

Process Summer Intensive
Claremont School of Theology at Willamette University
Sponsored by the Center for Process Studies

Summer 2021 (July 6-10)

Course: TPS 3063/4063

Claremont School of Theology at Willamette University

Location: Online (via live Zoom sessions)

Instructor of Record: Dr. Andrew Schwartz

Guest Lecturers:

Andrew M. Davis, Ph.D.

Karen Baker-Fletcher, Ph.D.

John Gill, Ph.D.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The 2021 Process Summer Intensive is a 1-week exploration that includes three different adventures in process theology. The first segment (taught by Dr. Davis) explores the philosophical foundations of process thinking. The second segment (taught by Dr. Baker-Fletcher) explores key contributions of process theology to particular theological and religious issues. The third segment (taught by Dr. Gill) explores the implications of process theology to art, social justice movements and efforts of liberation.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Part I: Process Foundations (Dr. Davis)

What are some the foundational philosophical ideas at the base of process theology? Part I explores key metaphysical convictions at the heart of a process philosophical vision. These include, but are not limited, to the primacy of experience and value; events and relationality; possibility and time; creativity and the God-world relationship.

- Tuesday (9-11am, 1-3pm, 4-6pm)
- Wednesday (9-11am, 1-3pm)

Part II: Process Theology (Dr. Baker-Fletcher)

What are some of the key contributions of process theology? Part II explores the contributions of process theology to relevant theological and religious concerns. These include, but are not limited to, the doctrine of creation, Christology, religious pluralism and the problem of evil.

- Wednesday (4-6pm)
- Thursday (9-11am, 1-3pm, 4-6pm)
- Friday (9-11am)

Part III: Process Art and Activism (Dr. Gill)

What implications does process theology have for tangled aesthetic, social, ecological, and political justice movements and efforts of liberation? Part III explores the ethical implications of process theology to current issues of pressing

concern. These include but are not limited to racism and inequality, the ecological crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, partisan politics, and artistic expression.

- Friday (1-3pm, 4-6pm)
- Saturday (9-11am, 1-3pm, 4-6pm)

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students who successfully complete this class will be able to:

1. Articulate the fundamental philosophical ideas undergirding process theology.
2. Recognize the contributions of process theology to theological and religious concerns.
3. Reflect critically upon the ethical implications of process thought for pressing social and political concerns.

ASSESSMENT STRATEGIES:

Paper 1: An essay exploring particular questions, issues, concerns, or possibilities in process philosophy. Please consult Dr. Davis about your topic. 5-7 pages for 3000 level, 10-12 pages for 4000 level (assesses SLO #1). Due July 31st 2021.

Paper 2: An essay exploring the contributions of process theology to particular concerns in theology and religion. Please consult Dr. Baker-Fletcher about your topic. 5-7 pages for 3000 level, 10-12 pages for 4000 level (assesses SLO #1). Due July 31st 2021.

Paper 3: An essay exploring the implications and/or relevance process theology to a particular justice issue and/or liberation movements. Please consult Dr. Gill about your topic. 5-7 pages for 3000 level, 10-12 pages for 4000 level (assesses SLO #1). Due July 31st 2021.

COURSE TEXTS:

Note: Additional required reading may be provided via hyperlink or pdf.

Coleman, Monica A. *Making a Way Out of No Way: A Womanist Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.

Hartshorne, Charles. *Omnipotence and Other Theological Mistakes*. Albany: SUNY, 1984.

Hosinski, Thomas. *Stubborn Fact and Creative Advance: An Introduction to Alfred North Whitehead*. Lanham: Roman and Littlefield, 1993.

Keller, Catherine. *On the Mystery: Discerning Divinity in Process*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.

Massumi, Brian. *Semblance and Event: Activist Philosophy and the Occurrent Arts*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2011.

Mesle, Robert C. *Process-Relational Philosophy: An Introduction to Alfred North Whitehead*. West Conshohocken: Templeton, 2008.

Rescher, Nicolas. *Process Metaphysics: An Introduction to Process Philosophy*. Albany: SUNY, 1996.

Suchocki, Marjorie. *God Christ Church: A Practical Guide to Process Theology*. New Revised Edition. New York: Crossroad, 1995.

Wize, Constance. *Hidden Circles in the Web: Feminist Wicca, Occult Knowledge, and Process Thought*. Lanham: AltaMira Press, 2008.