

“. . . religion is the longing of the spirit that the facts of existence should find their justification in the nature of existence.
‘My soul thirsteth for God’ writes the Psalmist.”

A.N. Whitehead, *Religion in the Making*
(Fordham University Press, 1996, p. 85)

Syllabus

TH393

“Introduction to Process Theology”
Fall Semester 2004, Claremont School of Theology
Instructor: John M. Sweeney, Ph.D.
3 units, Friday, 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m., Craig 110

Course Description: Provides an introduction to Process Theology in the tradition of Alfred North Whitehead and Charles Hartshorne, demonstrating ways in which Process Theology has relevance for the interaction between theory and practice, between theology and church life. Topics to be discussed include, but are not limited to, Nature of God, Christology, Ecclesiology, and Eschatology. Readings include works by Cobb and Griffin, Hartshorne, Mesle, Suchocki, and Whitehead.

Expected Readings: Assigned readings will come from the following texts:

Process Theology: an Introductory Exposition, by J. B. Cobb, Jr. and D. R. Griffin

Omnipotence and other Theological Mistakes by C. Hartshorne

Process Theology: a Basic Introduction by C. R. Mesle

“What is Process Theology?” M. H. Suchocki (A Process & Faith Booklet)

God-Christ-Church: a Practical Guide to Process Theology by M. H. Suchocki

Religion in the Making by A. N. Whitehead (Fordham University Press, 1996)

“God and the World”, Part V, Chapter II, pp. 342-351, *Process and Reality: An Essay in Cosmology*, Corrected Edition, by A. N. Whitehead, edited by D. R. Griffin and D. W. Sherburne

“A Metaphysical Alternative”, pp. 102-110. *The Spirit and the Forms of Love* by D. D. Williams

(Other readings may be assigned as appropriate.)

All items are on reserve in the Claremont School of Theology library, even the hard to find ones.

Contact Information: Center for Process Studies, Lower Mudd;
909-621-5330;
e-mail: sweeney@ctr4process.org.
Office hour: by appointment

Probable Schedule: (Changes in the following schedule will be announced in class.)

September 3: Introductory material; field trip to Center for Process Studies.
 September 10: *Religion in the Making*, pp. 13-160; written homework due.
 September 17: *Religion in the Making* (Introduction and Glossary); "A Metaphysical Alternative", pp. 102-110; Cobb & Griffin Appendices, pp. 159-185; "What Is Process Theology?" booklet (Suchocki); written homework due.
 September 24: Mesle, pp. 1-64; written homework due.
 October 1: Mesle, pp. 67-147; written homework due.
 October 8: Cobb & Griffin, pp. 7-62; written homework due.
 October 15: Cobb & Griffin, pp. 63-110; written homework due.
 October 22: Cobb & Griffin, pp. 111-148; written homework due.
 October 29: Suchocki, pp. 3-89; written homework due; distribute Mid-Term Exam.
 November 5: Suchocki, pp. 93-160; written homework due; Mid-Term Exam due.
 November 12: Suchocki, pp. 163-223; written homework due.
 November 19: Hartshorne, pp. 1-63; written homework due.
 November 26: Thanksgiving Holiday—No Class.
 December 3: Hartshorne, pp. 65-136; written homework due.
 December 10: *Religion in the Making* (pp. 13-160); "God and the World" (Whitehead); written homework due; distribute final exam.
 December 14-16: TBA; presentations.
 December 16: Final Examinations due by 5:00 p.m.; please deliver to the Center for Process Studies

Grading: In this course 800+ points will be available.

Probable distribution of available points:

1. Daily Participation	= 240 pts.
2. Written Homework	= 260 pts.
3. Mid-Term Exam	= 40 pts.
4. Term Paper/Project	= 100 pts.
5. Presentation	= 80 pts.
6. Final Examination	= 80 pts.
Total	= 800 pts.

Probable Scale:

625 +	= A
575 - 624	= B
500 - 574	= C
450 - 499	= D
0 - 449	= F

1. Daily participation includes participation in both class discussions and small-group exercises. At least 4 class discussion points are possible for most class meetings.

Daily participation points also are accumulated by means of small-group exercises. These exercises can take a variety of forms. Among the possible forms for small-group exercises are quizzes, writing essays, and analyzing an item or some items

based upon information contained in the assigned material. An in-class activity usually is at the ready.

2. Homework assignments, both reading and written, will be given. Written homework assignments are based upon the assigned readings. Both the due date and the specific assignment will be announced in class. Opportunity to discuss most homework assignments will be available during class time.

Each written homework assignment is worth up to 20 points and is due at the beginning of the designated class period. Each assignment is to be typed, using an appropriate style such as MLA or APA, and 500-750 words (2-3 pages) in length. Spelling and grammar are good things and will be included in each assignment of points. Late written homework will not be accepted. (Note: Written homework turned in by students who arrive late to class is considered late homework and may not be accepted.)

3. The Mid-Term Exam will be distributed on October 22, 2004 and will be due at the beginning of class on October 29, 2004. This exam will consist of one set of two essay questions, from which one question will be selected and discussed in detail. The essay must be typed, using an appropriate form such as MLA or APA, and be 1000-1250 words in length. Up to 40 pts. possible.

4. Term papers are due at the beginning of class on December 10, 2004. Each paper is to be 3000-4000 words in length (12-15 pages) and typed, using an appropriate style such as MLA or APA. Again, spelling and grammar are good things to remember and to do well. Each term paper topic must be approved by the instructor.

5. Presentations can be made during class, beginning on November 19, 2004. For each presentation the student must provide a one page outline for the other students, as well as a detailed outline for the instructor. The presentation, including a question and answer session, can range from 30 to 45 minutes in length. The topic must be approved by the instructor. Up to 80 points possible.

6. Final Examination: The Final Examination will be a take home exam worth up to 80 pts.

The exam will be distributed on December 10, 2004 at the end of the last regular class meeting and are due 5:00 p.m., December 16, 2004. This exam will consist of two sets of two essay questions each, from which one question will be selected and discussed in detail. Each response must be typed, using an appropriate form such as MLA or APA, and be 1000-1250 words in length. Up to 40 pts. per question.

7. Extra credit opportunities may occur at any time throughout this course.

Please see the Claremont School of Theology Fall 2004 Semester Course Schedule, the current Claremont School of Theology Catalog, and the Academic Advising

Degree Handbooks for the general policies and procedures governing this course.
(to wit—no plagiarism)

Selected Bibliography: Process Theology

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Beardslee, William. *A House for Hope: A Study in Process and Biblical Thought*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1972.

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Birch, Charles. *A Purpose for Everything: Religion in a Postmodern Worldview*. Mystic, Ct: Twenty-Third Publications, 1990.

_____. *The Liberation of Life: From the Cell to the Community*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981. [Denton, TX: Environmental Ethics Books, 1990.]

Brizee, Robert. *Eight Paths to Forgiveness*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 1998.

_____. *Where in the World Is God?* Nashville, TN: The Upper Room, 1987.

Brock, Rita Nakashima. *Journeys By Heart: A Christology of Erotic Power*. New York: Crossroad, 1988.

Brown, Delwin. Ralph E. James, Jr. and Gene Reeves, eds. *Process Philosophy and Christian Thought*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1971.

Bowman, Donna. *The Divine Decision: A Process Doctrine of Election*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2002.

Cargas, Harry J. and Bernard Lee, ed., *Religious Experience and Process Theology: the Pastoral Implications of a Major Modern Movement*. New York: Paulist Press, 1976.

Case-Winters, Anna. *God's Power: Traditional Understandings and Contemporary Challenges*. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1990.

Cauthen, Kenneth. *Systematic Theology: A Modern Protestant Approach*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1986.

Cobb, John B., Jr. *A Christian Natural Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1965.

_____. *Matters of Life and Death*. Louisville, Kentucky: West Minister/John Knox Press, 1991.

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Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 1994.

Dean, William. Larry E. Axel, eds. *The Size of God: The Theology of Bernard Loomer in Context*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1987.

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Gregorios, Paulos. *The Human Presence: An Orthodox View of Nature*. Geneva: World Council, 1978.

Griffin, David R. *Evil Revisited: Responses And Reconsiderations*. Albany: Suny, 1991.

_____. *God, Power, and Evil: A Process Theodicy*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1991 [Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1976].

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_____. W.A. Beardslee, and Joe Holland. *Varieties of Postmodern Theology*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1989.

Hartshorne, Charles. *The Divine Relativity: A Social Conception of God*. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1948.

_____. *A Natural Theology for our Time*. La Salle, IL: Open Court, 1967.

_____ and William L. Reese, eds. *Philosophers Speak of God: Readings in Philosophical Theology and Analyses of Theistic Ideas*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago, 1953.

Inbody, Tyron. *The Constructive Theology of Bernard Meland: Postliberal Empirical Realism*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1995.

Jackson, Gordon. *Pastoral Care and Process Theology*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1981.

Kaufman, Rabbi William E. *The Evolving God in Jewish Process Theology*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1997.

Keller, Catherine. *Apocalypse Now and Then: A Feminist Guide to the End of the World* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996)

_____. *From a Broken Web: Separation, Sexism, and Self*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1986.

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Young, Henry James. *Hope in Process: A Theology of Social Pluralism*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press.

"Abide with me; fast falls the eventide"

Hymn #99, New Century Hymnal; Process and Reality, Corrected Edition,
pp. 209 & 338