

BI247 Tree of Life: Exploring Biblical and Extra-Biblical Images of the Cross

Elective

One Credit

Grade or Credit/No Credit

FACULTY

S.D. Giere, PhD, Professor of Biblical Interpretation

DESCRIPTION

With the cross of Christ as the focus, this course is an exercise in interpretive history and faithful, creative reinterpretation. The course will focus on biblical texts in which Christ's crucifixion is central as well as ancillary texts that inform the interpretation of the cross-event.

ASSESSMENT

The course will operate as a seminar with students participating in course leadership. Students are expected to be present and prepared for informed participation. Taking into account course material and conversation, students will be responsible for either an essay or a creative project that engages course material and interprets the cross-event for today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Required

Bible, NRSV

Christopher Irvine, *The Cross and Creation in Liturgy and Art* (Alcuin Club Collections 88; London: SPCK, 2013).

G. Ronald Murphy, S.J., *Tree of Salvation: Yggdrasil and the Cross of the North* (Oxford: Oxford, 2013).

Recommended/Supplementary

James H. Cone, *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* (Maryknoll: Orbis, 2011).

David Curzon, ed., *The Gospels in Our Image: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century Poetry Based on Biblical Texts* (New York: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1995) 206-239.

Bernard Homer Dixon, ed. *The Image of the Cross and Lights on the Altar in the Christian Church and in Heathen Temples before the Christian Era especially in the British Isles* (Toronto: Hunter, Rose, and Co., 1879).

Mary Low, "Chapter 5: Trees," pp. 79-104 in *Celtic Christianity and Nature: Early Irish and Hebridean Traditions* (Edinburg: Polygon, 1996).

Richard Viladesau, "Beauty and Art in the Perspective of the Cross," pp. 189-198 in *Theological Aesthetics: God in Imagination, Beauty, and Art* (New York: Oxford, 1999).