HITO 124: Mysticism University of California San Diego MWF, 12:00-12:50pm, LOCATION

Professors—

William H.C. Propp, Professor of Ancient History and Judaic Studies

Office Location: H&SS Room 4012 Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:30

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Matthew T. Herbst, Director of the Making of the Modern World Program

Office Location: ERC Admin Bldg, MMW Office, Room 209 Office Hours: Tues 11-

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Graduate Reader

Sarika Stone Talve-Goodman email: sarikastone@gmail.com

Website

Syllabus and course information is found at < https://ted.ucsd.edu/ >

Also at: https://sites.google.com/site/mmwherbst/

Description

This course provides an introductory exploration of mystical traditions from the ancient world to the present.

Grading

Three Exams: 90% (20%, 30%, 40%, respectively)

Response Paper: 10%

Reading

G. Scholem, Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism.

Plato. *Great Dialogues of Plato*.

John Meyendorff. St. Gregory Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality.

e-readings available

Schedule

Week 1: Setting the Stage

4/2 Introduction [Both]

4/4 William James [Propp].

e-reading: William James, The Varieties of Religious Experience, Lectures

XVI-XVII on Mysticism.

4/6 Mystical Experience: Two Case Studies [Both]

e-reading: Graham Harvey, ed. *Shamanism, a Reader,* chap. 1 (Sereptie Djarvoskin, "How Sereptie Djarvoskin of the Nganasans [Tavgi Samoyeds] Became a Shaman")

and chap. 2 (Michael Harner, "Discovering the Way").

Week 2: Greek Traditions

4/9 Greek Foundations: Plato to Plotinus [Herbst]

Plato, The Symposium and The Phaedo. NEO-PLATONISM HERE

4/11 Greek Bodies and Souls [Both].

e-reading: excerpts from Epicurus, Lucretius, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius.

4/13 Initiation and Enounter [Both]

e-reading: Apuleius, Metamorphoses, excerpt; Peter Green, "Catullus 63"

Week 3: Christian Traditions

4/16 Emerging Christian Mysticism [Herbst]

Meyendorff, St. Gregory the Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality, pp. 1-70.

4/18 Orthodox Christian Mysticism [Herbst]

Meyendorff, St. Gregory the Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality, pp. 71-172.

4/20 Exam #1

Week 4: Christian Traditions

4/23 Gnostic Christianities [Propp]

e-reading: David Brakke, The Gnostics, pp. 52-89;

4/25 Christian Mysticism [Herbst]

e-reading: TBA

4/27 Women and the Western Christian Tradition.

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Heidi Keller-Lapp, Lecturer in History and Making of the

Modern World Program, UC San Diego

e-reading: TBA

Week 5: Muslim Traditions

4/30 Muhammad & Early Islam [Both]

e-reading:

5/2 Sufi Way [Herbst]

e-reading:

5/4 Rumi and Sufi Tradition

Guest Lecturer: Prof. Babak Rahimi, Department of Literature and Program for

the Study of Religion

e-reading:

Week 5: Jewish Traditions [Propp]

5/7 The Prophetic tradition (esp. Ezekiel)

e-reading: Bible passages (Isaiah 6; Jeremiah 1; Ezekiel 1-5, 8-10; Zechariah 1-6).

5/9 The Rabbinic era – "Chariot" mysticism

Gershom Scholem, Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism, chs. 1-2.

5/11 Medieval Jewish mysticism: Zohar

Scholem, ch. 6.

Week 6: Jewish Traditions [Propp]

5/14 Luria

Scholem, ch. 7.

5/16 Sabbateanism and Hasidism

Scholem, chs. 8-9.

5/18 Assessment #2

Week 7: Indian Traditions

5/21 The Yogi [Both]

e-reading: Rig-Veda and Upanishad selections (*The World's Wisdom*, pp. 4-5, 10, 14-15, 20); Ramakrishna (*World's Wisdom*, pp. 43-45). Robert E. Svoboda, *Aghora*: *At the Left Hand of God*, pp. 41-57, 148-151, 169-86, plus 323-327 (glossary).

5/23 Buddha [Herbst]

e-reading: *The World's Wisdom*, 49-58; Luiz O. Gomes, *The Land of Bliss*, 62—63, 80-82, 96-102 D. T. Suzuki, "The Basis of Buddhist Philosophy," *Understanding Mysticism*, 126-145.

Thurs. 5/24 SPECIAL LECTURE (RECOMMENDED):

Dr. Shai Cherry, "Mystical Wedding Vows and Spanish Kabbalah." LOCATION: TBA

5/25 Zen Tradition [Propp]

e-reading: Daisetz T. Suzuki, *The Essentials of Zen Buddhism*, Part I, "The General Sense of Zen" Suzuki: pp. 1-68.

Week 8: Mysticism in the Modern World

5/28 Mystics and Social Activism - Simone Weil [Herbst]

e-reading: TBA

5/30 Mysticism and the Modern World [Both]

e-reading: TBA

6/1 Modern Kabbalah [Propp]

e-reading: Boaz Huss, "The New Age of Kabbalah," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* 6.2 (2007) 107-25; Boaz Huss, "All You Need is LAV: Madonna and Post-Modern Kabbalah," *Jewish Quarterly Review* 95.4 (2005) 611-24.

Week 9: Mysticism and Science

6/4Mysticism in a Broader Context: The neurobiology of mysticism: Brain Chemstriy and Drugs[Propp]

e-reading: Kenneth Wapnick, "Mysticism and Schizophrenia" (pp. 321-37); V. S. Ramachandran, "God and the Limbic System," chap. 9 (pp. 174-98) in V. S. Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee, *Phantoms in the Brain*.

6/6 Mysticism, Philosophy, and Physics

Guest Lecturer: Dr. Daniel Arovas, UCSD Dept. of Physics. e-reading: Charles Hartshorne, "Mysticism and Rationalistic Metaphysics" (pp. 415-21 in *Understanding Mysticism*, ed. Richard Woods, 1980); Fritjof Capra, *The Tao of Physics* chaps. 1-2 (pp. 17-44); Richard Elliott Friedman, *The Disappearance of God*, chaps. 10-11 (pp. 119-253).

6/8 Mysticism in Life and Art [Propp and Herbst]

Week 10: Making Sense of Mystical Traditions

6/11 No Class/Memorial Day 6/13 What is Mysticism? [Herbst/Propp] Response Paper Due 6/15 Wrap-Up [Herbst/Propp]