

## **PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER**

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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*Syllabus*  
*HS 673.08 - Makers of Christianity - 20<sup>th</sup> Century*  
*Phillips Theological Seminary - Fall 2010*  
*Dr. Ellen Blue*

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This course is designed as an upper-level history offering for students who have completed the History of Christianity II - Reformation & Modern course. Students will become well acquainted with at least two periods and/or topics in the twentieth century history of Christianity through studying the biographies or autobiographies of persons who had significant impact on that history.

Students will reflect on how the lives of individuals intertwine with larger historical events and movements and gain deeper insight into how the work of individuals affected the development of the Christian faith over the past century. They should become better equipped to articulate how various past human understandings and decisions affect our lives in our own Christian communities today.

***Required Texts*** (On reserve in the PTS Library)

Dorothy Day, *The Long Loneliness: The Autobiography of Dorothy Day*.  
HarperSanFrancisco, 0-06-061751-9

Ellen Blue, "'True Methodist Women': Reflections on the Community at St. Mark's," chapter in *Louisiana Women: Their Lives and Times*, edited by Janet Allured and Judith Gentry (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009).

Mortimer J. Adler and Charles Van Doren, "How to Read Biography and Autobiography," in *How to Read a Book* (Simon & Schuster, 1972), 244-248.

***Other Materials***

Additional short readings may be placed on reserve in the PTS Library and posted on our website for your use.

It is expected that you will read a number of biographies/autobiographies during the course, with the specific volumes to be chosen in negotiation with the instructor over the course of the first several weeks. Choices will depend on which portions of the twentieth century you choose for concentration.

### *General Information*

Due to the nature of online learning, applications for Incompletes are not likely to be accepted.

Every student is bound by the policies of the seminary with regard to academic honesty, as expressed in the PTS Student Handbook. They will be enforced with regard to writing assignments. Any student who is not absolutely certain that he or she can distinguish between appropriate use of sources and plagiarism should rectify that at once. Paraphrasing an author's work does not necessarily negate an obligation to cite that author as the source of an idea, viewpoint, or piece of information. On the other hand, citing a source does not relieve you of the responsibility to include all quotations within quotation marks. *If you are in doubt as to whether you are plagiarizing, find out. I will respond to specific queries.* The default penalty for any act of plagiarism is failure for the entire course.

### *Attendance Policy*

In an online class, attendance is measured by posts-per-week on the discussion board or other activities. The instructor sets the minimum number of posts-per-week required for a student to be considered present. Students who fail to make that minimum number of posts will be considered absent for the week. Students absent for more than 20% of the semester cannot pass the course. In this course, three posts per week are required unless other instructions are given on the website. (For instance, there will be different requirements for weeks 3, 11 and 12.) Making three posts means that you log on and make a substantive post (or later in the week, a substantive response) at least three different times.

### *Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities*

Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities. The Seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in Seminary programs. For details, see "Disabilities Policies and Procedures" in the 2009-2010 Student Handbook, pp 17-18 in the print copy. (The Student Handbook is also located on the PTS website, [www.ptstulsa.edu](http://www.ptstulsa.edu) Go to the **Worship & Community** tab in the far left column; select **Student Handbook**. The policy is found on pdf pages 22-23.) Please contact Belva Brown Jordan, the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services, for consultation.

**Assignments** (Note: Assignments are always subject to change.)

Each student will choose two particular eras and/or events within the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Christianity on which you will focus your study. Some of the possibilities are listed on the attachment to this syllabus. However, it could be possible to negotiate in conversation with me a focus which is not on the list. You will also negotiate which individuals you will study and which books you will read within your chosen First Focus and Second Focus. You will participate in three discussions on your first area of focus and three discussions on your second area of focus.

Late in the semester, there will be two discussions in which you will “speak”/write in the voice of a chosen character, one from your first focus and one from your second. We will use the context of a dinner party attended by the persons chosen by all the students to set the parameters of the discussion. I do not expect you to know how to do this at the beginning of the semester, as we will be working it out together in the coming weeks.

This formula will be used for determining your final grade:

Participation in Boards for Weeks 1-4 - 15%  
First Focus Discussions - 20%  
Second Focus Discussions - 20%  
Dinner Party part A - 15%  
Dinner Party part B - 15%  
Final Discussion Board - 15%

The deadline for each week’s postings will be at midnight on Monday night. The first board, for instance, will run from 12:01 am on Tuesday, Aug. 31 through midnight on Monday, Sept. 6. **IMPORTANT**: Blackboard registers time in the Eastern time zone, but your deadlines are measured by time here in the Central zone. When you post at 11:58 pm, and Blackboard says you posted at 12:58 am the next day, you do not need to email me and assure me you posted on time. I am aware of the time zone discrepancy.

1. August 31 - Introductory Discussion Board  
Read *The Long Loneliness*  
Read “How to Read Biography and Autobiography”
2. September 7 - Discussion on *The Long Loneliness*  
Choosing two areas of focus
3. September 14 - Suggesting People and Books

Read “True Methodist Women”

4. September 21 – Discussion on “True Methodist Women”  
Suggesting People and Books (cont.)

5. September 28 - First Focus, Discussion A

6. October 5 - First Focus, Discussion B

*October 12 - No Class, Reading Week*

*October 19 – No Class, Concentrated Course Week*

7. October 26 – First Focus, Discussion C

8. November 2 – Second Focus, Discussion A

9. November 9 - Second Focus, Discussion B

10. November 16 - Second Focus, Discussion C

*November 23– No Class, Thanksgiving Week*

11. November 30 – Dinner Party – part A

12. December 7 – Dinner Party – part B

13. December 14 – Final Discussion Board

### Syllabus Attachment – Suggestions for Possible Focus Areas

Rise of Pentecostalism

Fundamentalism (including Scopes Trial)

Social Gospel (could include Industrial Revolution)

Missionary Movement

World War I and the Peace Movement

Holocaust

Vatican II  
Medellin & Puebla

First Wave (turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century) and/or Second Wave (since 1960) Women's  
Movement

Civil Rights Movement

Ecumenical Movement

Vietnam-Watergate Era

Rise of Communism  
Fall of Communism

Christian Socialism

Red Scare

Nuclear Age

Religious Right

End of Apartheid

Late 20<sup>th</sup> century Social Activism (e.g., Helen Prejean)

Television/Mass Communication

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Make sure you are going forward with your study rather than doing repetitive work from  
another course