittgers

June 27 – July 1; 8:30 – 11:30 am

1 or 2 graduate credit hours; or 1 audit hour

In-person, live online & Recorded

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Explore the relationship between Protestantism, evangelicalism, and mysticism through the lens of Martin Luther's life and faith. Wrestle with the overlap between Protestant faith and medieval mystical writings by looking at Luther's own well-documented interaction with Christianity's mystical tradition. Discover how contemporary Protestants might similarly turn to the mystical tradition for wisdom and inspiration. Evaluate the theological differences and similarities between these religious movements and, in doing so, assess the relevance of medieval mysticism for us today. Learning from Luther's own engagement, come to appreciate the value that mystical literature offers the contemporary spiritual life.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon the successful completion of this course, students should have a clearer understanding of:

1. Explain some of the defining features of important medieval mystics.
2. Identify important lines of continuity and discontinuity between Martin Luther and the medieval mystical tradition.
3. Reflect in an informed way on the possibility of a Protestant mysticism.

COURSE OUTLINE

Day 1 June 27 Course introduction; Medieval Mysticism

Day 2 June 28 Luther and Mysticism I

Day 3 June 29 Luther and Mysticism II

Day 4 June 30 Luther and Mysticism III

Day 5 July 1 Luther and Mysticism IV; Course Conclusion

REQUIRED TEXTS

See syllabus for full required reading list.

Please Note: This Course Information Sheet is meant to assist in selecting courses. The official syllabus should be consulted for more detailed information. A full syllabus with drop deadlines, policies, and course assignment details is available on Moodle for registered students: moodle.regent-college.edu/login

