

**SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURE RGP3214HS/6214HS**  
**Spring 2010**  
**J. Costello SJ**

**Readings:**

1. **Text for Class:** 7. Can be bought in class.
2. **All other required readings are listed below.** Many of them are “online” and students are expected to print them out for themselves. The other articles will be photocopied and made available (at cost) by the professor.
3. **Some optional readings** will be handed out by the professor as the semester unfolds. A small charge for these.

***PART ONE: SPIRITUALITY AND WORLDVIEW***

**January 7: Introduction**

“On Worldviews” by John Olthuis ONLINE

**January 14: Spirituality and the Classical/Medieval Worldview**

Plato, *Republic*, Book VII, The Allegory of the Cave. ONLINE

“Allegory of the Cave” ONLINE at Wikipedia

“Ideals of the Desert” pp. 17-50 and “The Evolution of Western Monasticism” pp. 51-80 in *The Desert and the City: An Interpretation of Western Monasticism*, by Thomas M. Gannon S.J. and George W. Traub S.J.

**January 21: The Modern Worldview: Individuality and the Self-Defining Spirit**

“Modernism” pp. 20-47 in *Crossing the Postmodern Divide* by Albert Borgmann

“The Point of Our Being,” by Mary Jo Leddy Ch. 5 in *Radical Gratitude*

**January 28: The Crisis of Modernity and the New Imperatives for Spirituality**

*Some themes:* 1. The Waste of Modernity, 2. The Wisdom of the Crucified, 3. The turn to self-transcendence: (e.g., Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen), 4. Troubling Difference

“Introduction,” by Zygmunt Bauman pp. 1-8 in *Wasted Lives: Modernity and Its Outcasts*.

“Remembering the Poor: An Interview with Gustavo Gutierrez” by Daniel Hartnett ONLINE (*America*, February 3, 2003).

“We are Weak and Strong as God is Merciful and Just” by Mary Jo Leddy, pp. 1-7 in *Turning the Wheel: Henri Nouwen and the Search for God* (ed. Jonathan Bengston and Gabrielle Ernshaw).

**February 4: Postmodernism: “All that is Solid Melts into Air”**

“Postmodernism” pp. 48-77 in *Crossing the Postmodern Divide* by Albert Borgmann

“The Postmodern Situation—Friend or Foe?” pp. 87-100 by Michael Paul Gallagher in *Clashing Symbols: An Introduction to Faith and Culture*. 2003.

**February 11: When Worldviews Collapse: Impasse and Dark Night**

“Impasse and Dark Night” by Constance Fitzgerald. ONLINE

“Thoughts in the Presence of Fear” Wendell Berry. ONLINE

**NO CLASS FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup> (Reading Week)**

**II. SPIRITUALITY IN A POSTMODERN CULTURE**

**February 25: Contextual Theology: The Consumption of Spirituality in the American Empire & the Stubborn Particularities of Grace**

“Perpetual Dissatisfaction” and “Radical Gratitude” by Mary Jo Leddy Chs. 2 and 3 in *Radical Gratitude*

“Consumption, the Market and the Eucharist” by William T. Cavanaugh. ONLINE

**March 4: The Location of Spirituality: Affection, Action and Focal Practices**

“Conserving Communities” by Wendell Berry. ONLINE

“Global Problems, Local Solutions” by Wendell Berry. ONLINE

“The Theological Challenge of Globalization” by Max L. Stackhouse

**March 12: Return to the World: The Earth as Our Common Good**

“The Biblical Vision of the Ecological Crisis” by Rosemary Reuther. ONLINE

“Christianity and the Survival of Creation,” by Wendell Berry. ONLINE

“Christian Spirituality and Theological Ethics,” by William C. Spohn in *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Spirituality* (ed. Arthur Holder)

**March 19: The Summons of the Other: Contemporary Borders and Boundaries**

-“The Face as Theology” Christopher Nugent. ONLINE

-“Face to Face: Reflections on the Theology of the Face” by James J. Pinto Jr.

-“When the Stranger Summons: Spiritual and Theological Considerations for Ministry” by Mary Jo Leddy in *New Theology Review*, August 2007.

-“Annunciation” pp. 3-24 by John V. Taylor in *The Go-Between God: The Holy Spirit and Christian Mission*.

**March 26: Spiritualities of Power and Powerlessness**

“Creative Power” by Mary Jo Leddy Ch. 4 in *Radical Gratitude*

“Jesus and Alinsky” by Walter Wink. ONLINE

“Four Stages of Spiritual Growth in Helping the Poor” by Albert Nolan O.P.

**April 1: *Holy Thursday—no class.*** [College closes at noon on April 1]

**April 8: Contemplation and the Face(s) of Joy and Suffering**

–“Living with Spirit,” Mary Jo Leddy Ch. 6 in *Radical Gratitude*

– “The Mass on the World” Ch. 1 and “Christ in the World of Matter” Ch. 2 in *The Hymn of the Universe* by Teilhard de Chardin. ONLINE

–“The World in a Wafer: A Geography of the Eucharist as Resistance to Globalization” by William T. Cavanaugh. ONLINE