

CH/DS3300P Medieval Monastic Wisdom

Semester 2: Intensive Description

This unit explores the development of the monastic movement in the Medieval Church from 500 - 1500, with an emphasis on the examination of primary sources. The unit will present both an historical study and insights into the spirituality emanating from both male and female monastics during these centuries of Christian monasticism. It offers a method for the study of these texts in the light of present day formation for ministry and mission.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Outline the significant movements and personalities within the development of Medieval monasticism.
2. Articulate key principles of historical interpretation of Medieval Christian sources of monasticism
3. Identify key features of the spirituality within the Medieval monastic movement.
4. Interpret a range of monastic texts
5. Discuss the implications of these texts for ministry in the contemporary Christian church.

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Assessment

Classroom-based:		Weighting
Topic Essay (2000 words)	40%
Research Exercise (3000 words)	60%

Lecturer

Carmel Posa

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Recommended reading

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Aelred of Rievaulx: *Spiritual Friendship*. Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1997.

Bernard of Clairvaux, *On Loving God*. Kalamazoo, MI: Cistercian Publications, 1995.

Brooke, C. *The Age of the Cloister: The Story of Monastic Life in the Middle Ages*. Nahwah, NJ: Hidden Springs, 2003.

Clark, James G. *The Benedictines in the Middle Ages*. Woodbridge, Suffolk: Boydell Press, 2011.

Gertrud of Helfta, *The Herald of Divine Love*. New York: Paulist Press, 1993.

Harris, K. (ed.) *Illumined by God: Essays on Medieval Monastic Women*. Croydon, Vic: Peter Arnold Printing Consultants, 2000.

Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias*. Trans. Columba Hart, and Bishop, Jane. *The Classics of Western Spirituality*. New York: Paulist Press, 1990.

Idung of Purfung, *Cistercians and Cluniacs. The Case for Citeaux. A Dialogue between Two Monks*. Trans. J. O'Sullivan. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1977.

King, Peter. *Western Monasticism: A History of the Monastic Movement in the Latin Church*. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1999.

*Lawrence C.H. *Medieval Monasticism: Forms of Religious Life in Western Europe in The Middle Ages*. Third edition. London: Longman, 2001.

Leclercq, J. *The Love of Learning and the Desire for God*. Trans. Catharine Misrahi. New York: Fordam University Press, 1993.

Rumsey, Patricia M. *Women of the Church :The Religious Experience of Monastic Women* (Blackrock, Co. Dublin : Columba Press, 2011).

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Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Analyse the significant movements and personalities within the development of Medieval monasticism.
2. Evaluate key principles of historical interpretation of Medieval Christian sources of monasticism
3. Appraise key features of the spirituality within the Medieval monastic movement.
4. Interpret a range of monastic texts
5. Discuss the implications of these texts for ministry in the contemporary Christian church.
6. Critique medieval monastic texts in relation to the modern context while grounding the text in its own time.

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