HITO 124: Mysticism
University of California San Diego
MWF, 12:00-12:50pm, LOCATION

Professors—
William H.C. Propp, Professor of Ancient History and Judaic Studies
Office Location: H&SS Room 4012 Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2:30
wpropp@ucsd.edu / (858) 534-6187

Matthew T. Herbst, Director of the Making of the Modern World Program
Office Location: ERC Admin Bldg, MMW Office, Room 209 Office Hours: Tues 11-1
matthewherbst@ucsd.edu / Phone: 858-822-4859

Graduate Reader
Sarika Stone Talve-Goodman email: sarikastone@gmail.com

Website
Syllabus and course information is found at <https://ted.ucsd.edu/> >
Also at: https://sites.google.com/site/mmwherbst/

Description
This course provides an introductory exploration of mystical traditions from the ancient world to the present.

Grading
Three Exams: 90% (20%, 30%, 40%, respectively)
Response Paper: 10%

Reading
G. Scholem, Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism.
Plato. Great Dialogues of Plato.
e-readings available

Schedule
Week 1: Setting the Stage
4/2 Introduction [Both]
4/4 William James [Propp].
4/6 Mystical Experience: Two Case Studies [Both]
Week 2: Greek Traditions
4/9 Greek Foundations: Plato to Plotinus [Herbst]
Plato, The Symposium and The Phaedo. NEO-PLATONISM HERE
4/11 Greek Bodies and Souls [Both].
e-reading: excerpts from Epicurus, Lucretius, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius.
4/13 Initiation and Encounter [Both]
e-reading: Apuleius, Metamorphoses, excerpt; Peter Green, “Catullus 63”

Week 3: Christian Traditions
4/16 Emerging Christian Mysticism [Herbst]
Meyendorff, St. Gregory the Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality, pp. 1-70.
4/18 Orthodox Christian Mysticism [Herbst]
Meyendorff, St. Gregory the Palamas and Orthodox Spirituality, pp. 71-172.
4/20 Exam #1

Week 4: Christian Traditions
4/23 Gnostic Christianities [Propp]
e-reading: David Brakke, The Gnostics, pp. 52-89;
4/25 Christian Mysticism [Herbst]
e-reading: TBA
4/27 Women and the Western Christian Tradition.
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Heidi Keller-Lapp, Lecturer in History and Making of the Modern World Program, UC San Diego
e-reading: TBA

Week 5: Muslim Traditions
4/30 Muhammad & Early Islam [Both]
e-reading:
5/2 Sufi Way [Herbst]
e-reading:
5/4 Rumi and Sufi Tradition
Guest Lecturer: Prof. Babak Rahimi, Department of Literature and Program for the Study of Religion
e-reading:

Week 5: Jewish Traditions [Propp]
5/7 The Prophetic tradition (esp. Ezekiel)
e-reading: Bible passages (Isaiah 6; Jeremiah 1; Ezekiel 1-5, 8-10; Zechariah 1-6).
5/9 The Rabbinic era – “Chariot” mysticism
5/11 Medieval Jewish mysticism: Zohar
Week 6: Jewish Traditions [Propp]
5/14 Luria
Scholem, ch. 7.
5/16 Sabbateanism and Hasidism
Scholem, chs. 8-9.
5/18 Assessment #2

Week 7: Indian Traditions
5/21 The Yogi [Both]
5/23 Buddha [Herbst]

Thurs. 5/24 SPECIAL LECTURE (RECOMMENDED):
Dr. Shai Cherry, “Mystical Wedding Vows and Spanish Kabbalah.”
LOCATION: TBA

5/25 Zen Tradition [Propp]

Week 8: Mysticism in the Modern World
5/28 Mystics and Social Activism - Simone Weil [Herbst]
e-reading: TBA
5/30 Mysticism and the Modern World [Both]
e-reading: TBA
6/1 Modern Kabbalah [Propp]

Week 9: Mysticism and Science
6/4 Mysticism in a Broader Context: The neurobiology of mysticism: Brain Chemistry and Drugs [Propp]
6/6 Mysticism, Philosophy, and Physics
Guest Lecturer: Dr. Daniel Arovas, UCSD Dept. of Physics.

6/8 Mysticism in Life and Art [Propp and Herbst]

Week 10: Making Sense of Mystical Traditions
6/11 No Class/Memorial Day
6/13 What is Mysticism? [Herbst/Propp]
    Response Paper Due
6/15 Wrap-Up [Herbst/Propp]