

Andrew O. Fort  
TBH 214  
257-6448  
a.fort@tcu.edu

**Mysticism**  
RS 30733

Office Hours  
After class  
or by appt.  
personal.tcu.edu/~afort

In this course, we shall examine conceptions of "mysticism" and "mystical experience," and consider mystical dimensions of Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism, and some modern thinking. Our aim is to reflect deeply on our notions of our selves, ultimate reality, and their relationship; existential inquiry is an inevitable component of this course.

You are expected to come to all classes, and to do the readings before class. Lectures and discussion are central, and demand preparation; the uninformed or absent student hinders the whole class. Reading assignments are generally short, but demand close attention. You should bring books to class, as we shall analyze the readings.

There will be four short (4-5 page) papers (15% of grade each), and a final 7-8 page course review (25%). The papers should inform me about your reactions to the material, and will allow you to investigate the investigator (yourself). There may be quizzes to confirm that you are doing the reading. Class participation (including attendance) will be 15% of grade. If you miss four or more classes, your grade can be lowered automatically unless you have a legitimate and documented excuse. Grades are in ten point increments; TCU does not allow pluses or minuses.

If you have a problem affecting your course participation, or must miss class, let me know. Feel free to see me, after class or by appointment.

## **REQUIRED TEXTS**

R. Ellwood, Mysticism and Religion, 2nd edition

F. C. Happold, Mysticism

E. Dimock, In Praise of Krishna

A. Watts, The Way of Zen

Ram Dass, The Only Dance There Is

Selections from Hindu texts, Eliade's Patanjali and Yoga, and some Buddhist writings (at bookstore)

## **DAILY CLASS ASSIGNMENTS**

16 Jan. Introduction to course

18 Jan. Defining mysticism and mystical experience Ellwood: ix-xiii, 1-17

23 Jan. Mystical experience Ellwood: 18-33, 39-52

25 Jan. Mystical Union Ellwood: 75-88, 92-103

30 Jan. Communication and techniques Ellwood: 106-12, 126-32, 134-41

1 Feb. Mysticism: society and path **FIRST PAPER DUE**

Ellwood: 146-55, 158-60, 164-66, 171-87

6 Feb. Roots of Christian mysticism Happold: 175-84, 203-17  
(Plato and Plotinus)

8 Feb. Love mysticism Happold: 235-48 Ellwood: 63-67

13 Feb. Eckhart and others Ellwood: 116-23 Happold: 269-79, 314-32

15 Feb. Sts. Teresa and John of the Cross Happold: 342-66

20 Feb. " " " **SECOND PAPER DUE**

22 Feb. Hinduism: Upanisadic monism  
Ellwood: 58-61 Readings from The Hindu Tradition

27 Feb. Hinduism: Shankara's Vedanta reader (Deutsch)

1 March Hinduism: Patanjali's Yoga Eliade, to p. 53 (in reader)

6 March " " " Eliade, to end

8 March Hinduism: devotion to Krishna  
Dimock/Leverlov: vii-xx, 77-9, 3-69

13 March " " **THIRD PAPER DUE**

15 March Buddhism: the Buddha Watts: 29-56

### **SPRING BREAK**

27 March Buddhism: meditation Happold: 170-3  
reader, The Heart of Buddhist Meditation

29 March Buddhism: Mahayana Watts: 57-76 Happold: 162-mid166

3 April Buddhism: Madhyamika

5 April Buddhism: the Bodhisattva

10 April Buddhism: Ch'an Watts: 77-133

12 April Buddhism: Zen Watts: 134-72

17 April Zen Watts: 173-200 **FOURTH PAPER DUE**

19 April Modern mysticism Ellwood: 67-71, 112-16  
(science) Happold: 22-3, 30-4, 137-40, 394-97

24 April Modern mysticism Maslow and Smothermon (in reader)

26 April Modern mysticism: Ram Dass  
The Only Dance There Is, 1-41, 47-75

1 May Be Here Now in The Only Dance There Is,  
80-1, 89-92, 105-26, 138-9, 150-6, 166-74

**FINAL PAPER DUE** (by noon, Tuesday, May 8)