

TRT2811HS L4101

Radical Hospitality: Interdisciplinary Perspectives & Practices

Instructor: Jason McKinney
jasontmckinney@gmail.com

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. Classroom 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 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. Four guest lecturers will be invited to share their own reflections upon and experience with hospitality. The lecturers and workshop leaders for 2015 are, Mark MacDonald, Phyllis Novak, Shari Golberg, and Mary Jo Leddy.

Classroom Sessions: Enrolled TST students will meet on the alternating weeks for 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 26
Paper Proposal	10%	Due March 26 or 31
Final Paper	40%	Due April 10

Required Text [available at Crux Books]

- Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Reissue edition. Garden City, N.Y: Image, 1986.
- Pohl, Chistine D. *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1999.
- Richard, Lucien. *Living the Hospitality of God*. New York: Paulist Press, 2001.

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

Schedule

Date	Theme	Reading
1. January 8	Introduction & Syllabus Review	N/A
2. January 15	Elements of a Theology of Hospitality	L. Richard, <i>Living the Hospitality of God</i> , 1-79 (chapter 2 is optional)
3. January 22	A Short History of Hospitality	Christine Pohl, <i>Making Room</i> , 3-58 Rowan A. Greer, “Hospitality in the First Five Centuries of the Church”
4. January 29	Public Lecture: Mark MacDonald	Leanne Simpson, “Liberated Peoples, Liberated Land,” in <i>Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry</i> , 50-60. Pohl, 61-84
5. February 5	Public Art Workshop with Phyllis Novak	Pohl, 85-126

6. February 12	Strangeness, Homefullness, & Hospitality	G. Bachelard, <i>Poetics of Space</i> , 3-37 Ivan Illich, "Hospitality & Pain" <i>Reocmmended</i> Georg Simmel, <i>The Stranger</i> B. Walsh & S. Bouma-Prediger, <i>Beyond Homelessness</i> , 56-67
Feb 19 Reading Week		
7. February 26	The Ethics and Limits of Hospitality *Reflection Papers Due	Genesis 18 E. Levinas, <i>Totality and Infinity</i> , 152-174 Edna Langentahl, "Welcoming the Other..." <i>Recommended</i> E. Levinas, <i>Beyond the Verse</i> , 116-128
8. March 5	Public Interfaith Workshop with Shari Golberg	Genesis 18 & 19 Victor H. Matthews, "Hospitality in Judges 4" & "Hospitality in Genesis 19 and Judges 19"
9. March 12	Public Lecture: Mary Jo Leddy	Pohl, 127-187
10. March 19 **Alternate: Tuesday, March 10	The Ethics and Limits of Hospitality	Jacques Derrida, <i>Of Hospitality</i> , 75-155. Jennings, "The Ethics and Politics of Hospitality"
11. March 26	Toward a Theology of Hospitality *Paper Proposal Presentations	TBD
12. April 2, Maundy Thursday, No Class **Alternate: Tuesday, March 31 –	The Spirituality of Hospitality *Paper Proposal Presentations	J. Chittister, <i>Wisdom Distilled from the Daily</i> , 121-132 H. Nouwen, <i>Reaching Out</i> , 63-110 (Whole book recommended)