

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

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**TITLE: Conversion and Education**

**TERM: April – August 2018 [20185]**

**SCHEDULE: July 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 30, 2018 9 am – 12 pm**

**PROFESSOR: Dr. David G. Creamer, S.J.**

**REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO 25**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course focuses on the part played by conversion in education; both as enhancing the effectiveness of educational process in today's globalized and post-modern world and, also, as the outcome of this process. In this context, education is seen as having a three-fold role: to inform, to form, and to transform. Throughout the course, distinctions will be made between ways of knowing and types of knowledge. In this context, educators will be encouraged to become aware of their own overlapping worlds and those of their students.

**CLASS OBJECTIVES:**

Students should:

- Become acquainted with a variety of contemporary authors (notably Bernard Lonergan and James W. Fowler) and their insights into key relationships between “conversion” and “education”.
- Apply insights from selected readings to the unique educational situations/ministry in which they are engaged and, in turn, draw from their experience to enrich the readings selected.
- Come to a practical as well as a theoretical understanding of conversion as a turning away from a life-denying stance and a turning to a life-enhancing stance and hence as integral to self-realisation.
- Be willing to enter into a new world of concerns, to discard personal biases and engage in dialogue with those who offer different or even opposing viewpoints.
- Be able to assess the respective contributions of liberationist, ecological, and human rights emphases to an education that is liberating rather than power-seeking.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

1. Crowe, Frederick F. *Old Things and New: A Strategy for Education*. Atlanta, Georgia: Scholars Press, 1985.
2. Creamer, David G. *Guides for the Journey: John Macmurray, Bernard Lonergan, James Fowler*. Lanham, MD: The University Press of America, 1996 [Chapters 4 (Lonergan) and 5 (Fowler)].
3. *Laudato Si'*: Encyclical Letter of Pope Francis, 2015.

## **POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:**

1. Students will be responsible for making a formal presentation on one or another of the major course topics.

The "presentation" (30-45 minutes or so of class time) will require:

- (a) communication, to the larger seminar group, of the substance and key argument(s) of a given thinker,
- (b) presentation of your reflection upon, analysis of, reaction to, the chosen thinker; what, if anything, have you learned that impacts upon your personal 'philosophy of education'? [40% of course grade]

2. Major Term Paper: Due on, or before, the last day of class.

- (a) exposition and critical review of the work of one of the philosophers we have studied (it may be an expansion of your class presentation, though not necessarily). [60% of course grade]

OR

- (b) a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.

## **ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Berry, Thomas. *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*. New York: Broadway Books, 2000.

Cardman, Francine. "Liberating Compassion: Spirituality for a New Millennium." *The Way* 32 1 (Jan. 1992): 5-12.

Conn, Walter E. "Affective Conversion: The Transformation of Desire." In *Religion and Culture: Essays in Honor of Bernard Lonergan, S.J.* Edited by Thomas P. Fallon S.J. and Philip Boo Riley, Albany: State University of New York Press, 1987, 261-276.

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Crysdale, Cynthia S.W. "Development, Conversion, and Religious Education." *Horizons*, 17/1 (1990) 30-46).

Doran, Robert. "Psychic Conversion," *The Thomist*, 41 (1977): 200-236.

Freire, Paolo. "Conscientisation." In Walter E. Conn ed., *Conversion: Perspectives on Personal and Social Transformation*. New York: Alba House: 1978.

Gallagher, Michael Paul. "The Postmodern Situation - Friend or Foe?" In *Clashing Symbols: An Introduction to Faith and Culture*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1997: 87-100.

Groome, Thomas H. *Sharing Faith*. Harper, New York: Collins, 1991

Haight, Roger, S.J. "The Theology of Faith and Ultimate Concern for Justice" In *An Alternative Vision*, New York: Paulist, 1985. (Chapter IV: 65-82).

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King, Ursula. *Christian Mystics: The Spiritual Heart of the Christian Tradition*. Simon & Schuster, 1998.

Lickona, Thomas. *Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility*. Toronto: Bantam Books, 1992.

Lonergan, Bernard. "Self-transcendence: Intellectual, Moral, Religious," in Robert C. Croken and Robert M. Doran, eds., *Philosophical and Theological Papers: 1965-1980. Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan*, Volume 17 (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004), Chapter 17, pp. 313-331 (Lecture first delivered on October 10, 1974).

Lonergan, Bernard. "The Absence of God in Modern Culture," in Bernard J. F. Lonergan, S.J., *A Second Collection*, William F. J. Ryan, S.J. and Bernard J. Tyrrell, S.J., eds. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1974), pp. 101-116.

Macmurray, John. *Persons in Relation*. London: Faber & Faber Limited, 1961.

Martini, Carlo Maria. "Bernard Lonergan at the Service of the Church," *Theological Studies* 66 (2005), pp. 517-526.

- Merton, Thomas. "Transformation of Consciousness." In John Higgins, *Merton's Theology of Prayer*. New York: Image, 1975.
- Noddings, Nel. *The Challenge to Care in Schools: An Alternative Approach to Education*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. New York: Teachers College Press, 2005.
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- Palmer, Parker. *The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life*. 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007.
- Parks, Sharon Daloz. *Big Questions, Worthy Dreams: Mentoring Young Adults in Their Search for Meaning, Purpose, and Faith*. Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 2000.
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- Starratt, Robert J. *Cultivating an Ethical School*. New York: Routledge, 2012.
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- Sweet, Lois. *God in the Classroom: The Controversial Issue of Religion in Canada's Schools*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1997.
- Taylor, Charles. *A Secular Age*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 2007.
- Thiessen, Elmer John. *In Defence of Religious Schools and Colleges*. Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001.
- Wright, Andrew. *Spirituality and Education*. New York: Falmer Press, 2001.