

**RGT 5729 THEOLOGY AND SPIRITUALITY OF DOROTHEE SOELLE**  
January-April 2012

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office hours: Thursday 10-12 or by appointment

Schedule: Monday, 2-4  
Room B, Regis College  
100 Wellesley Street

**Course Description:** This course critically explores the theology and spirituality of Dorothee Soelle, with special attention on the themes of creation-liberation theology, suffering, theodicy, God, feminist concerns, and religious experience. Seminar discussion, lecture, short presentations, major essay.

**Course Objectives:** Students will be able to:

- reflect upon and respond to specified discussion questions for each assigned reading.
- provide effective bibliographies related to specific presentation-topics and essay-themes.
- research and develop short class presentations as lead-ins for seminar discussion.
- develop questions for seminar discussions.
- conceive, research and develop one major critical reflection essay involving specialized research on a selected course-theme.
- describe and analyze Dorothee Soelle's view on the themes and topics of creation-liberation theology, suffering, God, feminist concerns, embodied spirituality, and mysticism.
- consider, understand, and engage these themes and topics in creative comparative context with each other.
- consider, understand, and engage these topics, especially in relation to related themes in philosophical and systematic theology, including eschatology, Christology, political theology, and theodicy.
- creatively and critically relate Soelle's views on these topics to views by certain other significant theologians, scholars, and theorists of religion.
- reflect and comment creatively on the practical significance of Soelle's theology and spirituality for spiritual formation and ministry in general and as it might apply to oneself personally.

**Required Books:** (available at Crux Bookstore at Wycliffe College)

By Dorothee Soelle:

- *To Work and To Love: A Theology of Creation*, with Shirley A. Cloyes (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1984).
- *The Mystery of Death*, Nancy and Martin Lukens-Rumscheidt, trs. (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2007).
- *Suffering*, Everett R. Kalin, tr. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1975).
- *Theology for Sceptics*, Joyce L. Irwin, tr. (London, Mowbray, 1995).
- *The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance*, Barbara and Martin Rumscheidt, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001.

**Reserve Reading:** Some required reading selections, listed on the course syllabus (p. 5), will be available on Reserve in the Regis College Library. See the Reserve Reading list on p. 6 of this course outline.

**Grading:** A numerical mark will be given for each course requirement. Following the final examination, a letter grade will be assigned on the following number and letter grade scheme:

A+	= 100-90	B	= 76-73
A	= 89-85	B-	= 72-70
A-	= 84-80	FZ	= 69-0
B+	= 79-77		