

“JESUS BEYOND CHRISTIANITY”

Winter/Spring 2022

Bishop Benjamin Watts, D. Min. / Miriam Therese Winter, Ph.D.



This course is the first of a series entitled

“THE FAITHS AS FORMAL REALITIES”



COURSE DESCRIPTION

As we struggle collectively to adjust to a world that is continually changing, it is vital that we revisit inherited assumptions foundational to our faith traditions in order to assess their relevance to the realities of here and now. In this course, we return to Jesus, the Jewish mystic at the core of Christianity, to wrestle once again with such challenging questions as, “Who do people say that I am?” and “Who do *you* say that I am?” Together, we will seek to discern his 21st century spirit as we struggle to shape, through a quantum lens, an emerging planetary spirituality that is inclusive of all.



GOALS /OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

The primary goals/objectives of this course are:

- to become more aware of scholarly perspectives regarding the historical Jesus within Christianity and his relevance for other faith traditions
- to become familiar with the spirituality of faith-filled practitioners whose spirit and spirituality differ from authoritative practice
- to reflect on an emerging, multi-faceted, global spirituality that wrestles with the difficult questions related to a Jesus who continues to be narrowly defined by Christian authorities

The primary outcomes of this course are:

- a clearer sense of the relationship between the historical Jesus and the Jesus of Christianity and an informed awareness of the distinction between them
- a clarification of one’s own relationship to Jesus and its implications for faith-based initiatives in light of what we are learning from ancient traditions and a constantly evolving quantum universe
- an awareness of how a cosmic Christ-consciousness consonant with the earliest Jesus traditions and continuing on within an ever-evolving Tradition differs from what we have inherited via institutional religion and is core to a quantum spirituality

CLASS SCHEDULE: SESSIONS ONSITE OR ZOOM (TBD)

MONDAY EVENINGS: JANUARY 24THTHRU MAY 2ND

5:00 pm – 8:45 pm

EXPECTATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS

PLEASE NOTE

The opening session (January 24) will be via Zoom for all participants.

Auditors must live within driving distance to HUI.

When it is safe to return to campus, in-person attendance is mandatory for all participants.

From then on, there will be no on-going Zoom option for auditors.

Those Auditing the Course

- participate in class discussions and read as much as you are able to manage
- participate in additional Zoom sessions under the leadership of Dr. MT Winter

Those Taking the Course for Academic Credit

- attend all class sessions unless an emergency requires otherwise
- do all the reading listed in the class syllabus
- do a weekly posting under the leadership of Dr. Benjamin Watts
- complete the final written assignment as indicated below

Final Written Assignment

Students taking the course for Academic Credit are required to write a final paper on a theme approved by Dr. Watts and/or Dr. Winter.

Guidelines

After significant reflection on relevant course content and in conversation with selected readings from the course syllabus and your own personal research, write a paper approximately seven pages in length (double spacing) in which you reflect on how your own understanding of Jesus, and perhaps even your relationship to Jesus, has changed as a result of this course.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND SESSION THEMES

SESSIONS

JANUARY 24TH Identifying Our Own Personal Jesus

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE READING?

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS?

READING

“Who Do You Say That I Am?”

~ Miriam Therese Winter

JANUARY 31ST Jesus and the Divine Spirit

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE READING?

HOW MIGHT YOU APPLY WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED?

In the Spirit of Jesus

~ Miriam Therese Winter

- FEBRUARY 7th Black Like Me?** *Jesus and the Disinherited*
RELEVANCE OF RACE/COLOR HERE AND NOW ~ Howard Thurman
HOW WILL YOU DEMONSTRATE THAT ALL LIVES MATTER?
- FEBRUARY 14th Abrahamic Faith Traditions** *“To Whom Does Christianity Belong?”*
 [WITH DR. AIDA MONSOUR & DR. YEHEZKEL LANDAU] ~ Dyron Daughrity
- FEBRUARY 21st Encountering Jesus** *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*
A TRANSFORMATIVE PERSPECTIVE ~ Marcus Borg
WHAT MIGHT THIS MEAN FOR YOU HERE AND NOW?
- FEBRUARY 28th The Teachings of Jesus** *“The Parables of Jesus”*
TRANSFORMATIVE MOMENTS HERE AND NOW ~ John Dominic Crossan
APPLIED SPIRITUALITY IN AN ERA OF VIRAL TRANSMISSION
- MARCH 7th Jesus and Other Faith Traditions** *Living Buddha, Living Christ*
ANCIENT NEAR EAST & INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ~ Thich Nat Hahn
TRANSFORMATIVE GLOBAL CONNECTEDNESS
- MARCH 14th Beyond Faith Traditions** *Jesus Today*
A SPIRITUALITY OF RADICAL FREEDOM ~ Albert Nolan
QUANTUM SPIRIT: ONENESS AMONG MANYNESS
- MARCH 21st Our own encounters of Spirit during Covid** _____
TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES / SPIRIT AT THE HEART OF SPIRITUAL & SPIRITUALITY
- APRIL 4th Looking Forward in the Spirit of Jesus** _____
JESUS BEYOND CHRISTIANITY
SPIRIT EMERGING HERE AND NOW
- APRIL 11th READING WEEK / NO CLASS SESSIONS** _____
- APRIL 18th “eucharist with a small “e”** *eucharist with a Small “e”*
WHAT JESUS DID ~ Miriam Therese Winter
WHAT JESUS WOULD HAVE US DO
- APRIL 25th Shared Table Fellowship experiences in the spirit of Jesus** _____
INCLUSIVE TABLE FELLOWSHIP
MANIFESTING THE SPIRIT OF JESUS
- MAY 2nd Collective sharing / integration /closure** *Agape / celebratory departure*

COURSE READINGS

Borg, Marcus. *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time. The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1995.

Crossan, John Dominic. "The Parables of Jesus." *Interpretation*, July 2002.

Daugherty, Dyron B. *To Whom Does Christianity Belong?* Chapter Four. "Jesus." Fortress Press. _____

Nolan, Albert. *Jesus Today. A Spirituality of Radical Freedom*. Orbis Books, 2004. [author of *Jesus Before Christianity*, 1978]

Rubenstein, Richard E. *When Jesus Became God. The Struggle to Define Christianity During the Last Days of Rome*. Harcourt, Inc. 1999.

Siddiq, Muzammil. "The Position of Honor of Jesus in Islam." *The Message International*. December 2002-January 2003.

Thurman, Howard. *Jesus and the Disinherited*. Beacon Press, 1976.

Winter, Miriam Therese. *In the Spirit of Jesus*. AuthorHouse, 2020.

----- . *eucharist with a small "e."* New York: Orbis Books, 2005.

----- . "Who do You Say that I Am?" In *InterContinent*, Medical Mission Sisters, 1996.