

Julia Kristeva: Ethics, Politics, and Psyche

Dominated by myths of reason, Western cultures now struggle to understand the rise of religious fundamentalisms, the political threats of terrorism, and the proliferation of pornographic images that mirror the demise of Western Christianity. The promise held out by the Enlightenment is radically undermined: logic alone cannot do justice to the forces now unleashed on the social order.

Whereas psychoanalytic theorists, Sigmund Freud and Melanie Klein largely rejected mythic and religious consciousness, Julia Kristeva argues that the social unconscious, once given expression in religious form, must now be theorised anew. Aesthetic practices, and analytical listening are Kristeva's preferred means of mediating individual and social trauma.

In this ten-session seminar we will begin by focussing on Kristeva's relationship to the work of Freud, Klein and contemporary theorists. We will then analyse the usefulness of her distinct approach to nationalisms, the value of her work for feminist theory, and the implications of her approach for socio-symbolic practices such as religion. All readings will be from English translations.

Who should come?

Kristeva's interdisciplinary approach is relevant to students of cultural theory, socio-symbolic practice, feminism, politics, psychoanalysis, philosophy, theology and religion. Some background in one or other of these disciplines would be helpful.

Participants will be expected to keep up with the suggested readings, some of which will be supplied (for the price of photocopying).

Course Co-ordinator: Dr. Mary Condren is director of the Institute for Feminism and Religion and a Research Associate at the Centre for Gender and Women's Studies, Trinity College Dublin. She is the author of *The Serpent and the Goddess: Women, Religion and Power in Celtic Ireland* (Harper Collins and New Island Books, 2002) and she is currently writing on the interplay of gender, violence, war, relationships, and religion. Further details on course: mcondren@tcd.ie.

Venue: Catherine McAuley Centre, 23 Lr. Herbert Street, Dublin 2.
Dates: 10 weeks: January 26th to March 2nd (break) April 6th to April 27th
Time: Wednesdays, 7:30 — 9:30
Cost: €140 Euro

Learning from the Women Mystics: To Laugh and Leap in ordered Dance

The theology of the medieval women mystics provides a profound and brilliant alternative vision of Christianity and reveals the conventional malestream theology to be partial, distorted and existentially insufficient both for themselves and for many women today. These women had no blueprint for laying open the way godwards for women, except fidelity to their own insights, and their intuition that the way to God had to be equally available to all.

Course Co-ordinator: Mary Malone, author of the three volume work, *Women in Christianity*, taught theology for many years at Toronto School of Theology, St. Jerome's University, and the University of Waterloo.

Venue: Catherine McAuley Centre, 23, Lr. Herbert St. Dublin 2
Date: Feb. 26th 2005, 10:00 æ 4:00
Cost: €40 Concession €20

Registration for both events: (Please register in advance) IFR, 121 Barton Road East, Dundrum, Dublin 14. Tel: 2980573. Email: kittys@eircom.net Cheques made out to IFR.

IFR Website: www.instituteforfeminismandreligion.org