



Trappist monk Paschal Phillips, left, is shown with Walter Capps, whose class in religion Phillips will address.

Trappist monk UCSB speaker

The Rev. Paschal Phillips, a Trappist monk, will address Walter Capps' "Religion and Politics" class at UCSB, on Monday, at 1 p.m., in Campbell Hall. Phillips, who has been a monk of this austere contemplative order for nearly 30 years, will speak on the theme: "Does Monastic Life Carry Political Relevance Today?"

Before becoming a monk, Phillips was a practicing attorney. He is currently the business manager of Our Lady of Guadalupe Abbey near Portland, Ore., and has represented monastic communities in North America in legal deliberations and court cases concerning their tax-exempt status.

He has been editor of "Monastic Exchange," has served on the board of directors of the medieval Institute of Western Michigan University as well as being senior advisor to the Center

for Contemplative Studies at the University of Dallas, and has written widely for scholarly and professional journals. He has also participated in dialogues sponsored by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, as did his fellow-monk, Thomas Merton, who was also a member of the Trappist Order.

The class, in which several hundred UCSB undergraduates are enrolled, is studying the interplay of religion and politics in contemporary American life. Fr. Phillips has been invited to speak on the dynamics of an individual and collective religious stance that is often regarded and described as being deliberately a-political. He will give his assessment as to whether this is accurate or true.

Interested persons are invited to attend.