

IST 2147: Celtic Spirituality: Nature & Grace
S2016 - Online

John Philip Newell (jnewell@iliff.edu)

Teresa Crist (tcrist@iliff.edu)

Course Description:

A study of the Celtic tradition of Christian spirituality as it emerged in early European Christianity and has continued to express itself through the centuries. The course will particularly examine the Celtic emphasis on the sacredness of nature and its relevance to the earth concerns and awarenesses of today.

Course Requirements:

1. Readings: Please do the assigned readings each week and in the order Dr. Newell has recommended.
2. Weekly Posts: Each week, by MIDNIGHT on TUESDAY, you must submit one substantive post on the readings.
3. Weekly Responses: Each week, by MIDNIGHT on FRIDAY, you must submit at least one substantive response to another student's post.
4. Final Reflection Paper: Students will submit a 4-5 page reflection on the course materials and Dr. Newell's lectures.
5. Dr. Newell's Public Lectures: Attendance at the lectures is mandatory for local students. For Journey students, you are not required to make the trip for two weekends, but you will be required to view/stream the lectures depending on the resources available. As students enrolled in the class, you are automatically registered for a spot at the lectures, which is both highly covetable and a GOOD DEAL (registration costs \$399!). Your final reflection will engage the material covered by Dr. Newell in these lectures.

Evaluation Policies:

Grading: The course is Pass/Fail. There will be no letter grades assigned. In order to earn a "P," students must meet the minimum participation requirement, outlined below.

Weekly Posts: (5 points)

Your Tuesday posts should be a substantive engagement of the assigned readings, taking in guiding questions or prompts, if given. Posts should not be simple summaries of the material, but should show an attempt to put the various readings in conversation with each other. This might be through thematic discussions, compare/contrast, or critical analysis of parts of the readings. Perhaps one argument resonated with you, you question the author's evidence, or you see connections with your life or other coursework. Please *cite* the various authors within the post. Your posts should be a maximum of 500 words and a minimum of 250. You will receive 2 points for an on-time submission and 3 points toward content.

Weekly Responses: (5 points)

Your Friday responses should be to one of your classmates whose post has not yet been engaged. (Once you have done this, you may, of course, respond to any other posts that catch your eye!) Try to respond to different people each week so that you can experience the variety and perspective of each of your unique classmates!

The responses should also be substantive, engaging both your own analysis of the readings as well as the poster's. If you do quote one of the readings, please *cite* the author appropriately. Responses should be a maximum of 500 words and a minimum of 250. You will receive 2 points for an on-time submission and 3 points toward content.

Final Reflection: (25 points)

The final reflection will be a 4 - 5 page paper submitted after Dr. Newell's lectures in May. This paper will center around a topic that interests you from the course. Please submit topics during week 5 to Teresa Crist (tcrist@iliff.edu) for approval and direction. The paper should be both reflective of your experience in the course as well as an engaged analysis of the readings.

Grading is fairly straightforward, but if you are ever worried, please feel free to email me (tcrist@iliff.edu).

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (March 22, 2016)

Introductions

Week 2 (March 29, 2016) 'The Light of God: the Heart of all Things'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'Introduction', in *The Book of Creation: An Introduction to Celtic Spirituality* (Paulist Press, 1999), pp xv-xxv.

J. P. Newell, 'Listening for the Goodness: Pelagius', in *Listening for the Heartbeat of God* (SPCK, 1997), pp 8-22.

J. P. Newell, 'The First Day: The Light of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 3-15 (including the practice of meditation on pp 14-15).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'In the Form of Christ', in *The Prayer of the Universe* (Collins, 1973), pp 15-37.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction: Morning & Night Prayer* (Eerdmans, 2000), p 2.

Week 3 (April 05, 2016) 'The Wildness of God: Untamed Sacredness'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'Listening within Creation: Eriugena', in *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, pp 23-38.

J. P. Newell, 'The Second Day: The Wildness of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 19-32 (including the practice of meditation on pp 31-32).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'Cosmic Life' (Introduction & Section 1: Awakening to the Cosmos), in *The Prayer of the Universe*, pp 39-56.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction*, p 20.

Week 4 (April 12, 2016) 'The Fecundity of God: Earth's Seed-Force'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'Listening for God in All Things: Carmina Gadelica', in *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, pp 39-58.

J. P. Newell, 'The Third Day: The Fecundity of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 35-47 (including the practice of meditation on pp 46-47).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'Cosmic Life' (Section 2: Communion with Earth), in *The Prayer of the Universe*, pp 56-76.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction*, p 26.

Week 5 (April 19, 2016) 'The Harmony of God: Sacred Feminine - Sacred Masculine'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'Listening with the Imagination: George MacDonald', in *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, pp 59-73.

J. P. Newell, 'The Fourth Day: The Harmony of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 51-64 (including the practice of meditation on pp 63-64).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'Cosmic Life' (Section 3: Communion with God), in *The Prayer of the Universe*, pp 76-89.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction*, p 46.

Week 6 (April 26, 2016) 'The Creatureliness of God: the Physical & the Spiritual Conjoined'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'The Rhythm of the Earth', in *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation* (Jossey-Bass, 2008), pp 31-45.

J. P. Newell, 'The Creatureliness of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 67-79 (including the practice of meditation on pp 78-79).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'Cosmic Life' (Section 4: Communion with God through Earth), in *The Prayer of the Universe*, pp 90-105.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction*, p 58.

Week 7 (May 03, 2016) 'The Image of God: the Divine & the Human Consubstantiated'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'Listening and Acting: George MacLeod', in *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, pp 74-93.

J. P. Newell, 'The Image of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 83-97 (including the practice of meditation on pp 96-97).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'The Mystical Milieu', in *The Prayer of the Universe*, pp 107-140.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction*, p 68.

Week 8 (May 10, 2016) 'The Stillness of God: the Rhythm of Creativity'

Readings for Online Discussion (in this order):

J. P. Newell, 'Two Ways of Listening: John and Peter', in *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, pp 94-107.

J. P. Newell, 'The Stillness of God', in *The Book of Creation*, pp 101-112 (including the practice of meditation on pp 111-112).

Teilhard de Chardin, 'The Eternal Feminine & The Priest', in *The Prayer of the Universe*, pp 141-173.

Prayer from J. P. Newell, *Celtic Benediction*, p 76.