

ICS Calendar Title: Albert the Great, Meister Eckhart and Women's Spirituality
ICS Course Code: ICS 2431 S09
Instructor: Dr. Robert Sweetman
Term and Year: Tuesdays, 9:30-12:30
Last Updated: January 6, 2009

Course Description

This seminar examines Meister Eckhart's mystical discourse and its conceptual configuration as a 'contradictory monism' against the backdrop of the "Dionysian" tradition of Albert the Great (and Thomas Aquinas) and the current efflorescence of women's mysticism represented by Marguerite Porete. In so doing it explores a properly historical understanding of a philosophical, theological or spiritual figure's choice of discursive type.

Keywords

Albert the Great, Meister Eckhart, Margaret Porete, mysticism, ps.-Dionysius, via negativa, detachment, love, reason, women's spirituality

Course Learning Goals

- a. Critical understanding of the development and critical insights of thirteenth century mystical thinking
- b. Ability to think creatively and constructively across the disciplines of history, philosophy and theology as they meet in the study of thirteenth century mysticism
- c. Knowledge of leading debates in the relationship between medieval male and female thought and sensibility

Course Requirements

- a. Total reading: 1250 pages total, including research for paper, of which approximately 40-60 pages per week is required to prepare for class.
- b. In-seminar leadership:
- c. Description of course paper:
- d. Description and weighting of elements to be evaluated:
Class participation: 20%
Seminar presentations: 30%
Research paper: 50%

Required Readings

Albert the Great, *Commentary on the Mystical Theology of the Pseudo-Dionysius*
Margaret Porete, *The Mirror of Simple Souls* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV5091 .C7 P6713 1993]
Meister Eckhart, *Parisian Questions* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT100 .E27 1974]
 Commentary on Exodus
 Selection of German Treatises and Sermons

Recommended Readings

Albert and Thomas: Selected Writings. Trans., ed., and intro. Simon Tugwell O.P. New York, Paulist Press, 1988. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BX2349 .A575 1988]
Bouyer, Louis. *Women Mystics*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1993. [ROBA: BV5095 .A1 B6813 1993]
Bynum, Caroline Walker. *Holy Feast and Holy Fast*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987. [KNOX: BR253 .B96 1987]
Bynum, Caroline Walker. *Fragmentation and Redemption*. New York: Zone Books, 1992. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BT741.2 .B95 1991 ; REGIS: BT741.2 .B95 1991]
Caron, Ann Marie. "Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord: Mechthild of Hackeborn." *Hidden Springs: Cistercian Monastic Women*. 2 Vols. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1995, 2: 509-524. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BX4210 .M345 v.3 bk.2]
College, Edmund and J.C. Marler. "'Poverty of Will': Ruusbroec, Eckhart and The Mirror of Simple Souls." Jan van Ruusbroec: The Sources, Content and Sequels of his Mysticism. Leuven: Leuven University Press, 1984, 14-47. [ROBA: BV5095 .J3 J3 1984]

Dinzelbacher, Peter. *Christliche Mystik im Abendland: Ihrer Geschichte von den Anfängen bis zum Ende des Mittelalters*. Paderborn: Schöninghen, 1994. [ROBA: BV5075 .D54 1994X]

Dondaine, H.F. *Le corpus dionysien de l'Université de Paris au xiiiè siècle*. Rome: Edizioni de Storian e Letteratura, 1953. [REGIS: BR65 .D655 D6 1953]

Dronke, Peter. *Women Writers of the Middle Ages: A Critical Study of Texts from Perpetua (d. 203) to Marguerite Porete (d. 1310)*. Cambridge: Cambridge, 1984. [KNOX: PN471 .D76 1984]

Grundmann, Herbert. *Religious Movements in the Middle Ages*. Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995. [ROBA: BR270 .G7713 1995X]

Haas, Alois M. *Sermo Mysticus: Studien zu Theologie und Sprache der deutschen Mystik*. Freiburg: Universitätsverlag, 1979. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV5077 .G4 H32]

Hollywood, Amy. *The Soul as Virgin Wife: Mechthild of Magdeburg, Marguerite Porete and Meister Eckhart*. Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1995. [ROBA: BV5095 .M4 H64 1995X]

Langer, Otto. *Mystische Erfahrung und spirituelle Theologie: Zu Meister Eckharts Auseinandersetzung mit der Frauenfrömmigkeit seiner Zeit*. Munich: Artemis, 1987. [DOWNSVIEW: B765 .E34 L27 1987]

Libera, Alain de. *Introduction à la mystique rhénane d'Albert le Grand à Maître Eckhart*. Paris, 1984. [ROBA: BV5077 .G4 L53 1984]

Libera, Alain de. *Albert le Grand et la philosophie*. Paris, 1990. [ROBA: B765 .A44 L53 1990]

Lewis, Gertrud Jaron. *Bibliographie zur deutschen Frauenmystik des Mittelalters: Mit ein Anhang zu Beatrijs van Nazareth und Hadewijch*. Berlin: Erich Schmidt, 1989. [ROBA: Z7819 .L49 1989]

McGinn, Bernard. *The flowering of Mysticism: Men and Women in the New Mysticism--1200-1350*. New York: Crossroads, 1998. [SMC: BV5077 .E85 M34 v.3]

McGinn, Bernard. *Meister Eckhart and the Beguine Mystics: Hadewijch of Brabant, Mechthild of Magdeburg and Marguerite Porete*. New York: Continuum, 1994. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV5075 .M45 1994]

McGinn, Bernard. *The Mystical Thought of Meister Eckhart: The Man from Whom God Hid Nothing*. New York: Crossroads, 2001. [REGIS: BV5095 .E3 M33 2001]

Milem, Bruce. *The Unspoken Word: Negative Theology in Meister Eckhart's German Sermons*. Washington D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 2002. [ROBA: BV4208 .G2 M55 2002X]

Milhaven, John Giles. *Hadewijch and Her Sisters: Other Ways of Loving and Knowing*. Albany: SUNY Press, 1993. [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B765 .H334 M55 1993]

Murk-Jansen, Saskia. *Brides in the Desert: The Spirituality of the Beguines*. New York: Orbis. 1998 (second edition, 2004). [REGIS: BX4272 .M87 1998]

Rorem, Paul. *Pseudo Dionysius: A Commentary on the Texts and an Introduction to Their Influence*. New York: Oxford, 1993. [ROBA: BR65 .D66 R67 1993]

Suydam, Mary A. and Joanna E. Ziegler. *Performance and Transformation: New Approaches to Late Medieval Spirituality*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. [ROBA: BV5083 .P47 1999X]

Turner, Denys. *The Darkness of God: Negativity in Christian Mysticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge, 1995. [ROBA: BV5083 .T87 1995X]

Wiethaus, Ulrike. *Ecstatic Transformation: Transpersonal Psychology in the Work of Mechthild of Magdeburg*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1996. [ROBA: BV5091 .V6 W54 1996X]