

Advanced Seminar in Process Theology
The Theology of John B. Cobb, Jr.
Fall, 2001
Wednesday, 1:05-4:00
Professor Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki

The **purpose** of this seminar is to explore John B. Cobb, Jr.'s utilization of process philosophy for the theological development of Christian faith. We will give particular attention to the chronological development of his work.

Assignments: Students are expected to 1) participate in class discussion; 2) take a turn as class recorder, 3) give a report to the class on a Cobb book or article other than the assigned readings; 4) write a paper (18 pages for doctoral students; 15 pages for masters students) critically interacting with Cobb's theology in light of one's own theological understanding. A summary of each paper will be presented to the class in the final three weeks of the semester.

Class topics and readings

September 5th: Introduction to the course; overview of Cobb's theological development; overview of process philosophy.

September 12th: *A Christian Natural Theology*: Preface through Chapter III

September 19th: *A Christian Natural Theology*. Chapter IV through VII.

September 26th: *The Structure of Christian Existence*: Introduction, chapters 5-12. A doctoral student will give a report on chapters 1-4.

October 3rd: *Is it Too Late?* Read the entire book.

October 10th: *Christ in a Pluralistic Age*. Introduction, Chapters 1-6.

October 17th: *Christ in a Pluralistic Age*: Chapters 7 through Postscript.

October 24th: *Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition*. Foreword, Chapters 5-9.

October 31st: *The Liberation of Life*. Chapters 2, 4, 5, 6. A doctoral student will give a report on chapters 1 and 3.

November 7th: *Sustaining the Common Good*. Entire book.

November 14th: *Can Christ be Good News Again?* Entire book.

November 21st: AAR—NO CLASS.

November 28th: Student papers

December 5th: Student papers

December 12th: Student papers

December 19th: PAPERS DUE

Office hours are Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or by appointment.

Required Reading:

All books are by John B. Cobb, Jr. Listing is in the order in which they are assigned.

1. *A Christian Natural Theology*. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1965.
2. *The Structure of Christian Existence*. (Philadelphia: Westminster, 1967).
3. *Is It Too Late? A Theology of Ecology*, Revised Edition. Denton: Environmental Ethics Books, 1995. The original was published in 1972 by Bruce, a division of Benzinger, Bruce and Glencoe, Inc.
4. *Christ in a Pluralistic Age* Philadelphia: Westminster, 1975
5. *Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition*, with David Ray Griffin. Philadelphia: Westminster
6. *The Liberation of Life*, with Charles Birch. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981,
7. *Sustaining the Common Good: A Christian Perspective on the Global Economy*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 1994. This book is an abbreviation of *For the Common Good*, co-authored with Herman Daly and published in 1989.
8. *Can Christ Become Good News Again?* St. Louis: Chalice Press, 1991.

Reading Reports

September 12: *Varieties of Protestantism or Living Options in Protestant Theology*

September 19: *God **and** the World*

September 26: Ch. 1-4, *Structure of Christian Existence*

October 3: *Process Theology as Political Theology*

October 10: *Beyond Dialogue*

October 17: *Transforming Christianity and the World: A Way beyond Absolutism and Relativism*

October 24: *Reclaiming the Church*

October 31 *The Liberation of Life: Chs 1, 3*

November 7: *Praying for Jennifer*

November 14: *Becoming a Thinking Christian*

November 28: *Lay Theology*

December 5: *Matters of Life and Death*