

SICS 2022 Course Descriptions & Faculty Bios

Augustine and the Power of Transformation in Christ: SPT561/461

Fr. John Switzer, ObsB, PhD

In all of church history there may be no better-known symbol of Christian transformation than Augustine of Hippo: convert, theologian, bishop. His one-sentence testimony to life's meaning appears in the first sentence of his spiritual autobiography, *Confessions*: "Our hearts are restless, O God, until they rest in you." It took him until he was thirty-two years old to discover the cause of his restlessness. Until then it drove him to seek life's meaning elsewhere. This is a common human experience and one which we will explore as we seek to gain wisdom from Augustine's experience of searching for and experiencing his own transformation in Christ. As we do so, we'll discover that transformation is a process that builds upon our strengths and weaknesses, without always removing the latter.

John Switzer, has taught as a full-time member of the faculty for nearly twenty years. Now a professor emeritus, he continues to serve the college as an adjunct. He is rector (pastor) of St. Pierre's Episcopal Church in Gautier, Mississippi; he also serves as the ecumenical and interreligious officer of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi.

The Spirituality of St. John Henry Cardinal Newman SPT565/465, THL575

Dr. Christopher Dodsworth, PhD

One of Christianity's intellectual giants, St. Newman famously moved (some would say "converted") from the Church of England to the Roman Catholic Church and is the author of some of the most widely acclaimed sermons in the English language. In this course, we'll explore his conversion story and reflect on some of his many famous sermons with an eye towards understanding how God is calling us and how God is present in our own lives.

Chris Dodsworth joined the SHC faculty in 2008. His research lies at the intersection of philosophy and theology. A life-long Catholic, he is always seeking to understand his faith better. He has long been fascinated with St. Newman, whose thought has been widely influential, including on Vatican II and the nature and growth of Catholic universities.

Parables of Jesus: The Way to Spiritual Transformation: SPT532/432

Nélida Naveros Córdova, CDP, PhD

This course actively engages the students to imaginatively participate in the stories of Jesus's Parables and encounter Jesus through four stages. First, the reader is invited to know and understand the stories in a new light; second, the reader is able to internalize Jesus's message; in the third stage, the reader is internally challenged to experience a spiritual growth; finally, in the fourth stage, the reader to experience a spiritual transformation.

EL *Las Parabras de Jesus: Camino a la Transformación Espiritual*

Nélida Naveros Córdova, CDP, PhD

En esta clase, estudiaremos un grupo de las Parábolas de Jesús en cuatro niveles: conocimiento, internalization, crecimiento espiritual, y transformación. Estos cuatro pasos nos llevarán a experimentar una transformación interna y espiritual, de manera que los leyentes de las Parábolas de Jesús aprenderán a visualizarse como uno más dentro de las historias narradas. Esta técnica nos ayudará no solamente a valorar el mensaje de Jesús, sino también ver las virtudes en cada historia y al mismo tiempo el deseo espiritual interno de imitar a Cristo en nuestra vida cotidiana.

Sr. Nélide Naveros Córdoba, is the Director of Graduate Programs and an Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies in the Department of Theology at Spring Hill College. Sr. Nélide earned a doctorate in New Testament and Early Christianity from Loyola University Chicago. She is the author of *God's Presence in Creation: A Conversation with Philo, Paul, and Luke, Philo of Alexandria's Ethical Discourse: Living in the Power of Piety*, and *To Live in the Spirit: Paul and the Spirit of God*. She has published some scholarly articles as well as presented academic papers at national and international conferences.

The Transformative Spirituality of Christian Social Ethics: SPT553/453 OR THL574

Dr. Matthew Bagot, PhD

One of the crucial tasks of contemporary moral theology is to reconcile spirituality with our lives in the world. In other words, how does one's personal life play out amidst various historically conditioned social structures? More concretely, what are the implications for us all of globalization and the need for peace? These issues lie at the heart of the work of Luigi Sturzo (1871-1959). Founder of an early "Christian democratic" party in Italy after World War One, Sturzo later fled to London from the Fascists and wrote extensively on religion and society. This course will serve as an introduction to Sturzo's work and its relevance today.

Matthew Bagot, is an associate professor of social ethics in the Department of Theology at Spring Hill College, where he has taught for fourteen years. He received his PhD in theological ethics from Boston College. In recent years, he has both presented and published academic papers in the realm of Catholic social thought, Islam, political theory and Luigi Sturzo. His article, "Another Vision of Integral Human Development: Luigi Sturzo and Christian Smith on Human Personality and Global Politics" appeared in the Summer 2020 edition of the *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*.