Course Description

The primary aim of this course is to read and understand the theology of Friedrich Daniel Ernst Schleiermacher, one of the most important and influential European intellectuals of the 19th century, and known variously as the Father of Romanticism, the Father of Hermeneutics, the Father of German Plato studies, the Father of Modern Protestant Theology, and the Father of Liberal Christian Theology. The course focuses on The Christian Faith (CF) but also covers some other of his writings—particularly On Religion: Speeches to Its Cultured Despisers (OR) and Letters to Lücke (LL)—and some biographical material. The secondary aim is to help students develop their own theological ideas in detailed conversation with Schleiermacher’s, a purpose for which CF is particularly well suited.

The class has 800-level and 900-level designations to accommodate both advanced masters and doctoral students, respectively. Classes will meet once a week on Thursdays from 2-5. Each class will be conducted in the seminar discussion format with mini-lectures given by the instructor as needed or requested by the class. Typically the class will read and discuss certain sections extremely closely while lectures and student presentations will keep us oriented to the wider territory within the world of the two books.

The main product of the course should be a research paper involving close reading and critique of one aspect of Schleiermacher’s CF. The paper should be about 3,000 words for TT899 students and 5,000 words for TT934 students. This research paper will earn the largest share of the grade (50%), with the remainder being based on detailed 1,000-1,500 word reviews of two books on the review list (i.e. English-language biographies, secondary works, or other writings of Schleiermacher—25%), and quality of participation, reading responses, and seminar contributions (25%). Incompletes are not allowed—except when they are. Paperwork is necessary. Plagiarism is not allowed—ever. Know the rules.

Proposed Seminar Schedule

Here is a proposed schedule of readings. This being a seminar, we will consider ourselves free to deviate from this timetable if it seems advisable. Students will also read and present on other relevant literature surrounding Schleiermacher’s life and work (see “Books Suitable for Reviews” below”).

1/15/09  Introduction to Schleiermacher and his theology
1/22/09  OR Crouter’s Introduction and Speech 1
1/29/09  OR Speeches 2, 3
2/5/09    OR Speeches 4, 5 [first review due prior to class]
2/12/09   CF Introduction, Chapter I (1-93)
2/19/09   CF Introduction, Chapter II (94-128); LL (entire)
2/26/09   CF Part I Section I (131-193)
3/5/09    CF Part I Section II and Section III (194-256)
3/12/09   No Class: Spring Break
3/19/09   CF Part II First Aspect (259-354) [second review due prior to class]
3/26/09   CF Part II Second Aspect Section I Division I (355-475)
4/2/09    CF Part II Second Aspect Section I Division II (476-524)
4/9/09    CF Part II Second Aspect Section II Division I (525-581)
4/16/09   CF Part II Second Aspect Section II Division II (582-695)
4/23/09   No Class: Monday Schedule
4/30/09   CF Part II Second Aspect Section II Division III, Section III, and Conclusion (696-751)
         Discussion of student research papers [papers due prior to class]
Schleiermacher

Wesley J. Wildman — Boston University — Spring, 2009 — STH TT899/TT934

Required Books


Books Suitable for Reviews


Schleiermacher

Wesley J. Wildman — Boston University — Spring, 2009 — STH TT899/TT934


Schleiermacher, Friedrich D.E. Schleiermacher’s *Soliloquies*. Translated by Horace Leland Friess. Open Court, 1926.


