

THEO 20254 - C. S. Lewis: Sin, Sanctification, and Saints
Fall Semester 2020, T R 2:20-3:35, DeBartolo PerfArts 124
Office hours by appointment

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Course Description:

What is the path for each person through sanctification to the beatific vision? Using the fiction of C. S. Lewis for signposts on that path, this course will consider the doctrine of sin (*Screwtape Letters*), sanctification as cooperating with grace (*The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe*, *Perelandra*), and the final formation of saints (*The Great Divorce*, *The Last Battle*). Other authors will be helpful in understanding Christian spirituality as a struggle to cultivate the virtues and overcome the passions: Augustine, Maximus the Confessor, Sayings of the Desert Fathers, Dorothy Sayers, Joseph Pieper, & Chesterton.

Readings: C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters* [9780020868705]
C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce* [9780060652951]
C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* [9780006753681]
C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle* [9780064409414]
Olivier Clement, *Christian Mysticism*, 2nd edition, [9781905039227]
Benedicta Ward, ed., *The Desert Fathers* [9780140447316]

Objectives:

- engage in the discipline of theology, learning vocabulary and method of thought
- careful reading of texts, both primary and secondary
- critical thinking shown in reflection paragraphs and exam essays
- lucid writing and creative thought reflected in course paper
- appreciation of Christian ascetical spirituality

The Notre Dame Academic Code of Honor Pledge is observed in this course. “As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty.”

Evaluation:

100-95 A, 94-90 A-, 89-87 B+, 86-83 B, 82-80 B-, 79-77 C+, 76-73 C, etc.
(At the end I will curve up 1/10 of a point, but not 5/10. In other words, 79.9 will curve up to a B-, but not 79.5)

Requirements:

- Attendance is expected. After three absences your grade will be affected.
- Please no screens in class (phones, laptops, tablets). I would like you to **think** during the time we're together.
- [3 Exams](#) – [20%](#) each.
A combination of objective + short answer.
- [25% Analysis Paper](#): 6 pages.
Submit in Microsoft Word so I can make comments in margin. I will divide the class into groups. Due Saturday morning of that week's group by 7:00 a.m. (I grade over the weekend).

The assignment is to connect Lewis's fictional book with the theological reading from a chapter in Clement one particular week.

- The assignment in the **first half** is: "We have read *Screwtape Letters*; find something in Clement's chapter that sheds light on the vices and temptations Lewis described."
- The assignment in the **second half** is: "We have read *Great Divorce*; find something in Clement's chapter that sheds light on the purgation and deification Lewis described."

These are not summary reviews, or just opinion pieces. They are to explore how a theological doctrine explained by Clement is made evident in *Screwtape* or *Divorce*.

Either (a) start with the theology and show how Lewis illustrates it, or (b) start with the fiction and show how the theology explains it.

- **15% Preparation/Participation** – Based on a *total* of all the following:
 - 10 **Reading Checks** – 2 points each, done in Sakai: 4 randomly selected questions (.5 point each) about the day's reading. It must be completed before class (it will go dead at 2:20 pm).
 - 5 **Paragraph reflections** – 2 points each, done in Sakai: On the days there is a reading assigned from Ward's *Sayings of the Desert Fathers* I will ask a question that requires a paragraph from you. These I need by 12:00 p.m. the day of class in order to have time to gather something from your answers and present in class (it will go dead at that time).

The purpose of these is to make sure you keep up with the reading and come to class prepared. *Therefore, no make-ups if you miss one.* Altogether they contribute 15% to your grade, so no single missed assignment will ruin you (although if you regularly neglect doing them it will affect the final grade). And I'll throw out the 2 lowest scores.

Grading is: 0 if you don't do it, 1 for the effort but kind of feeble, 2 for good job.

Login to Sakai is at <https://sakailogin.nd.edu>

	Lewis	Ward	Clement	PDF in "Resources"	
	<i>Topic</i>		<i>Reading assignment</i>	<i>Work assignment</i>	<i>Paper</i>
Aug 11	Intro - Lewis on asceticism				
Aug 13	How Lewis went to Narnia		Fagerberg (Sakai)		
Aug 18	The Sickness		Screwtape Letters 1-15 (45)		
Aug 20	Temptation		Screwtape Letters 16-31 (45)		
Aug 25	Define Asceticism		Chesterton 5, 7 (20) dwf (10)		
Aug 27	Marks of sin		Ward #1 ch 1-4 (30)	<i>paragraph (i)</i>	
Sept 1	Ekklesia: Place for Rebirth		Clement part II.ch 1 (34)	<i>Reading check 1</i>	
Sept 3	Logismoi		Clement part II ch 2-3 (36)	<i>Reading check 2</i>	A
Sept 8	The Fall		Clement part I ch 1, 5 (26) Lewis on Milton (10)	<i>Reading check 3</i>	
Sept 10	Training the Virtues		Ward #2 ch 5-7 (44)	<i>paragraph (ii)</i>	
Sept 15	Exam 1				
Sept 17	The cure		Lion, Witch, Wardrobe ½ (45)		
Sept 22	Atonement		Lion, Witch, Wardrobe ½ (45)		
Sept 24	The God-Man		Clement part I ch 3 (23) Athanasius ch 1-3 (14)	<i>Reading check 4</i>	B
Sept 29	Marks of the struggle		Ward #3 ch 8-10 (41)	<i>paragraph (iii)</i>	
Oct 1	Okay, so what's going on?		The Weight of Glory (22) Mere Christianity IV.8-11 (19)	<i>Reading check 5</i>	
Oct 6	Judgment – apocalypse		Great Divorce 1-8 (40)		
Oct 8	Our struggle w/ beatitude		Great Divorce 9-14 (40)		
Oct 13	Heaven and Hell defined		Sayers, Heaven-Hell & (28) Sayers, Purgatory (pp 73-84)	<i>Reading check 6</i>	
Oct 15	Exam 2				
Oct 20	Marks of recovery on soul		Ward #4 ch 11-15.1 (35)	<i>paragraph (iv)</i>	
Oct 22	On Prayer		Clement part III.ch 1 (32)	<i>Reading check 7</i>	C
Oct 27	The Glory of God		Clement part III ch 2 (17) dwf Cosmological Liturgy	<i>Reading check 8</i>	
Oct 29	Ecstasy		Clement part III ch.3 (40)	<i>Reading check 9</i>	D
Nov 3	Marks of Humility		Ward #5 ch 15.2-18 (25)	<i>paragraph (v)</i>	
Nov 5	A difficult love		Clement part III.ch 4 (39)	<i>Reading check 10</i>	
Nov 10	Victory		The Last Battle ½ (50)		
Nov 12	Beatitude		The Last Battle ½ (40)		
	Exam 3 finals Week 16-20				