



## **Course Syllabus Wycliffe College Toronto School of Theology**

This description is intended to assist in the course approval process and to assist students in determining whether this course will help them achieve their educational objectives and the learning goals of their program. It is not a learning contract. The details of the description are subject to change before the course begins. The course syllabus will be available to the class at the beginning of the course.

### ***Course Identification***

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Course Number : WYP2210HF  
Course Name: Monastic & Missional: Benedictine Spirituality and Foundations of the New Monasticism  
Campus: St. George

### ***Instructor Information***

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Instructor:	Rev. Dr. Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert	Teaching Assistant:
E-mail:	cj@ssjd.ca	E-mail:
Office Hours:		

### ***Course Prerequisites or Requisites***

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None.

### ***Course Description***

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St. Benedict's "Little Rule", written in the fourth century, is the primary source of Anglican spirituality, liturgy and ecclesiology and has influenced many other denominations as well. Since the mid-twentieth century it has had a profound influence on the "New Monasticism," Fresh Expressions, and the Emergence movement. The course will examine the historical roots of Benedictine spirituality in the desert tradition, the spread of the Benedictine tradition across Europe and the British Isles, the clash between the Roman Benedictine tradition and Celtic spirituality, the profound influence of Benedictine liturgy during the English Reformation especially in the shaping of the Book of Common Prayer, and the influence of Benedict's Rule on the development of Anglican and ecumenical religious communities. As we follow the tradition into the 20th and 21st centuries we will examine the increasing interest in Benedictine monastic spirituality among lay people, including Protestants, and the evolution of monastic life into the "mixed economy" of traditional and emerging "new monastic" communities and fresh expressions.

### ***Course Methodology***

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Slide lectures, examples in art and music, video presentations, small group and plenary discussion, student-led discussion.

### ***Course Outcomes***

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<b>COURSE OUTCOMES</b>	<b>COURSE ELEMENT</b>	<b>PROGRAM OUTCOMES</b>
<b>By the end of this course, students</b>	<b>This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:</b>	<b>This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv):</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will understand the impact of Benedictine and Celtic monastic roots on Anglicanism as well as other Protestant bodies;</li></ul>	Historical overview	<b>MTS: 1.3</b> <b>MDiv: 1.3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• will have a deeper appreciation for traditional spiritual practices as they influence inherited and new monasticism;</li></ul>	Historical overview, spiritual practice of students, reading on missional church and new monasticism	<b>MTS: 1.3</b> <b>MDiv: 1.3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have an understanding of the spirituality, ecclesiology, and praxis of the "new monasticism" in its various manifestations;</li></ul>	Reading on missional church and new monasticism	<b>MTS: 1.3</b> <b>MDiv: 1.3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• be able to evaluate the effectiveness (in terms of the <i>missio dei</i>) of various contemporary expressions of monasticism (both inherited and new);</li></ul>	Identification of characteristics of new monasticism through weekly class discussion	<b>MTS: 1.3</b> <b>MDiv: 1.3</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• have a personal commitment to some form of personal spiritual practice as a way of undergirding ministry in both inherited and fresh expressions of church.</li></ul>	Students' own spiritual practice seen in the context of monastic history and evolution of new monasticism	<b>MTS: 1.3</b> <b>MDiv: 1.3</b>

## Course Resources

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### Required Course Texts

- *The Rule of Saint Benedict*, paraphrased by Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2012.
- Christopher Brooke, *The Age of the Cloister: The Story of Monastic Life in the Middle Ages*. HiddenSpring (Paulist Press), 2003.
- Patrick Barry, OSB, *Saint Benedict and Christianity in England*. Herefordshire, U.K.: Ampleforth Abbey, 1997. Privately published pamphlet; will be distributed in class.
- Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.
- Ian Mobsby and Mark Barry, *A New Monastic Handbook*. London, U.K.: Canterbury Press 2014.

### Course Website(s)

- Blackboard <https://weblogin.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Blackboard for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT portal login page at <http://portal.utoronto.ca> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Blackboard-based courses. (Your course registration with ROSI gives you access to the course website at Blackboard.) Note also the information at <http://www.portalinfo.utoronto.ca/content/information-students>. Students who have trouble accessing Blackboard should ask Thomas Power for further help.

### Class Schedule

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The instructor reserves the right to change the discussion topics and schedule in response to the evolving needs and interest of the class.

#### Week 1 (Sept. 15)

Topics: Introduction to the course: syllabus, books, assignments, calendar

In subsequent weeks, there will be three common threads:

- a historical or contemporary topic in monasticism and mission
- reading from Joan Chittister, which the student will approach from the point of view of *lectio divina* as a way of understanding the spirituality of Benedictine monasticism and its relevance today
- reading from one of the three historical/contemporary authors: Brooke, Tickle, and Cray, moving from the foundations of Christian monasticism through contemporary experiments in the New Monasticism

#### Week 2 (Sept. 22)

Topics: Early history of monasticism

Assignments: Christopher Brooke, Ch. 1-2

**Week 3 (Sept. 29)**

Topics: Benedictine reforms (Cistercians & Trappists)

Assignments: Christopher Brooke, Ch.3-4

Patrick Barry pamphlet

**Week 4 (Oct. 6)**

Topics: The Reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries

Assignments: Christopher Brooke, Ch. 5-6

**Week 5 (Oct. 13)**

Topics: Early communal experiments in the Church of England (Little Gidding)

Assignments: Christopher Brooke, Ch. 8-9

Paper 1

**Week 6 (Oct. 20)**

Topics: Sarum Rite and the Benedictine office

Assignments: Christopher Brooke, Ch. 11-12, 15

**READING WEEK: NO CLASS Oct. 27****Week 7 (Nov. 3)**

Topics: The Book of Common Prayer

Assignments: Phyllis Tickle, Part 1

**BENEDICTINE EXPERIENCE: November 6-7**

Topics: Benedict in the Modern World (based on a series of 4 DVDs from the Trinity Institute, Trinity Wall Street, 2003):

- Rowan Williams, "God's Workshop"
- Kathleen Norris, "Holy Realism: Living Life as it Matters"
- Lawrence Freeman, "Only Connect: Contemplation and Non-Violence"
- Joan Chittister, "A Choice Between Impossibles: Ancient Answers to Contemporary Questions"

Assignments: A brief reflection paper based on the class discussions and the experience of a monastic weekend

(Seminars to be led by those not attending the weekend will be scheduled during the final weeks of the course.)

**Week 8 (Nov. 10)**

Topics: Oxford Movement & revival of monasticism in the English Church

Assignments: Phyllis Tickle, Part 2

Paper 2

**Week 9 (Nov. 17)**

Topics: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Anglican & ecumenical monastic movements

Assignments: Phyllis Tickle, Part 3

**Week 10 (Nov. 24)**

Topics: The New Monasticism: lay affiliates and dispersed communities

Assignments: *A New Monastic Handbook*, Part 1

Précis for final paper

**Week 11 (Dec. 1)**

Topics: The New Monasticism: residential and parish-based communities

Assignments: *A New Monastic Handbook*, Part 2

**Week 12 (Dec. 8)**

Topics: Monasticism and the Future of the Church

Assignments: *A New Monastic Handbook*, Part 3

**FINAL PAPERS DUE BY 12 NOON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18*****Evaluation***

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**Requirements**

- Two short papers exploring an issue from 1) Christopher Brooke's book and 2) from Phyllis Tickle's book that impinges on the contemporary church. (15% each)
- Weekly class participation and discussion reflecting a prayerful reading of the Rule of Benedict (15%)
- Attendance at the Benedictine Experience Weekend OR a class seminar presentation based on a book relevant to the course. (15%)
- A research paper (10-15 pages) investigating and evaluating some contemporary expression of monasticism (40%)

**Benedictine Monastic Experience Weekend:**

Students will have the opportunity to spend a day and a half experiencing the rhythm of monastic life at St. John's Anglican Convent in north Toronto. The experience begins on Friday, Nov. 5 at 4 pm and ends officially at 8:30 pm on Saturday, Nov. 6. Students will have the option of staying over Saturday night if they would like. The cost is \$60.00 for those staying one night, and \$100.00 for those staying a second night, including accommodation and all meals. Bursary assistance is available.

The weekend will include a Benedictine balance of prayer, work, study, and leisure. Students will participate in the monastic round of communal prayer with the Sisters of St. John the Divine, will view video lectures by Rowan Williams and Joan Chittister, participate in discussions, and have time for personal prayer and reflection, recreation, and assisting in a chore around the Convent.

Students who are unable to attend the weekend may choose to lead a class seminar based on a book about the new monasticism (chosen from a list given by the instructor).

### **Grading System**

Letter Grade	Numerical Equivalents	Grade Point	Grasp of Subject Matter
A+	90–100%	4.0	Profound & Creative
A	85–89%	4.0	Outstanding
A-	80–84%	3.7	Excellent
B+	77–79%	3.3	Very Good
B	73–76%	3.0	Good
B-	70–72%	2.7	Satisfactory
FZ	0–69%	0	Failure

Grades without numerical equivalent:

CR	Designates credit; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
NCR	Designates failure; has no numerical equivalent, but has a grade point value of 0 and is included in the GPA calculation
SDF	Standing deferred (a temporary extension)
INC	Permanent incomplete; has no numerical equivalent or grade point value
WDR	Withdrawal without academic penalty
AEG	May be given to a final year student who, because of illness, has completed at least 60% of the course, but not the whole course, and who would not otherwise be able to convocate; has no numerical equivalent and no grade point value

### ***Policy on Assignment Extensions***

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

**One percentage point per day will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.**

**Course grades.** Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor’s college before being posted. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University grading policy

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/grading.pdf>) or college grading policy.

### ***Policies***

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**Accessibility.** Students with a disability or health consideration are entitled to accommodation. Students must register at the University of Toronto’s Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.accessibility.utoronto.ca/>. The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

**Plagiarism.** Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* (linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>), a student who plagiarizes in this course. Students will be assumed to have read the document “Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing” published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges ([http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library\\_Archives/Theological\\_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm](http://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/Library_Archives/Theological_Resources/Tools/Guides/plag.htm)).

**Turnitin.com.** Students may be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow

their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

**Other academic offences.** TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto Code of *Behaviour on Academic Matters*

(<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>).

**Writing Style.** The writing standard for the Toronto School of Theology is Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007), which is available at Crux Books.

### ***Bibliography***

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List here any bibliographic resources that will be helpful to students, both within the course and for further study.

A list of books, articles, and online resources will be distributed the first day of class.