

SEABURY-WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Course Title:           **Embodied Grace: The Anglican Ethos**

Term Offered:         **January 2013**

Instructor:           **John A. Dally**

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Office Hours:         You may reach me by email at any time.  
Prior to the onsite class you may speak to me by phone on Tuesdays  
Appointment times will be available during the classroom intensive; email me to set one up

**Course Description:**

This course will explore the nature of practice of Anglicanism as it is expressed in works of art, particularly novels, plays, poetry and music spanning the 15th to 21st Centuries. Taking its cue from Evelyn Underwood's 1911 book *Mysticism*, "Embodied Grace" will apply her hallmarks of mysticism to Anglicanism itself: it is practical, spiritual, rooted in love, and experiential.

The title of the course is intended to convey several meanings. On the one hand, it recalls Anglicanism's historic emphasis on Incarnation over Atonement as the basis of salvation, but it also suggests that Anglicans don't so much talk about grace as make it visible in words, music, movement and the visual arts. These works share a theological perspective rooted in what some Christian traditions call "worldliness," yet remain profoundly mystical at the same time.

This course will give students:

- ◆ an overview of the historical development of Anglicanism through the lens of its artistic productions
- ◆ an opportunity to engage theology, liturgy and church history through nonverbal media as well as through texts
- ◆ an opportunity to refine their ability to recognize the unique character of Anglicanism across a variety of eras and cultures

Students will develop skills in:

- ◆ apprehending theological meaning in non-verbal media
- ◆ articulating theology embodied in a complex literary form like a novel
- ◆ discussing theological meaning in a diverse community with respect and generosity

### **Course Goals and Their Evaluation:**

Participants will:

- ◆ Learn to recognize the Anglican theological stamp in a wide range of cultural expressions
- ◆ Become conversant with a variety of contexts and their perspectives across global Anglicanism
- ◆ Learn to articulate their own beliefs as part of the Anglican tradition.
- ◆ Learn to recognize and respond to racism and other forms of oppression and exclusion in their personal and institutional manifestations
- ◆ Contribute to a learning community characterized by dialogue, mutual respect, and appreciation of diverse views.

The pedagogy of this course is weighted toward the experiential and will be evaluated on the ability of students to articulate successfully what they have experienced through listening, seeing, and reading artistic expressions of Anglican theology and on the achievement of the course goals.

### **Course Requirements:**

Credit students: Completion of all assigned readings and writing assignments (see below); regular participation in Moodle discussions (online classroom)

Enrichment students: Completion of selected readings (specified by dates of participation) and participation in pertinent Moodle discussions

### **Required Work and Basis for Evaluation (Credit Students)**

- ◆ Participation in classroom discussion (15%) Assessed on the basis of the rubric for classroom discussion on Moodle)
- ◆ Participation in Moodle site assignments (15%) Assessed on the basis of the rubric for online work (on Moodle)
- ◆ Completion of assigned readings evidenced by journals (15%) Assessed on the basis of the rubric for journals (on Moodle)
- ◆ Completion of two short (3-5 page) reflection papers (15% each, due January 11 and 25) and one research paper (10-15 pages) (25%, due February 15) Assessed on the basis of the rubric for reflection and research papers (on Moodle)
- ◆ Late work--i.e., anything submitted after Feb. 15--cannot be accepted without permission from the instructor before Feb 15 and completion of the incomplete form, which students can get from the registrar.
- ◆ Students enrolled in this course for credit or enrichment are expected to adhere to the policies and statements of Seabury's student handbook:  
<http://www.seabury.edu/student-resources.html>.

### **Course Meeting Times:**

Online: January 2 introductions begin; all course work due by February 15

At Seabury: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:15 am-4:30pm; Tuesday, Thursday: 1 pm - 8 pm

### **Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism is the taking of the words, ideas, and methods of others as one's own. In academia, plagiarism involves the use of others' words and ideas without adequate reference to the author or indication of quotation. It is a serious form of academic dishonesty or academic fraud, and offenders are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion from the school. In order to avoid plagiarism, especially by inappropriate use or citation of quotations and ideas, students are expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements and practices of citation found in Turabian's Manual for Writers. Unfamiliarity with these requirements and practices is not an acceptable reason for unintentional plagiarism. Plagiarism cannot be evaded through the alteration of occasional words from one's source.

### **Required Reading:**

Rowell, Geoffrey, Kenneth Stevenson and Rowan Williams, compilers. *Love's Redeeming Work: The Anglican Quest for Holiness* (Oxford University Press, 2001/3)  
Williams, Charles. *Descent into Hell* (1937; any edition)  
Macaulay, Rose. *The Towers of Trebizond* (1956; any edition)

Note: Because of the compressed nature of a J-term class, credit participants are asked to arrive with all assigned readings completed.

### **Journal of Readings:**

For each assigned reading from *Love's Redeeming Work* please provide **brief** answers to these questions: 1) What one key idea does this author contribute to your understanding of Anglicanism? and 2) What common themes do you see emerging from the group of writings assigned for this day of the class? Journals will be shared in class and handed in at the end of the week to be returned with the final paper.

### **On-Site Class Plan**

Monday 1/14: The Tudors: The Carringtons of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century

Read: *Love's Redeeming Work* xxiii-xxxiii, 3-74, 86-98, 103-119

Tuesday 1/15: Out of This World: The Anglican Mystics

Read: *Love's Redeeming Work* 136-193, 202-208, 220-221,  
*Descent into Hell*, complete

Wednesday 1/16: "Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem": The Sounds of Anglicanism

Read: *Love's Redeeming Work* 272-304, 316-333, 361-377, 381-391, 436-447

Thursday 1/17: The Anglican Body: Five Centuries of Theological Reflections on Sexuality

*Love's Redeeming Work* 436-447, 459-462, 487-495, 510-513  
*The Towers of Trebizond*, complete

Friday 1/18: "You Want Chips with That?" Anglicanism Goes Global

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*Love's Redeeming Work* 626-639, 646-656, 737-759