

REL331
Religion and Personal Experience

Course Description:

This course is a study of the place of personal experience in the discovery of religious meaning. May use autobiographical accounts and investigate methods of enhancing consciousness and nurturing spiritual growth.

Prerequisite:

None

Textbooks:

Hillesum, Etty. *An Interrupted Life and Letters from Westerbork*. New York: Henry Holt, 1996. Print. ISBN-10: 0-8050-5087-6 ISBN-13: 978-0-8050-5087-5

Miles, Sara. *Take This Bread: A Radical Conversion*. New York: Ballantine, 2007. Print. ISBN-10: 0-345-49579-9 ISBN-13: 978-0-345-49579-2

Wilkes, Paul. *In Due Season: A Catholic Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2009. Print. ISBN-10: 0-470-42333-1 ISBN-13: 978-0-470-42333-2

Taylor, Jill Bolte. *My Stroke of Insight*. New York: Viking Adult, 2006. Print. ISBN-10: 0-452-29554-8 ISBN-13: 978-0-452-29554-4

Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to describe key concepts of an open spiritual psychology, such as attention, meaning, imagination, and the states and stages of consciousness; identify different kinds of spiritual practice, and discuss an ecumenical and integral spiritual psychology.
2. Students will write a research paper on a topic of interest to them and of relevance to the course.
3. Students will articulate their responses to the readings in a way that advances inquiry into religious issues. This articulation often includes clarity as a goal, but it may also include metaphorical, imaginative, and indirect expressions, such as, for example, poetry, drawings, and humor.

Excellence is the core value associated with this course.

Evaluation:

Your grade in this course will be determined by a number of factors. Grading will be evaluated in the following manner:

Graded Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Exams (3 @ 80 points each)	240	48%
Research paper	100	20%
Discussion Questions (8 @ 20 points each)	160	32%
Total Points	500	100%

Grade Score (%)

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+	67-69%
D	60-66%
F	<60%

To compute your grade at any point during the course, divide the number of points you have received by the number of total points available up to that point.

Discussions:

Students will be required to interact within one threaded discussion each week. Three discussion posts will be graded within each discussion area using the following rubric. Posts completed after the week has expired will not be accepted for credit.

Exams:

The course will include three essay exams. All exams will equally cover lecture material, class demonstrations and activities, and reading assignments.

Term Paper:

Students will be required to write a research paper with a minimum word count of 1,500 (there's no maximum), at least five cited sources, and the word count stated on the first page. The paper should be double-spaced in a 12-point font, and conform to MLA style.

Topics must be submitted for approval at the conclusion of Module 2.

All students will submit their papers to the course assignment box. (The assignment box is linked to Turnitin.) The course ID and password will be made available to you by the second week of class. A plagiarized document will result in a minimum penalty of an "F" for the paper (zero points). Please read the Academic Honesty information below.

MLA Format:

Students are required to use the MLA (Modern Language Association) formatting style when writing a paper. Refer to MLA Guide under Resources on the Course Menu for correct MLA style.

MODULE 1

Outcomes:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Etty Hillesum.
- Describe Etty's religious response to her situation.
- Relate his/her life today to Etty's life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Post Introduction to the class	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin Essay Exam 1	Module 2

MODULE 2

Outcomes:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Etty Hillesum.
- Describe Etty's religious response to her situation.
- Relate her/his life today to Etty's life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit research paper topic	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit exam 1	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

MODULE 3

Outcomes:

After completing this module, the student will be able to:

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Sara Miles.
- Describe Miles' religious response to her situation.
- Relate his/her life today to Miles' life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin Essay Exam 2	Module 4

MODULE 4

Outcomes:**After completing this module, the student will be able to:**

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Sara Miles.
- Describe Miles' religious response to her situation.
- Relate her/his life today to Miles' life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Essay Exam 2	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

MODULE 5**Outcomes:****After completing this module, the student will be able to:**

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Paul Wilkes.
- Describe Wilkes religious response to his situation.
- Relate his/her life today to Wilke's life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post Initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Begin Essay Exam 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

MODULE 6**Outcomes:****After completing this module, the student will be able to:**

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Paul Wilkes.
- Describe Wilkes religious response to his situation.
- Relate her/his life today to Wilke's life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit Essay Exam 3	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

MODULE 7**Outcomes:****After completing this module, the student will be able to:**

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Paul Wilkes.
- Describe Wilkes' religious response to his situation.
- Relate his/her life today to Wilke's life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Submit research paper	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT

MODULE 8**Outcomes:****After completing this module, the student will be able to:**

- Identify key life-challenges faced by Jill Taylor.
- Describe Taylor's religious response to his situation.
- Relate her/his life today to Taylor's life.

Assignments:

Items to be completed:	Due no later than:
Read the assigned materials	
Post initial response to the discussion question	Thursday 11:59 PM EST/EDT
Post responses to at least two classmates	Sunday 11:59 PM EST/EDT