

SUNSET GRADUATE SCHOOL
Course Reference Number: 508
GRADUATE READINGS IN THEOLOGY: CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

Instructor: Kerry W. Williams, M.A., M.S., PH.D (in-progress)

Meeting day/time/place: Online

Cell: 313-515-1099 (Call or Text)

Email: kww@waterfordcoc.org; kww71@yahoo.com

Textbook and Materials:

Brock, Sebastian. *The Syriac Fathers on Prayer and the Spiritual Life*, Kalamazoo: Cistercian Press, 1988. ISBN-10: 0879079010

Bernard of Clairveaux. *On Loving God*. Web Reading.
http://www.ccel.org/ccel/bernard/loving_god.html

John of the Cross. *Selections from Dark Night of the Soul and Other Writings*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2004. ISBN-10: 0060576480

Liechty, Daniel. *Early Anabaptist Spirituality: Selected Writings*. New York: Paulist Press, 1994. ISBN-10: 0809134756

Packer, J.I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1993. ISBN-10: 083081650X

Course Description:

Readings in Theology: Christian Spirituality will examine five classic works of Christian Spirituality from ancient, medieval, reformation, and modern periods of church history. Students will read the assigned texts, participate in discussion concerning their reading, and write a reflective critical essay.

Course Requirements:

Note: All written submissions are to be in Microsoft Word, 12-point font, Times New Roman, double-spaced text, with footnotes rather than endnotes. The citation style should follow Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. A summary guide to this style may be found at http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html. All written submissions are due by email on Saturday night at 11:59 p.m. of the week the assignment is due.

- Discussion Board Participation. Discussions will be made available for each of the five readings. Students should post comments addressing the author's historical

context and for whom the volume was written. Posts should also address what the student feels the author's aim was in regard to the spiritual life and what means or practices the author promotes in order to achieve spirituality. Include your opinion about the reading. Was it thought-provoking? Did it help you in your spirituality?

- A final paper of 12-15 pages in length comparing/contrasting three of the assigned texts. The paper should:
 - Analyze the major themes of each writing
 - Compare and evaluate the three chosen works
 - Discuss the concepts included in each work that might enrich the spiritual lives of Christian's today

Grading System:

Class Participation (Discussion Posts)	50%
Final paper	50%

Grading Scale:

90 and above	A
80-89	B
70-79	C
60-69	D
60 and below	F

Instructor:

Kerry W. Williams, M.S., M.A., teaches Homiletics for the Graduate School at SIBI. He joined the SIBI graduate faculty in 2014 and became in Interim Dean in 2017. Kerry holds bachelor degrees from Bethany Divinity College (Pastoral Ministry- 2002), and Amridge University (Ministry and Bible- 2005). He earned the Master of Science degree from Lubbock Christian University (Bible and Ministry- 2006), Master of Arts from Arkansas State University (Heritage Studies- 2016), and completed extensive graduate coursework (24 hours) in philosophy and humanities with California State University at Dominguez Hills. He is currently finishing the Ph.D. program in Heritage Studies at Arkansas State University, where his dissertation topic will address the origin and function of Preaching Schools within the Churches of Christ. In addition, he is a 1994 graduate of Sunset School of Preaching. Kerry also served as a Police Chaplain with the Jonesboro (AR.) Police Department, and has taught philosophy courses for Heritage Christian University and Northwest Shoals Community College. He is the author of three books, including Fishers of Teens (PowerSource, 2005), and I Want to Draw Closer to God, But I Don't Know Where to Begin (Sunset, 2014). Kerry's articles have appeared in most issues of Power for Today since 2005. He has preached for 25 years and is currently the pulpit minister for the Waterford Church of Christ in Waterford, Michigan.