

ICS Calendar Title: Christian Theologies of Art (also known as: *Theologies of Art: Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox*)

ICS Course Code: ICS 120102/220102 F10

Instructor: Dr. Smick Rebekah

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Term and Year: Mondays, 1:30pm-4:30pm, Fall 2010

Last Updated: August 26, 2010

Course Description: The course will explore significant ways that Christians have theologized the arts, artistry and art culture in Eastern and Western Christendom. The course will compare the varieties of theologies that have emerged from within the Protestant, Catholic, and Orthodox traditions. The study will involve looking at paintings, icons, altarpieces, and socially and culturally engaged works of art as well as pertinent theological writings.

Course Requirements:

- **Class participation.** Students will be expected to participate in and sometimes lead class discussions on the required readings. **20% of final mark**
- **Seminar Presentation.** Students will be expected to present their final paper topic and research to date to the seminar before the end of term. **20% of final mark**
- **Research paper on an approved topic.** Students are required to write a 3000 to 4000 word research essay on an approved topic. A one-page proposal with initial bibliography will be handed in **during class on November 1**. Final papers are due **Friday, January 24, 2011**. **60% of final mark**

Course Texts:

Calvin Seerveld, *Rainbows for the Fallen World*. Toronto: Tuppence Press, 1980 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BH39 .S432 1980)

Gesa Elsbeth Thiessen, *Theological Aesthetics: A Reader* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 T427 2005)

Other Required Readings:

Leon Battista Alberti, “Book Three” in *On Painting*, trans. John R. Spencer (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1966), 89-98 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: N7420 .A413 1972)

Aristotle, *Poetics*, IV, (1448b) (excerpt) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PN1040 .A513 1997)

Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, Book I, Parts 2, 3 and 9, (excerpts) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PN173 .A7 K4)

Giovanni Boccaccio, “The Genealogy of the Gentile Gods: Extracts from Books XIV and XV” in *Medieval Literary Theory and Criticism c.1100-c.1375: The Commentary Tradition*, eds. A.J. Minnis and A.B. Scott (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988), 420-438 (TRIN: PN88 .M45 1988)

Dante Alighieri, *Paradise (excerpt)* in *The Divine Comedy*, trans. Mark Musa (New York: Penguin, 1986) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PQ4315 .M8 1984 v.3)

Michelangelo, *Non ha l'ottimo artista alcun concetto*, in *The Poetry of Michelangelo*, ed. R.J. Clements (New York, 1965) (ROBA: PQ4615 .B6 C55)

New Testament, John, 1: 17-18; 14: 1-10

Old Testament, Exodus 20: 4-6, Exodus 33: 11, 18-23

Plato, *Republic*, Book IX (excerpt) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: JC71 .P36 – see Philosophers of Education reserve shelf)

Plato, *Phaedrus* (excerpt) (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B380 .A5 H35)

Plotinus, *Enneads*, 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 4.3.11, 4.8.1, 5.8.1, 5.8.5 (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B693 .E53 M3)

Course Schedule

Sept. 13: Introductions

Sept. 20: The Seen and the Unseen in the Judaeo-Greek Context

Plato, *Republic*, Book IX (excerpt) Handout, 1-8 (8 pp)

Plato, *Phaedrus* (excerpt) Handout, 9-10 (2 pp)

Aristotle, *Poetics*, IV, 1448b (excerpt) Handout, 11 (1 pp)

Aristotle, *Rhetoric*, Book I, Parts 2, 3 and 9, (excerpts) Handout, 12-13 (1 p)

Plotinus, *Enneads*, 1.6.1, 1.6.2, 4.3.11, 4.8.1, 5.8.1, 5.8.5

Old Testament, Exodus 20: 4-6, Exodus 33: 11, 18-23 Handout

New Testament, John, 1: 17-18; 14: 1-10 Handout

Sept. 27: Visioning God in the Early Church

Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* (excerpt) in G.E. Thiessen, *Theological Aesthetics: A Reader*, 16-18 (2 pp)

Origen, *De Principiis* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 18-20 (2 pp)

Gregory of Nyssa, *On Virginity* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 24-26 (2 pp)

Gregory of Nyssa, *On Perfection* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 40-41 (1 pp)

Augustine, *Divine Providence and the Problem of Evil* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 29-30 (1 p)

Augustine, *Letter to Paulina (The Book of the Vision of God)* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 31-32 (1 p)

Augustine, *The City of God* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 42 (1 p)

Pseudo-Dionysius, *The Divine Names* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 33-37 (4 pp)

Oct. 4: The Byzantine Image as Profession of Faith

Second Council of Nicaea (excerpt) in Thiessen, 64-65 (2 pp)

Fourth General Council of Constantinople (excerpt) in Thiessen, 65-66 (2 pp)

John of Damascus, *Orthodox Faith* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 66-68 (2 pp)

Theodore of Studios, *On the Holy Icons* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 69-71 (3 pp)

Oct. 11: The Western Affirmation of Art and the Artist

Gregory the Great, *Letter to Serenus* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 47-48 (2 pp)

Bonaventure, *The Soul's Journey into God* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 84-87 (4 pp)

Nicholas of Cusa, *On Learned Ignorance* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 109-110 (2 pp)

Giovanni Boccaccio, "The Genealogy of the Gentile Gods: Extracts from Books XIV and XV" in *Medieval Literary Theory and Criticism c.1100-c.1375: The Commentary*

Tradition, eds. A.J. Minnis and A.B. Scott (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1988), 420-438 (18 pp)

Dante Alighieri, *Paradise (excerpt)* in *The Divine Comedy*, trans. Mark Musa (New York: Penguin, 1986)

Oct. 18: Theology, Art and Rhetoric

Leon Battista Alberti, “Book Three” in *On Painting*, trans. John R. Spencer (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1966), 89-98 (9 pp)

Michelangelo, *Non ha l’ottimo artista alcun concetto*, in *The Poetry of Michelangelo*, ed. R.J. Clements (New York, 1965)

The General Council of Trent, *Decree on the Invocation, the Veneration and the Relics of Saints and on Sacred Images* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 142-143 (2 pp)

Oct. 22-25 (Reading Week)

Nov. 1: Ideas about the Thing, Not the Thing Itself

Martin Luther, *Receiving Both Kinds in the Sacrament* (excerpt), *Ecclesiastes* (excerpt), and *Against the Heavenly Prophets in the Matter of Images and Sacraments* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 130-134 (4 pp)

Huldrych Zwingli, *A Short Christian Instruction* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 134-136 (2 pp)

John Calvin, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 136-142 (6 pp)

Nov. 8: The Visual Culture of the Reformation

John Owen, *The Glory of Christ* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 167-170 (4pp)

Jonathan Edwards, *Images or Shadows of Divine Things* (excerpt), *Experiencing God* (excerpt) and *The Philosophy of Jonathan Edwards* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 171-176 (6 pp)

Nov. 15: The New Theology of the Image: Art and Aesthetics

Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 186-189 (3 p)

Georg W. F. Hegel, *Aesthetics – Lectures on Fine Art* in Thiessen, 190-196 (6 p)

Nov. 22: Theologies of Art in the Modern Orthodox Context

Leonid Ouspensky and Vladimir Lossky, *The Meaning of Icons* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 343-345 (2 pp)

George Pattison, *Art, Modernity and Faith* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 241-244 (4 pp)

Nov. 29: Theologies of Art in the Modern Catholic Context

Jacques Maritain, *Art and Scholasticism* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 326-329 (3 pp)

Karl Rahner, “Theology and the Arts” (excerpt) in Thiessen, 218-222 (5 pp)

Hans Urs von Balthasar, *The Glory of God*, vol. 1, *Seeing the Form* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 320-325 (5 pp)

Pie-Raymond Régamey, *Religious Art in the Twentieth Century* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 223-227 (3 pp)

Dec. 6: Theologies of Art in the Modern Protestant Context

Gerardus van der Leeuw, *Sacred and Profane Beauty, The Holy in Art* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 311- 314 (4 pp)
Paul Tillich, “Art and Ultimate Reality” (excerpt) in Thiessen, 209-17 (8 pp)
Calvin Seerveld, “Obedient Aesthetic Life” in *Rainbows for the Fallen World*, 42-76
Jeremy Begbie, *Beholding the Glory, Incarnation through the Arts* (excerpt) in Thiessen, 249-252 (4 pp)

Dec. 13: Seminar presentations

Further Reading:

Barasch, Moshe. *Icon: Studies in the History of an Idea*. New York and London: New York University Press, 1992. (ROBA: BR238 .B36 1992)

Begbie, Jeremy. [*Voicing Creation's Praise: Towards a Theology of the Arts*](#). Edinburgh: T and T Clark, 1991. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 B44) – located on the “Beauty: theology, ethics, or aesthetics? Reserve shelf

_____. [*Theology, Music and Time*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: ML3921 .B44 2000)

Belting, Hans. [*Likeness and Presence: A History of the Image before the Era of Art*](#). Trans. Edmund Jephcott. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: N7850 .B4513 1994)

Besançon, Alain. *The Forbidden Image: An Intellectual History of Iconoclasm*. Trans. Jane Marie Todd. Chicago: University of Chicago, 2000. (ROBA: N7790 .B4713 2000)

Burch Brown, Frank. [*Religious Aesthetics, A Theological Study of Making and Meaning*](#). Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1989. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 B78 1989) – located on the “Beauty: theology, ethics, or aesthetics? Reserve shelf

Corby Finney, Paul. *The Invisible God – The Earliest Christians in Art*. London, New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. (ROBA: BV150 .F56 1994)

Corby Finney, Paul. [*Seeing Beyond the Word: Visual Arts and The Calvinist Tradition*](#). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BX4923 .A77 S44 1999)

Dillenberger, John. [*Images and Relics – Theological Perceptions and Visual Images in Sixteenth-Century Europe*](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: N7862 .D56 1999)

Dyrness, William. [*Reformed Theology and Visual Culture*](#). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BX9423 .A77 D97 2004)

_____, “Dante, Bunyan, and the Case for a Protestant Aesthetic” *International Journal of Systematic Theology*, Vol. 10, No. 3. (July 2008), pp. 285-302. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf)

De Gruchy, John W. [*Christianity, Art and Transformation: Theological Aesthetics in the Struggle for Justice*](#). New York: Cambridge, 2001. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 D44 2001)

Jensen, Robin Margaret. *Face to Face: Portraits of the Divine in Early Christianity*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005. (ROBA: N8050 .J43 2005X)

Koerner, Joseph Leo. *The Reformation of the Image*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. (SMC: N7862 .K64 2004)

Levy, Evonne. *Propaganda and the Jesuit Baroque*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004. (ROBA: N7865 .L48 2004)

Pelikan, Jaroslav. *Imago Dei : the Byzantine apologia for icons*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990. (ROBA: BR238 .P44 1990)

_____. *Jesus Through the Centuries: His Place in the History of Culture*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1985. (ROBA: BT198 .P44 1985)

Stoker, Wessel. “[God, Master of Arts: On the Relation between Art and Religion](#),” *Ars Disputandi*, vol. 7 (2007)
(<http://www.arsdisputandi.org/publish/articles/000277/article.pdf>)

Viladesau, Richard. *Theological Aesthetics: God in Imagination, Beauty, and Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 V55 1999) – located on the “Beauty: theology, ethics, or aesthetics? Reserve shelf

Wolterstorff, Nicholas, *Art in Action*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1980. (ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BR115 .A8 W64)

Zachman, Randall. *Image and Word in the Theology of John Calvin*. Notre Dame, Indiana: University of Notre Dame Press, 2007. (ROBA: BX9418 .Z32 2007X)