

Process Theology T-431
McCormick Theological Seminary
Anna Case-Winters
Fall 2002

Course Description: This course will be an introduction to process thought, exploring the implications of process philosophy for Christian theology. Selected works of Whitehead, Hartshorne, Cobb, Griffin, and Suchocki will be included in the exploration. Critical responses will also be considered. Prerequisite: T-300.

Schedule

October 1

Presentation: Introduction to Process Theology

Discussion: Initial Impressions, questions, points of interest for further exploration

October 8

Presentation: The Context out of which the Philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead Emerged

Discussion: Led by Group I

Readings:

Adventures of Ideas

Process Theology chapters 1 and 2

October 15

Presentation: Divine Perfections

Discussion: Led by Group II

Readings:

The Divine Relativity (All)

Process Theology chapter 3

October 22

Presentation: Divine Power

Discussion: Led by Group I

Readings:

God's Power: Traditional Understandings and Contemporary Challenges

Read Intro, skim Part I and Part II, read Part III

October 29

Presentation: Creaturely Power
The Problem of Evil: A Process Theodicy
Discussion: Led by Group II
Readings:
Process Theology, chapters 4-5
Articles distributed in class

November 5

Presentation: A Process Christology
Discussion: Led by Group I
Process Theology, chapter 6
Christ in a Pluaralistic Age

November 12

Presentation: A Process Ecclesiology
Discussion: Led by Group II
Readings:
Articles distributed in class

November 19

Presentation: A Process Eschatology
Discussion: Led by Group II
Readings:
Process Theology, chapters 7 and 9
The End of Evil

November 26 (READING WEEK)

December 3

Presentations of constructive work.

December 10

Presentations of constructive work.

Required Reading

Alfred North Whitehead, Adventures of Ideas, Free Press, (MacMillan)

John Cobb and David Griffin, Process Theology: An Introductory Exposition, Westminster

John Cobb, Christ In a Pluralistic Age, Westminster

Charles Hartshorne, The Divine Relativity: A Social Conception of God
Yale

Charles Hartshorne, Omnipotence and Other Theological Mistakes
SUNY

Marjorie Suchocki, The End of Evil, SUNY

Anna Case-Winters, God's Power: Traditional Understandings and Contemporary Challenges,

To be duplicated and circulated:

Griffin's chapter in God, Power, and Evil

Loomer, "Two Kinds of Power"

Madden & Hare, "Evil and Persuasive Power"

Madden & Hare, "Evil and Unlimited Power"

Pike, "Process Theodicy and the Concept of Power"

On line resources:

www.processandfaith.org (See also *Creative Transformation*, a journal from Process and Faith)

www.centerforprocess.org (Web site of The Center for Process Studies, access to the journal *Process Studies*)

Requirements

1. Class attendance. Any absolutely necessary absence can be made up with a five-page double spaced reading/response paper on the readings of the day. This will help you process the readings and stay caught up with the class.
2. Preparation for and active participation in class sessions. This will necessitate completion of assigned reading by the dates listed on syllabus.
3. Shared leadership of discussion on dates assigned.
4. A final paper of around 15 pages for M. Div. students and 20-25 pages for advanced degree students. This is a research paper on the topic of one of the lectures and will entail additional reading on the topic chosen. There will be a presentation in class of the constructive work undertaken in these papers.
5. Additional requirements for any students taking this at the 500 level to be negotiated with the professor.