BB594
Issues in Biblical Studies: The Poetic Vision - The Bible and Literature

11 - 13 JANUARY
5 - 6 MAY
2012

99 Albert Road
Strathfield
NSW 2135

with
Dr Robert Tilley

Catholic Institute of Sydney

Daily Programme:
9.30am - 10.30am
11.00am - 12.30pm
2.00pm - 3.30pm

Fees
$1310
Audit
$500
Cissa Fee
$10

CATHOLIC INSTITUTE OF SYDNEY
A Member of the Sydney College of Divinity

Issues in Biblical Studies:
The Poetic Vision - The Bible and Literature
Robert Tilley
BA, MA, BD (Hons), PhD.

Dr Robert Tilley teaches in Biblical Studies at CIS and has lectured widely on the topics of philosophy, theology, art and literature in a range of institutions, more recently at WEA and currently at the Aquinas Academy, Church Hill, Sydney.

Course Description

The soul of art is beauty and the author of beauty is God, if this is true of natural things then how much more so of supernatural things such as divine revelation? St Augustine likened the Holy Scriptures to a garden of delights in which the reader like a bird flitted about in ecstasy from flower to flower savouring the joy of the Holy Spirit. And yet so much of modern biblical studies seemed to work the opposite of St Augustine’s vision and instead often offered up little more than soul destroying ugliness and drabness. Thankfully things have changed in the last forty or so years, and with the influence of literary studies the scholarly study of the Bible has blossomed and we have rediscovered the subtlety and sophistication of biblical narrative and poetry.

Who Can Participate?

This course is open to any students undertaking a Graduate Award degree (eg., an MA or MTh); or Undergraduate students under certain specific conditions (eg., those who have completed a sub-major in Biblical Studies); Audit students are also welcome in consultation with the lecturer.

The Goal of the Series

The goal is to lead both the scholar and the reader of the Bible into a greater appreciation of the literary magnificence of Holy Writ and to help them to pursue this discipline on their own.

What Will Be Studied?

A brief history of modern biblical criticism will be given followed by an overview of developments in the last thirty to forty years in the field of literary criticism and the Bible. We will then proceed to study writers and poets who have engaged with biblical and Christian themes – Gerard Manley Hopkins, T S Eliot, Dylan Thomas, Jack Kerouac, Anna Akhmatova, Roberto Bolano, Cormac McCarthy, Patrick White and many others – and we will see how an appreciation of literary style and technique can open up and transform our scholarly and theological understanding of the Bible. Along the way we will study recent literary theorists who have engaged with the Bible, among whom are Paul Ricoeur, Robert Alter, Northrop Frye, and Jacques Derrida. As we do this we will constantly be coming back to the Bible itself and to a number of the Church Fathers.

Assessments?

There will be three written assessments, two of 1500 words and one of 3000 words. Students will have till the end of the Semester to finish the 3000 word essay.

How Will I Prepare?

A Book of Readings will accompany the Unit. These will be posted to you on receipt of registration and payment along with a guide as to what you ought to read before the first intensive day begins.

Registration closes on 16 December, 2011

For further information: Registry, Catholic Institute of Sydney, 99 Albert Rd, Strathfield
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