

COMPARATIVE CATHOLICISMS

RELS-276-01
Spring Semester
6:30 pm to 8:30 pm
Smith Seminar Room, Fourth Floor

COURSE OVERVIEW

Instructor: Mathew N. Schmalz. Office: Smith 404; Office Phone: 793-2557; Office Hours: Monday 1-2; Friday 4-5; (and by appointment any day except Thursday). E-mail: mschmalz@holycross.edu. You may call me “Mat,” “Mr. Mat,” “Professor Mat,” or “Professor Schmalz”—whatever you understand to be most comfortable and appropriate.

Description: This course will introduce students to pluralism and diversity within Catholicism as part of world culture. We will examine three overall issues: the “essence” or nature of Catholicism, Catholic understandings of Jesus, and Catholic attitudes toward suffering. As part of this investigation, the course will also expose students to the variety of scholarly strategies applied to characterize Catholic religious phenomena. The course will then conclude by reflecting upon whether Catholicism can be understood cross-culturally as a coherent tradition of religious practice and inquiry.

Goals: This course has four overall objectives:

- 1) To introduce students to plurality and diversity within the Catholic tradition.
- 2) To understand how central themes within Catholicism find expression within diverse cultural contexts.
- 3) To gain a basic familiarity with the variety of scholarly frameworks used to understand Catholic religiosity.
- 4) To understand how to develop an argument and write critical essays.

Format: Seminar.

Evaluation: Four essays of 5-7 pages, class participation, a written final examination. A written self-evaluation is required as part of the final.

Grading: All assignments will be given a letter grade. When your final grade is calculated, the individual letter grades you have received will be converted into a GPA figure: 4.3 (A+); 4.0 (A); 3.7 (A-); 3.3 (B+); 3.0 (B); 2.7 (B-); 2.3 (C+); 2.0 (C); 1.7 (C-); 1.3 (D +); 1 (D); 0 (F).

Papers, class participation, and the final are weighted equally.

Class Participation: Class participation is an essential part of the seminar and is not optional. Therefore, every student will receive a grade for her/his class participation. So that students have a clear sense of where they stand in relation to class participation, I will send a midsemester update to all students.

Policies: Students are required to complete the assigned reading before the class period in which they are discussed. Since this is a seminar and relies upon class

participation, attendance is mandatory. All students are allowed one (1) unexcused absence per semester. Any absence beyond that limit must be explained in a written statement from the appropriate Class Dean. **Unexcused absences beyond the limit will adversely affect your final grade by one-half letter grade (i.e. from a B to a B-).** Late work will be penalized one full letter grade per day. Since the syllabus is subject to modification and change, students are also responsible for these changes even if they were not able to attend class in which the changes were announced.

Submission of Papers: Each paper must have a centered title with the student's name and class on the lines below. Thus:

FLUIDITY AND STRATIFICATION IN THE HINDU WORLD VIEW

Jane Doe
Class of 2007

Papers must be submitted as an email attachment in a word processing program that can be read by Microsoft Word. **All papers will be archived to deter collusion.**

Intellectual Honesty: I advise all students to be aware of the College's policies pertaining to intellectual honesty. All students will be required to testify to the integrity of their work in a written statement. In order to complete the assignments for this class, students will not need to consult any other source beyond the required texts. If a student does rely upon an outside source for an assignment, he or she should simply cite that work in a parenthetical note (see "Citation Rules" below). **Not citing an outside source that you draw upon will constitute a violation of The College's Academic Honesty Policy. I reserve the right to submit all papers to an online source that will check for plagiarism.** Work that violates the College's Academic Honesty Policy will receive the grade of F (0). The student will also then be subject to administrative sanctions ranging from academic probation to expulsion.

To be sure to avoid the possibility of collusion, I would strongly advise all students not to share written work before it is handed in. If you do talk to your fellow students about a particular assignment, be sure to give appropriate acknowledgment to your peers in the final drafts of your written assignments if their help has been particularly useful to you in your writing. Please follow instructions in "Citation Rules" below. If such acknowledgements are not made, it could constitute a case of intellectual dishonesty. **Students are absolutely forbidden from sharing a graded paper with a student who has yet to complete the assignment (i.e. with a student who has an extension). Students who violate this standard will be charged with collusion.**

Citation Rules:

- 1) For interpretative points that come directly from one of the course textbooks, a parenthetical citation such as (Denny, 42) will be acceptable. You do not need to cite "facts" such as when Muhammad was born or how many varnas there are in Hinduism.
- 2) For interpretative points that are not your own and instead come from a lecture, a parenthetical citation such as (Schmalz 10/12/03) will be acceptable. Again you do not need to cite "facts."

- 3) For interpretative points that are not your own and instead come from another student, a parenthetical citation such as (Jane Doe 10/12/03) will be acceptable.
- 4) For all internet sources you must use footnotes and, in the footnote, include the entire address and the date accessed. **You are strongly discouraged from using internet sources.**
- 5) For all other print sources (such as books or journal articles), you must use footnotes that include the author's full name, article or book title, journal title if applicable, publisher, date and page number. **You are strongly discouraged from using other print sources not identified in the syllabus.**

Examples:

Book: Darius Cooper, *The Cinema of Satyajit Ray: Between Tradition and Modernity*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000), 25.

Article: Mathew N. Schmalz, "Images of the Body in the Life and Death of a North Indian Catholic Catechist," *History of Religions* 39 (November): 177.

ERes: Documents for the course will be available on ERes accessed through the library's homepage. **The course password is "victimsoul."** Document names are included in the relevant section of the syllabus.

Extensions: All students are given the opportunity take advantage of a single extension of forty-eight hours (48) for any paper (this does not include the final exam and final paper). **You must however e-mail or call me before the paper is due** in order to receive the extension (you do not need to provide reasons for the extension). This extension covers everything from personal emergencies to computer failure. No other extension will be granted without the explicit written permission of the appropriate class Dean.

E-Mail: Class announcements, outlines and assignments will usually be distributed by electronic mail. Please be sure to check your e-mail regularly.

Required Texts:

Adam, Karl. *The Spirit of Catholicism*
 Emmerich, Katherine. *The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ*.
 Endo, Shusaku, *A Life of Jesus*.
 Endo, Shusaku, *The Samurai*.
 Endo, Shusaku, *Silence*.
 Miller, Walter. *Canticle for Leibowitz*.
 Russell, Maria Doria. *The Sparrow*.
 Schreiter, Robert. *Faces of Jesus in Africa*.

Required Texts on ERES:

Benezet Bujo, *African Theology in its Social Context* (selections)
 Paula Kane, "She Offered Herself Up."
 Susan Rodgers, "The Sacramental Body of Audrey Santo"
 Mathew N. Schmalz, "A Catholic Charismatic Healer at Play in North India,"

“Charismatic Transgressions;” “Dalit Catholic Tactics of Marginality at a North Indian Mission;” Images of the Body in the Life and Death of a North Indian Catholic Catechist;” “The Silent Body of Audrey Santo.”

PLAN OF THE COURSE

I. INTRODUCTION

WEEK 1: Preliminaries

January 19: *Introduction to the Course*

II. CATHOLICISMS

WEEK 2: Catholicism After the Flame-Deluge

January 26: Walter Miller, *A Canticle for Leibowitz*.

WEEK 3: Catholicism and Japan

February 2: Shusaku Endo, *The Samurai*.

WEEK 4: A Romantic Catholic Vision

February 9: Karl Adam, *The Spirit of Catholicism*.

February 11: FIRST PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BY 10 PM.

WEEK 5: Catholicism in India and Africa

February 16: Mathew N. Schmalz, “Dalit Catholic Tactics of Marginality at a North Indian Mission;” Benezet Bujo, *African Theology in its Social Context* (selections).

Available Via ERes: Dalit, Bujo.

III. JESUS

WEEK 6: A Japanese Jesus

February 23: Shusaku Endo, *A Life of Jesus*.

February 28: SECOND PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BY 10 PM

WEEK 7: The Man of Sorrows

March 2: Katherine Emmerich, *The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ*.

WEEK 8: Spring Break

WEEK 9 The Passion of the Christ

March 14: Film: *Passion of the Christ*. I will show the film in the Smith Seminar room on Monday from 7-10. I will provide food and drinks. NO CLASS ON MARCH 16.

WEEK 10: African Visions of Jesus

March 23: Robert J. Schreiter, *Faces of Jesus in Africa*.

(I will reschedule the class for Tuesday March 22, depending upon the class)

IV. SUFFERING

WEEK 11: **The Jesuits and Extraterrestrials**

March 30: Maria Doria Russell, *The Sparrow*.

April 1: THIRD PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BY 10 PM (this is not a joke)

WEEK 12: **The Case of Audrey Santo**

April 6: Paula Kane, "She Offered Herself Up;" Susan Rodgers, "The Sacramental Body of Audrey Santo," Mathew N Schmalz, "The Silent Body of Audrey Santo."

Available Via ERes: audrey1; audrey2; audrey3.

WEEK 13: **Suffering in India**

April 13: Mathew N. Schmalz, "Charismatic Transgressions," "American Catholic, Indian Catholics," "Images of the Body in the Life and Death of a North Indian Catholic Catechist."

Available Via ERes: Jude1, Jude2, Ghura.

WEEK 14: **Martyrdom in Japan**

April 20: Shusaku Endo, *Silence*.

V. FINAL EVALUATIONS

WEEK 15: **Evaluation**

April 27: FINAL EXAMINATION

May 11: FINAL PAPER DUE