

The Passion of the Western Mind PHST 2500

Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology
Fall, 2015. Classroom is DSPT 3

Edward L. Krasevac, O.P.

Welcome!

This seminar will center around a careful reading of Richard Tarnas' *The Passion of the Western Mind*, a landmark one-volume narrative intellectual history of the West, as well as most of his more recent *Cosmos and Psyche* (a scholarly retrieval of elements of the astrological tradition which stresses its archetypal, indicative, and participatory nature). The goals of this course are for you to attain a broad, synthetic understanding of the western intellectual tradition from its origins in ancient Greece to the present, and for you to critically ponder Tarnas' theory of the religious, cultural, philosophical, and archetypal dynamics that have shaped this history; this will serve as a foundation for your further—and hopefully life-long—study of these vital issues. The learning outcomes that you will attain by the end of the course will be a mastery of the text of *The Passion of the Western Mind*, as well as a broad understanding of Tarnas' project in *Cosmos and Psyche*. Assessment of these outcomes will include regular attendance at, and active participation in, the seminars, and two written essays (one on each book). See the addendum below for more information on these books.

Instructor: Edward Krasevac, O.P., Professor of Theology

B.A. Philosophy, Santa Clara University; M.A. Philosophy, St. Albert's College; M.Div., Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology; S.T. Lic., Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley; Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union.

Office Address: DSPT (corner of Vine & Arch), East Building, Second Floor, Room 200 (at far end).

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 9:30-11:00; most Tuesday and Wednesday mornings (call or email ahead to confirm)

E-Mail (best way to contact me): ekrasevac@dspt.edu / **Telephone: 883-2082**

Please check your email on a daily basis; this is the primary way in which I will communicate with you regarding changes of reading assignments or in the event a class has to be canceled due to illness. If your email address changes during the semester, please notify me immediately.

Class will not be held during Reading Week (10/26 & 10/29), Thanksgiving (11/29) and during the last week of school (12/14 & 12/17, unless a make up class is required on the 14th).

If you will need special arrangements for meeting course requirements for reasons of documented disability, please speak to the instructor early in the term so that arrangements can be anticipated and arranged. Students who have trouble climbing the stairs to my office may meet with me in a designated ADA room on the first level of the East Building.

Order of Classes and Assignments

Note: '∴' signifies "fair use" written material that will be handed out in class.

- Sept 10 *Passion*, pp. 468-9 / 1-90 (**The Greek and Hellenistic Eras**)
- Sept 14 Continue discussion of 1-90
- Sept 17 *Passion*, pp. 91-129 (**The Christian World View**)
- Sept 21 *Passion*, pp. 130-170
- Sept 24 *Passion*, pp. 171-222 (**The Medieval Era**)
∴ Handout: several pages from Yves Congar, *A History of Theology*
- Sept 28 Continue discussion from last week, and the following handouts:
∴ Handout entitled "Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, 2nd Edition," lines 51-114
∴ Handouts: "Texts on Nominalism" / "The Pinckaers Reader" / "Porter-Dupre-Tarnas-Dodds on Teleology, Causality and Design" / "The Credibility of Faith"
- Oct 1 *Passion*, pp. 223-271 (**The Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution**)
- Oct 5 Continue discussion of *Passion*, pp. 223-271
∴ Handout (one page) of some quotations from Peter Burke's *The Renaissance Sense of the Past*
- Oct 8 *Passion*, pp. 272-323 (**Late Modernity**)
∴ Handout (see above): Alasdair MacIntyre, *After Virtue*, 2nd Edition," lines 25-50 / 2-24
- Oct 12 Continue discussion of *Passion*, pp. 272-323; essay questions on *Passion* will be handout out. Essays are due on November 12th
∴ Handout with texts about Deism from Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*
- Oct 15 *Passion*, pp. 325-394
- Oct 19 Continue discussion of *Passion*, pp. 325-394
- Oct 22 *Passion*, pp. 394-413 (**Post-Modernity**)
∴ Handout (see above): on the senses of secularity from Charles Taylor, *A Secular Age*
∴ Handout of some texts from Louis Dupre, *Passage to Modernity*
- Nov 2 *Passion*, pp. 415-445
- Nov 5 Summary Discussion of *The Passion of the Western Mind*
- Nov 9 *Cosmos and Psyche*, Preface and pp. 1-49
∴ Handout on Jungian Archetypes
- Nov 12 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 50-101
(Essay questions on *The Passion of the Western Mind* due.)
- Nov 16 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 102-158
- Nov 19 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 159-217
- Nov 23 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 218-267
- Nov 30 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 285-295 / 300-306 / 335-348 / 352-368 / 386-393
- Dec 3 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 409-464
- Dec 7 *Cosmos and Psyche*, pp. 465-492
- Dec 10 Summary Discussion of *Cosmos and Psyche*, with presentation of essay topics
- Dec 14 *No class, unless a make-up class is necessary*
- Dec 18 (Ten page essays on *Cosmos and Psyche* due)

Course Requirements

1. The **first essay** will be a response to three of five questions on *The Passion of the Western Mind* that will be handed out on October 12th. The first two responses should be around 1600 words each, and the third, around 1000. The essays are due November 12th.
2. The **second essay** is be written on some aspect of *Cosmos and Psyche*, and will be due on the last day of the semester (May 18th); it should be around 4000 words. The topic must be approved by the instructor before you begin writing. The point of this essay is to help you understand, critically assimilate, and express some of the important issues covered in the book, and it should reflect the fact that you understand the basic argument of the book.
3. **Attendance:** Class attendance is required (see DSPT *Student Handbook*¹) *More than **three** no-shows for class will normally result in the reduction of your grade by one-third for each; if you have commitments that will cause you to miss more than three classes, or which do not give you leeway for missing class due to illness, you should consider not taking this class. Students are responsible for all material discussed in class, including changes in assignments, etc; if you miss a class, you should check with someone who was present, or perhaps make arrangements to have it recorded. Also, being late for class is disruptive and annoying for everyone; please be prompt (although it is sometimes difficult if you have a class immediately preceding this one).*
4. **Grades:** The final grade for the course will be determined in the following manner: 40% by the first essay, 40% by the second essay, and 20% by class participation (always come to class having read the assigned material, and prepared to discuss it!). The grade for the essays will be determined by the quality of their content (how well they reflect a knowledge and critical assimilation of *The Passion of the Western Mind* and *Cosmos and Psyche*) and their form (your ability to express in good written English, free of syntactical and grammatical error, what you know). Although the content of the written work is obviously of primary importance, the presentation of that content is important as well, particularly for those who aspire to be effective leaders in the Church or the Academy. Proofread your work! See the addendum for more detailed essay grading criteria.
5. **Incompletes:** If you have not turned in your final essay by Friday, December 18th, you *must* submit the form to take an incomplete by then *Essays turned in after Friday without taking an incomplete will lose one full grade.* If you do choose to take an incomplete, the essay on *Cosmos and Psyche* will be due no later than December 31st; those not submitted by then will lose one full grade, in fairness to those who did their work within the appropriate time period. Exceptions will be made only in serious cases (e.g., illness).
6. **ESL Students:** If English is your second language, you may take an incomplete (by submitting a form for an incomplete by December 18th) and turn in your essay on *Cosmos and Psyche* no later than January 6th.
7. **Plagiarism:** Always use quotation marks around others' phrases that you use in your essays, and cite the reference in a footnote or parentheses. *An instance of plagiarism will automatically result in a grade of "F" for the course.*

¹"Students are required to attend all regularly scheduled classes. There is no formal "exam week" at DSPT or the GTU, and professors have the right to hold classes during the final week of the semester should they so choose. Students with a serious reason for missing a class are responsible for discussing the absence with the professor beforehand, if possible. Those whose absences exceed twenty percent of the scheduled class sessions will not be given credit for the course without the written permission of the Academic Dean. If this is not obtained, a grade of F (Failure) will be recorded. "

Addendum

Required Books

Tarnas, Richard. *The Passion of the Western Mind*. New York: Random House, 1991.

ISBN 978-0345368096. Cost is \$11.55 on Amazon.com as of 8/12/15. Please consider purchasing it at the DSPT/Amazon bookstore at <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20/detail/0345368096>.

Tarnas, Richard. *Cosmos and Psyche: Intimations of a New World View*. New York: The Penguin Group, 2006.

ISBN 978-0452288591. Cost is \$15.69 on Amazon.com as of 8/12/15. Please consider purchasing it at the DSPT/Amazon bookstore at <http://astore.amazon.com/dspt-20/detail/0452288592>.

Recommended (a helpful book for understanding in greater detail the intellectual developments of the late medieval and early modern periods, which may be useful for your further study): Dupre, Louis. *Passage to Modernity: An Essay in the Hermeneutics of Nature and Culture*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993. ISBN 978-0300065015. Cost is \$30.22 on Amazon.com as of 8/12/15.

The **official description** of this course is found in the GTU Schedule of Classes: "This seminar will center around a careful reading of Richard Tarnas' *The Passion of the Western Mind*, a landmark one-volume narrative intellectual history of the West which stresses the discovery, loss, and recovery of the concept of form, as well as most of his recent *Cosmos and Psyche* (a scholarly retrieval of elements of the astrological tradition which stresses its archetypal, indicative, and participatory nature). The goals of this course are for you to attain a broad, synthetic understanding of the western intellectual tradition from its origins in ancient Greece to the present, and for you to critically ponder Tarnas' theory of the religious, cultural, philosophical, and archetypal dynamics that have shaped this history. There will also be other, supporting readings, particularly Louis Dupre's *Passage to Modernity*."

General Criteria for Grading of Papers

- A:** Not only does the student's work reflect a correct understanding of the subject matter, but his or her efforts show something more: a certain and marked *depth* of understanding of the subject which allows its wider implications to be grasped and creatively applied to other areas of thought and life, an ability to discern and articulate the principles involved, as well as a talent to express oneself with both clarity and power.
- A-:** For work that falls somewhat short of the above.
- B+:** The student has demonstrated that he or she has correctly grasped the subject matter, free of error, and has expressed it articulately and well.
- B:** The student has correctly grasped the subject matter, and has articulated it in such a way that this is obvious to the instructor.
- B-:** Although the work shows a fundamental and a good understanding of the subject matter, some errors in understanding have been made, or perhaps the expression is such that some confusion results when it is read.
- C+:** The student's work shows effort, and some real understanding of the subject matter. However, there are some important errors or omissions, or the expression may make it difficult to determine just what the student indeed has grasped.
- C:** Again, effort has been demonstrated, but there are some serious errors or omissions that show that the student has not grasped important aspects of the subject matter, or has expressed them so poorly as to leave a serious question in that regard.
- C-:** The work is poor, in both understanding and expression, but effort to understand has been demonstrated.
- D** Not only is the work poorly done and poorly expressed, but it is obvious that the effort normally expected of a student has simply not been made. This would include poor class attendance.
- F:** The assignments have not been turned in and/or class attendance has been poor.