

RELIGIOUS STUDIES 50
RELIGIOUS CLASSICS OF THE
WESTERN WORLD

WINTER QUARTER, 1979

Instructor: Walter H. Capps
Assistant: Wendy M. Wright
Office Hours:
Capps 2:30-3:30 TTh SH 4722
Wright SH 4701

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

According to the UCSB Catalog, Religious Studies 50 is a "multi-media course, focusing on textual, architectural, pictorial, and conceptual religious classics, such as St. Augustine's, The Confessions, the Chartres Cathedral in France, Botticelli's painting, The Virgin, and medieval Scholasticism." All of these are treated as "indices of the structure, content, and formation of western culture."

This means that the course will concentrate on certain prominent and/or exemplary religious expressions in western culture. Many of these are literary expressions; some are architectural and structural; some are visual; some are conceptual and analytical; and all are artistic. Or, put in another way, some of the class sessions will concentrate on fundamental ideas and patterns of thought. Others will be more visual in nature, and will focus upon works of art such as one finds them in paintings, buildings, sculpture, and even in the layouts of cities. Still other class sessions will deal with themes which can be found in both conceptual and artistic form simultaneously. An attempt will be made to trace the evolution of these religious-cultural expressions and forms from about the time of St. Augustine (354-430 A.D.) into, and including, the current century.

Though its aspirations are large and its focus is multi-dimensional, the course is really designed as a lower-division, first-time class for students who have had little or no previous exposure to religious studies and/or to the history of western religious thought.

Tentative Schedule of Topics to be Dealt With

January 9	Introduction to the Subject Matter of the Course
January 11	Augustine of Hippo Reading: Chapters and pages from <u>The Confessions</u> to be announced
January 16	Augustine of Hippo, continued
January 18	The Role of Monasticism in the Western World Reading: portions of the <u>Rule of St. Benedict</u> , to be distributed in class

- January 23 Medieval Theology and Mysticism
Reading: Selections from Silent Fire, to be announced
- January 25 Medieval Theology and Mysticism, continued
- January 30 Slide Presentation: Cult of the Virgin
- February 1 Examination in Class
- February 6 Slide Presentation: Gothic Architecture
- February 8 The Reformation Era, Slide Presentation
Reading: Selections from Luther and Erasmus on Free Will
- February 13 The Reformation, continued
In-class drama, John Osborne's, Luther
(adapted from Erikson's Young Man Luther)
- February 15 The Reformation, Calvin
Reading: Selections from Calvin's
Institutes of the Christian Religion,
portions to be announced
- February 20 The Catholic Reformation, Mysticism, 16th
Century France and Spain
Readings: Selections from Silent Fire,
to be announced
- February 22 Examination in Class
- February 27 The Enlightenment's Attitude to Religion
- March 1 Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Miscellany
Readings: To be announced and distributed
- March 6 A Dominant Figure in the 19th Century: Soren
Kierkegaard
Readings: Selections from Kierkegaard's
Journals, to be announced
- March 8 Kierkegaard, continued
- March 13 An Analysis of the Nature of Religion
- March 13 A Contemporary Analysis of the Nature of
Religious Experience
Reading: Mircea Eliade, The Sacred and
the Profane
- March 15 Summary and Summation