Course Number: [Spanish Mysticism - Avila]
Course Title: Spanish Mysticism in the Context of Spanish History and Culture
Term: Summer 2015

Instructor
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1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will explore Spanish Mysticism in the lives and writings of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross. Students will spend the first part of the course reading and preparing for four weeks' study in Avila, Spain, where they will develop an appreciation for the cultural context of Spanish mysticism through excursions to key historic, cultural and religious sites. A final photo-journalism project will synthesize readings, experiences, travel and insights gained.

2. COURSE GOALS AND ENVISIONED OUTCOME
1. Students will become familiar with 16th-century Spanish mysticism as demonstrated in the lives and writings of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross.
2. Students will gain an understanding of Carmelite spirituality as practiced by Teresa and John.
3. Students will read and study selections from the writings of Teresa and John.
4. Students will travel to Spain and gain an appreciation for the cultural setting of Carmelite spirituality and its history and development.
5. Students will synthesize their experiences in Spain, including excursions to major sites in and around Avila, with their readings of the writings of Teresa and John, through the construction of a final project.

3. COURSE PROCEDURES
1. Students will read selections from the writings of Teresa of Jesus and John of the Cross both before leaving and after returning from Spain, and readings are assigned during their time there as well. Reflections on readings are posted online during Part 1 and Part 3 of the course (as discussions and reflection papers - see schedule for details). These assignments constitute 40% of the grade.
2. The students are responsible for attending classes and excursions, and the immersion into the Spanish Culture during the month of July in Ávila, Spain (30% of grade).
3. The students will submit a final photo-journalism project (7-8 pages, in Word) on the life and writings of St. Teresa, and St. John of the Cross (equally divided), following their return from Spain. This project should consist of approximately 60% text and 40% photos. Text must include relevant quotes from the readings and be properly footnoted. The project should also include students' reflections on their spiritual, cultural and historical impressions of their experiences in Spain. The purpose of this assignment is to integrate what they learned from their readings with their experiences and reflections during their travel in and around Avila. (30% of grade).
4. ASSIGNMENTS

Part One of the Course
On-Line (May 4-June 26th, 2015)

Week 1
- Introduction and Historical Setting - Avila and Spain in the 16th Century: Religious reform, socio-economic forces, global expansion.
- Teresa, "Introduction."
- John of the Cross, Ch. 1: "A Troubadour of Divine Love."
- Post summaries of both readings (approx. 250 words each).

Week 2
- NOTE: All chapters include both a short intro by Fr. Kavanaugh, and excerpts from writings of Teresa or John.
- Teresa, Ch. 1: "A Call from God: Childhood, Youth, Severe Illness."
- Teresa, Ch. 2: "Struggles Along the Path of Prayer.
- Post a 1-2-page reflection paper on Ch. 1 and Ch. 2.

Week 3
- Teresa, Ch. 3: "General Teachings on the Way of Prayer."
- Teresa, Ch. 4: "The Initial Stages of Contemplation."
- Post initial reflection (about two paragraphs, 500 words total) in online discussion by Thursday, and responses to at least one other person by Sunday.

Week 4
- Teresa, Ch. 5: "Pure Contemplation."
- Post 1-page reflection paper on Ch. 5 and how it relates to your experiences in prayer.

Week 5
- John of the Cross, Ch. 2: "Leaking Cisterns."
- John of the Cross, Ch. 3: "I Will Show My Brightness to the Bride."
- Post initial reflection (about two paragraphs, 500 words total) in online discussion by Thursday, and responses to at least one other person by Sunday.

Week 6
- John of the Cross, Ch. 4: "The Way Out of Darkness."
- John of the Cross, Ch. 5: "At the Threshold of Contemplation"
- Post 1-2 page reflection paper on the readings.

Week 7
- John of the Cross, Ch. 6: "As a Mother Weans Her Child."
- John of the Cross, Ch. 7: "The Path of the Spirit."
- Post initial reflection (about two paragraphs, 500 words total) in online discussion by Thursday, and responses to at least one other person by Sunday.

Week 8
- Consider Teresa's and John's approaches to prayer and contemplation.
- Based on the readings so far, write a 1-2 page reflection which compares and contrasts their approaches to prayer.
- Post 1-2 page reflection paper which compares/contrasts Teresa's and John's approaches to prayer and contemplation.
Part Two of the Course
Excursions and Lectures (July 1st- July 29th, 2015)

Week 9
- Avila: Excursions and lectures.
- Read Teresa, Ch. 6: "The Inner World of Beauty and Ugliness."
- Read John of the Cross, Ch. 8: "A Journey in Faith."

Week 10
- Avila: Excursions and lectures.
- Read Teresa, Ch. 7: "God Omnipresent and True."
- Read Teresa, Ch. 8: "Jesus Christ."
- Read John of the Cross, Ch. 9: "Absorbed in the Supreme Good."

Week 11
- Avila: Excursions and lectures.
- Read Teresa, Ch. 9: "The Indwelling of the Blessed Trinity."
- Read Teresa, Ch. 10: "The Power of God's Words."
- Read John of the Cross, Ch. 10: "The Constricted Road."

Week 12
- Avila: Excursions and lectures.
- Read Teresa, Ch. 11: "The Word of God in Scripture."
- Read Teresa, Ch. 12: "The Church on Earth: A Pilgrim People."
- Read John of the Cross, Ch. 11: "On the Mountaintop."

Part Three of the Course:
On-Line (July 30th-August 14th, 2015)

Week 13
- Teresa, Ch. 13: "The Church in Heaven."
- Teresa, Ch. 14: "Evil."
- Post reflections on readings and on trip in online discussion.
- Preparation for final project.

Week 14
- Teresa, Ch. 15: "Grace."
- Teresa, Ch. 16: "The Works and Merits of the Wayfarer."
- John of the Cross: Ch. 12: "That They May Be One in Us."
- Post reflection on readings (about two paragraphs, 500 words total) in online discussion.
- Continue to work on final project.

Week 15
- Post final photo-journalism project.

6. TEXT BOOKS

Required Readings:


**Recommended Readings/Editions:**

Writings of Teresa of Avila, Christian Classics Ethereal Library: [http://www.ccel.org/ccel/teresa](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/teresa)

Writings of John of the Cross, Christian Classics Ethereal Library: [http://www.ccel.org/ccel/john_cross](http://www.ccel.org/ccel/john_cross)


### 7. EVALUATION

(Basis of evaluation with explanation regarding the nature of the assignment and the percentage of the grade assigned to each item below). Students who have difficulty with research and composition are encouraged to pursue assistance with the Online Writing Lab (available at [http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl](http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl)).

**GRADING SCALE:**

- **A** 94-100; **A-** 90-93; **B+** 87-89; **B** 84-86; **B-** 80-83; **C+** 77-79; **C** 74-76; **C-** 70-73 **D** 60-69; **F** 59 and below

### 8. ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students at Holy Apostles College & Seminary are expected to practice academic honesty.

**Avoiding Plagiarism**

In its broadest sense, plagiarism is using someone else’s work or ideas, presented or claimed as your own. At this stage in your academic career, you should be fully conscious of what it means to plagiarize. This is an inherently unethical activity because it entails the uncredited use of someone else’s expression of ideas for another’s personal advancement; that is, it entails the use of a person merely as a means to another person’s ends.

**Students, where applicable:**

- Should identify the title, author, page number/webpage address, and publication date of works when directly quoting small portions of texts, articles, interviews, or websites.
- Students should not copy more than two paragraphs from any source as a major component of papers or projects.
- Should appropriately identify the source of information when paraphrasing (restating) ideas from texts, interviews, articles, or websites.
- Should follow the Holy Apostles College & Seminary Stylesheet (available on the Online Writing Lab’s website at [http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl/resources](http://www.holyapostles.edu/owl/resources)).
Consequences of Academic Dishonesty:
Because of the nature of this class, academic dishonesty is taken very seriously. Students participating in academic dishonesty may be removed from the course and from the program.

9. ATTENDANCE POLICY
Even though you are not required to be logged in at any precise time or day, you are expected to login several times during each week. Because this class is being taught entirely in a technology-mediated forum, it is important to actively participate each week in the course. In a traditional classroom setting for a 3-credit course, students would be required to be in class 3 hours a week and prepare for class discussions 4.5 hours a week. Expect to devote at least 7 quality hours a week to this course. A failure on the student’s part to actively participate in the life of the course may result in a reduction of the final grade.

10. INCOMPLETE POLICY
An Incomplete is a temporary grade assigned at the discretion of the faculty member. It is typically allowed in situations in which the student has satisfactorily completed major components of the course and has the ability to finish the remaining work without re-enrolling, but has encountered extenuating circumstances, such as illness, that prevent his or her doing so prior to the last day of class.

To request an incomplete, distance-learning students must first download a copy of the Incomplete Request Form. This document is located within the Shared folder of the Files tab in Populi. Secondly, students must fill in any necessary information directly within the PDF document. Lastly, students must send their form to their professor via email for approval. “Approval” should be understood as the professor responding to the student’s email in favor of granting the “Incomplete” status of the student.

Students receiving an Incomplete must submit the missing course work by the end of the sixth week following the semester in which they were enrolled. An incomplete grade (I) automatically turns into the grade of “F” if the course work is not completed.

Students who have completed little or no work are ineligible for an incomplete. Students who feel they are in danger of failing the course due to an inability to complete course assignments should withdraw from the course. A “W” (Withdrawal) will appear on the student’s permanent record for any course dropped after the end of the first week of a semester to the end of the third week. A “WF” (Withdrawal/Fail) will appear on the student’s permanent record for any course dropped after the end of the third week of a semester and on or before the Friday before the last week of the semester.

11. ABOUT YOUR PROFESSOR
Dr. Kristina Olsen, OCDS, currently teaches Theology and Spirituality courses at Catholic University of America (Washington, DC), Holy Apostles College and Seminary (CT), and St. Meinrad School of Theology (IN). She also teaches Corporate Social Responsibility and Information Technology at various universities in the Washington, DC, area. She is a member of the Advisory Council for Financial Literacy and Management in Ministry at Seattle University’s School of Theology and Ministry (WA). Dr. Olsen holds a Ph.D. in Theology from Catholic University of America. She also has Master’s Degrees in Theology, Business and Computer Science, and BA degrees in music and liberal studies.