

SEMESTER: FALL 2024

COURSE TITLE: Major Theological & Religious Thinker (Bernard of Clairvaux)

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: 42539 THST 4090.01

TIMES/DAYS: TR 11:50AM-1:30PM

INSTRUCTOR: Harrison

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This is a course on the life and thought of Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153). Among the most influential people in twelfth-century Europe, Bernard was involved in many of the most important ecclesiastical disputes of his time, played a major role in contemporary monastic life, and introduced spiritual themes and practices that characterized the Middle Ages and have come to be associated with modern Catholic thought and practice (including devotion to the humanity of Christ and to Mary), and he influenced the spirituality and mysticism of the later Middle Ages. Part one of this class is an introduction to Bernard's life in the context of twelfth-century Cistercian monasticism, which he helped to shape, and to his major writings. Part two focuses on his treatise *On Loving God*, with a focus on Bernard's understanding of love and spiritual development.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who complete this class successfully will learn to read complex religious texts from the distant past and to write intelligently about the spirituality of the Western Christian Middle Ages, including on themes that have shaped modern Christianity.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Students should have taken Theological Inquiry and should be prepared to work hard.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Students will purchase a course reader and *Bernard of Clairvaux: Selected Works*, tr. G. R. Evans (New York: Paulist Press, 1987).

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

Students will write short papers (approximately 2-3pp) almost every week and complete a final longer paper (about 10pp).

SEMESTER: **Fall 2024**

COURSE TITLE: **SS Queer Spirituality**

COURSE NUMBER/SECTION: **THST 4998 / 04**

TIMES/DAYS: **6:00 - 9:20 PM / Monday**

INSTRUCTOR: **Professor Roy Fisher**

CORE AREA: **THST Major and Minors Seminar**

FLAGGED: **none**

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

In "Queer Spirituality" we will explore ways in which in which queer folks have wrestled with, resisted, subverted, and celebrated religious texts and traditions. This seminar style course will foster both a critique of the hegemonic interpretive history of spirituality as well as the creation of new inclusive interpretive strategies and spiritual practices.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Undertake a broad systematic and historical survey of spirituality using a queer lens.
2. Explore and experiment with various spiritual practices that engage, deepen, and queer our relationship(s) with the sacred as well as helping us grow in awareness, acceptance, and appreciation of ourselves, our earthly home, and all who belong in our shared earthly community.
3. Consider how culture, race, gender, sexual-orientation, class, and ethnicity impact theological reflection; and the social implications and/or ramifications for constructed interpretive practices.
4. To engage seriously with the ethical and spiritual meaning of following a way of life--for oneself and for the sake of the larger community.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND

Seminar participation is limited to THST Majors and Minors

REQUIRED TEXTS

Course reader (available during the first week of class)

COURSE WORK/EXPECTATIONS

This course has been approved for in-person modality only. At LMU, one credit hour is defined as a minimum of 3 hours of work by an average student per week for a 15-week semester. That means that a 4-unit class must average a minimum of 12 hours of work a week (inclusive of class contact time). **This course meets once a week for three hours and twenty minutes for each class. You should also expect to spend a minimum of 8 hours outside of class per week on class-related assignments.** This includes, but is not limited to: assigned reading, preparation for class, collaborative work/discussions, projects, and exams.