

SPIRITUALITY AND CULTURE RGP3214S/6214S
Spring 2011

Text for Class: Radical Gratitude by Mary Jo Leddy (available at CRUX books)
Other readings are listed below. Most are online. The readings will also be available on the reserve shelf of Regis College Library and at Tru Copy (1033 Bay St.)

PART ONE: SPIRITUALITY AND WORLDVIEW

CLASS ONE January 13

Introduction

“On Worldviews” by John Olthuis ONLINE

CLASS TWO January 20

Spirituality and the Classical/Medieval Worldview

“Allegory of the Cave” ONLINE at Wikipedia

See also ONLINE *Image Results for Plato’s Allegory of the Cave*

“Ideals of the Desert” pp. 17-50 and “The Evolution of Western Monasticism” pp. 51-90 in *The Desert and the City: An Interpretation of Christian Spirituality* by Thomas M. Gannon S.J. and George W. Traub S.J.

CLASS THREE January 27

The Modern Worldview and the Challenge for Spirituality

“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*

CLASS FOUR February 3

The Crisis of Modern European Culture and the New Imperatives of Spirituality:

- a) **The Waste of Modernity**
- b) **The Wisdom of the Crucified**
- c) **The turn to self-transcendence: (Thomas Merton and Henri Nouwen)**
- d) **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. Johnathan Bengston and Gabrielle Ershaw)

CLASS FIVE February 10

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*

CLASS SIX February 17**When Worldviews Collapse: Impasse and Dark Night**

“Impasse and Dark Night” by Constance Fitzgerald ONLINE

“Thoughts in the Presence of Fear” Wendell Berry ONLINE

“Where Deep Joy Meets the Deep Suffering of the World,” by Mary Jo Leddy in *New Theology Review Volume 23 Number 2 (May 2010)* pp. 35-44.

NO CLASS FEBRUARY 24 READING WEEK**II .SPIRITUALITY IN A POSTMODERN CULTURE****CLASS SEVEN March 3****Contextual Theology: The Stubborn Particularities of Grace****The Consumption of Spirituality in the American Empire**

“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

CLASS EIGHT March 10**The Location of Spirituality: Affection and Action****Focal Practices (Albert Borgmann)**

“Conserving Communities” by Wendell Berry ONLINE

“Global Problems, Local Solutions” by Wendell Berry ONLINE

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

CLASS NINE March 17**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)

CLASS TEN March 24

The Summons of the Other: Annunciations, Visitations,

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

“The Face as Theology” Christopher Nugent ONLINE

“When the Stranger Summons: Spiritual and Theological Considerations for Ministry” by Mary Jo Leddy (New Theology Review August 2007)

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

Contemporary Borders and Boundaries: The In-Between Christ

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

CLASS ELEVEN March 31

Spiritualities of Power and Powerlessness

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

“Jesus and Alinsky” by Walter Wink ONLINE

CLASS TWELVE April 7

Contemplation and the Face(s) of 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

“Lessons from Suffering: How Social Justice Informs Spirituality” by John A. Powell, *University of St. Thomas Law Journal Vol. 1:1* pp. 102-127 ONLINE