

Spirituality in a Quantum Universe / WS – 641/ Fall 2019

Miriam Therese Winter

COURSE DESCRIPTION

We are slowly beginning to realize – a growing number of us – that the fundamental principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are not the legacy of one nation only. They are universal. The unforgettable image of planet Earth as seen from outer space gives no indication of our increasingly insatiable need to divide and conquer, acquire and accumulate, separate and segregate those with more from those who are deemed less worthy individually, culturally, nationally, religiously, or biologically. We humans need a new narrative, one rooted in a fully inclusive worldview, one in which local realities are integral to the well-being of the whole, where the sacred is not set apart somewhere and relatively unattainable but is integral to all, where diversity is a blessing, and where everyone belongs. Such a reality is already here in those invisible forces within our quantum universe, where unseen energies already connect us all to one another. It is time for our spiritual energies to transcend imposed separations and allow the Spirit to fashion a world of compassionate interconnectedness and inner peace.

GOAL

The primary goal of this course is to introduce transformative spirituality in such a way that students

- understand what it is and are able to articulate its scientific basis and its relevance for their own spiritual journey
- are aware of the dynamics and implications of living in a quantum universe
- are able to express concretely how a transformed perspective affects both behavior and belief

OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to

- define transformative spirituality cognitively and experientially
- give examples from personal experience of what it means to live in and through the Spirit
- share a concrete example of how a transformed perspective has affected their own behavior and/or belief

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Students taking this course for Graduate Credit are required to:

- Read** ~ the selections on the Required Reading list
- Participate** ~ in class discussions, small group conversations, and creative activities
- Reflect** ~ on what one has read, heard, created, and concluded
- Apply** ~ put into practice an element/insight of a transformed consciousness
 - describe what you did and why you did it
 - make explicit a connection between this action resulting from and/or leading to a transformed consciousness and or a transformative spirituality

Creative Expression

Using any medium, creatively express an aspect of **Transformative Spirituality** for you.

Final Paper At the end of the course, submit a paper (approx. seven pages) based on what you have learned about transformative spirituality and how you have applied an aspect of it to your lived reality.

The class meets Monday evenings from 5:00 – 8:45 pm at 76 Sherman Street

COURSE READING

Borg, Marcus J. *Convictions. How I Learned What Matters Most.* New York: HarperOne, 2014.

Hawking, Stephen. *Brief Answers to the Big Questions.* New York: Bantam Books, 2018.

Leach, Michael and Friends. *Soul Seeing. Light ♦ Love ♦ Forgiveness.* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2018.

Levy, Paul. *The Quantum Revelation. A Radical Synthesis of Science and Spirituality.* New York: Select Books, 2018.

Newell, John Philip. *The Rebirthing of God. Christianity's Struggle for New Beginnings.* Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths, 2014.

Phillips, Jan. *No Ordinary Time. The Rise of Spiritual Intelligence and Evolutionary Creativity. A Book of Hours for a Prophetic Age.* San Diego, CA: Livingkindness Foundation, 2011.

Spong, John Shelby. *Unbelievable. Why Neither Ancient Creeds Nor the Reformation Can Produce a Living Faith Today.* New York: HarperCollins, 2018.

Winter, Miriam Therese. *Paradoxology: Spirituality in a Quantum Universe.* New York: Orbis Books, 2009.

COURSE SYLLABUS

● ALL THINGS NEW ●

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- Session 1** September 9 **The Quantum Revelation**
Introduction to one another and to the course
Read: Levy, *Quantum Revelation*, Part One
- Session 2** September 16 **A Radical Synthesis of Science and Spirituality**
Read: Levy, *Quantum Revelation*, Part Two
- Session 3** September 23 **Quantum Physics as Spiritual Path**
Read: Winter, *Paradoxology*, Part One
Levy, *Quantum Revelation*

September 30

***** NO CLASS SESSION *****

● LETTING GO ●

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- Session 4** October 7 **What Matters Most**
Read: Borg, *Convictions*
- Session 5** October 14 **Why Christianity Must Change or Die**
Read: Spong, *Unbelievable*

● BEGINNING AGAIN ●

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- Session 6** October 21 **Rebirthing of God**
Read: Newell, *Rebirthing of God...Struggle for New Beginnings*
- Session 7** October 28 **Rise of Evolutionary Creativity**
Read: Phillips, *No Ordinary Time*
- Session 8** November 4 **Big Questions**
Read: Hawking, *Brief Answers*

November 11

***** NO CLASS SESSION *****

- Session 9** November 18 **Divine Milieu**
Read: Leach & Friends, *Soul Seeing: Light ♦ Love ♦ Forgiveness*
- Session 10** November 25 **Spirituality in a Quantum Universe**
Read: *Paradoxology, Part Two and Part Three*
- Session 11** December 2 **Celebrating the Spirit of a Quantum Universe**

A shared meal is an integral part of the learning experience