

REL 300 - Research, Writing, Thinking in Religion & Applied Ethics

ASUW – Fall 2010 - TuTh 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM CLCC 146

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Reading assignment for the first class meeting on TH, August 19: Plato's *Symposium*

If questions of good, happy, and meaningful life could be answered in terms of physical and psychological nourishment and social welfare alone, then would there be any need for spiritual foods? If the human hunger for ultimate intimacy, as revealed in the global variety of intangible menus, has no bearing on hunger for a community of human flourishing, then would we be better, happier, and freer without seeking such imperishable foods? Yet what if the human condition is defined by hungers that cannot be satisfied by foodstuffs grown in cultured spaces and cultivated in gardens of linear time? Wouldn't a life dedicated to idols of the ultimate – and great religions agree with critical thinkers that religious and secular idols mostly feed us junk food and so cause the indigestion of discontent, violence and despair – be a misspent life?

Required books are available at the ASU bookstore
Selected texts are available on the blackboard for this course
(listed in the order of presentation):

Part A

This segment is offered in conjunction with the ASU-West all campus theme for 2010-11 - *Food*

Plato. *Symposium*. Hackett. 1989. 0-87220-076-0
C.S. Lewis, *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*. Harvest Books, 1980. 978-0156904360

Blackboard reading selections:

Søren Kierkegaard, "In Vino Veritas," from *Stages on Life's Way*.
Progressive Passover Seder, "The Velveteen Rabbi's Haggadah."
Enrique Dussel, "The Bread of the Eucharist Celebration as a Sign of Justice in the Community."
David L. Loy, "The Karma of Food."
Film: *Antonia's Line*. Marleen Gorris. 1996.

Part B

Sigmund Freud. *The Future of an Illusion*. W. W. Norton & Company. 1989. 978-0393008319
Rudolf Otto. *The Idea of the Holy*. Oxford UP, 1958. 978-0-19-500210
Film: *Baraka*. Ron Fricke. Mark Magidson Films Inc. 1992.

Part C

Abraham Joshua Heschel. *The Sabbath*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1975. 0374512671
Ivan Klíma, *The Ultimate Intimacy*. Trans. A. G. Brain. Grove P. 1999. 0-8021-3601-X.
Paul Tillich. *Dynamics of Faith*. The Perennial Classics. 2001. 0.06.0937130.
Film: Ingmar Bergman's *Winter Light*. Svensk Filmindustri. 1962.