

TRT2811HS L4101

Radical Hospitality: Interdisciplinary Perspectives & Practices

Instructor: Jason McKinney
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Location: Jeremiah Community Hub, 201 Cowan Ave.,
Parkdale

Time: Thursdays, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

A Mixed Economy Classroom

In order that the learning context itself remain hospitable, this course will meet offsite and be open to three separate demographics: TST students who will take the course for credit or audit; interested clergy or laity from the local congregations; low income residents of Parkdale. In order to facilitate this “mixed economy” classroom, the course will double as a bi-weekly public lecture series. Seminar sessions will take place on the weeks between public lectures. The course readings, assignments, and seminar sessions will only be required of those enrolled in the course.

Course Description

This course will approach the theme of radical hospitality from several theoretical and practical perspectives. The aim of the course is to provide students with following:

- 1) Sufficient biblical and historical context to understand the *phenomenon* of hospitality in the Christian tradition.
- 2) A representative experience with the *practice* of hospitality.
- 3) A philosophical and theological framework from which to conceive of the *concept* of hospitality – namely, through critical reflection upon the phenomenon *and* the practice of hospitality.

To this end, the course will have several different components.

Public Lecture Series: the class will double as a lecture series on hospitality. On a bi-weekly basis, guest lecturers will be invited to share their own reflections upon and experience with hospitality. Themes will include hospitality to the poor and the stranger, refugee support and sanctuary, and creating space for people with disabilities. This section of the course will be open (i.e. hospitable) not only to TST students, but to clergy and lay people from the local congregations, as well as low-income residents of Parkdale.

Seminar Sessions: Enrolled TST students will meet on the alternating weeks for tutorial sessions and seminar-style discussions. Here we will debrief the lectures, discuss the course readings, and engage further themes related to hospitality.

Reflection Paper: Hospitality is a posture or a disposition that is cultivated over time. A “plunge” experience will not circumvent that work. And yet, a concrete experience can serve as a point of reflection. Students will write 3-5 page theological reflection on a concrete experience of hospitality – either as guest or as host.



Participation: Apart from the lecture that falls during reading week, attendance at all seminar sessions and public lectures is expected. Readings will be assigned by the course instructor for each session. Students will be expected to have completed the readings before each session and be prepared to discuss them. It is recommended that **students arrive for class prepared with at least two questions based on the assigned readings.**

Paper Proposal: A written summary of the final paper. This should include a thesis statement, an outline of the argument, and a bibliography. This proposal will be presented to the class.

Final Paper: At the end of the course, students will have an opportunity to construct their own “theology of hospitality,” which will be attentive to all three of the dimensions of hospitality mentioned above.

Evaluation:

Participation	25%	
Reflection Paper	25%	Due February 27 or March 27
Paper Proposal	10%	Due March 27 or April 3
Final Paper	40%	Due April 10

Required Text

Pohl, Christine, D., *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition* [available at Crux Books]

All other readings will be available to photocopy or download from: <http://jeremiahcommunity.ca/radical-hospitality-course/>

Schedule

Date & Theme	Reading
1. Jan 9—Introduction & Syllabus Review	
2. Jan 16 – A Short History of Hospitality	Christine Pohl, <i>Making Room</i> , 3-58 <i>Recommended</i> Rowan A. Greer, “Hospitality in the First Five Centuries of the Church” Ivan Illich, “Hospitality & Pain”
3. Jan 23 -- Homefullness, & Hospitality	G. Bachelard, <i>Poetics of Space</i> , 3-37 B. Walsh & S. Bouma-Prediger, <i>Beyond Homelessness</i> , 56-67
4. Jan 30 – Public Lecture: James Loney	Pohl, 61-126
5. Feb 6—Welcoming the Other: Strangers, Gods, Monsters	Genesis 18 & 19 Victor H. Matthews, “Hospitality in Genesis 19 and Judges 19” <i>Recommended</i> E. Levinas, <i>Totality and Infinity</i> , 152-174

	E. Levinas, <i>Beyond the Verse</i> , 116-128
6. Feb 13 – Public Lecture: Mary Jo Leddy	Flannery O’Conner, “A Good Man is Hard to Find” Georg Simmel, “The Stranger”
Reading Week: Feb 20 Public Lecture: Cheri DiNovo¹	
7. Feb 27 – Limits of Hospitality	J. Wroblewski, <i>The Limits of Hospitality</i> , 1-37 <u>Recommended</u> Jacques Derrida, <i>Of Hospitality</i> , 75-155.
8. March 6 – Public Lecture: Tom Reynolds	T.Reynolds, <i>Vulnerable Communion</i> , 214-249
9. March 13 – Toward a Theology of Hospitality	T. Jennings, <i>Reading Derrida/Thinking Paul</i> , 109-127 B. Byrne, <i>The Hospitality of God</i> , TBA
10. March 20 – Public Lecture: Stephen Scharper	Leanne Simpson, “Liberated Peoples, Liberated Land” in <i>Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry</i> , 50-60.
11. March 27 -- Practicing Hospitality Paper Proposal Presentations	Robert Coles, <i>Dorothy Day</i> , 111-136 J. Chittister, <i>Wisdom Distilled from the Daily</i> , 121-132
12. April 3 – Practicing Hospitality Paper Proposal Presentations	H. Nouwen, <i>Reaching Out</i> , 63-110

¹ As this lecture falls during Reading Week, students are not required (but still *welcome*) to attend.