

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.

TITLE: Theology through Novels: Howatch

TERM: Fall 2021-2022

PROFESSOR: Edwin van Driel

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: 10
AUDITORS: _____

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS X

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course engages theological themes like sin and deception, pride and lust, call and confession, and salvation and redemption through the work of novelist Susan Howatch. In six closely related novels about Anglican clergy Howatch weaves together human relationships, theological concepts, and large societal issues in a fictional narrative that unfolds within the real-life context of the twentieth-century Church of England, its spirituality and theology. While thus offering both insiders and outsiders a unique encounter with the Anglican tradition, the course invites students to explore the universal Christian themes of these books spiritually, pastorally, and theologically.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

This course supports M.Div SLO 2.a, c; 4.a, c; 5.c; 6. B, c, d, h; MAPS SLO 1, 3; MTS SLO 1, 2.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Susan Howatch, *Glittering Images*, Mass Market Paperbacks, 1988. ISBN: 978-0449214367, \$7.99
 Susan Howatch, *Glamorous Powers*, Mass Market Paperbacks, 1989. ISBN: 978-0449217283, \$7.87
 Susan Howatch, *Ultimate Prizes*, Mass Market Paperbacks, 1990. ISBN: 978-0449218112, \$7.54
 Susan Howatch, *Scandalous Risks*, Mass Market Paperbacks, 1991. ISBN: 978-0449219829, \$5.32
 Susan Howatch, *Mystical Paths*, Mass Market Paperbacks, 1993. ISBN: 978-0449221228, \$7.43
 Susan Howatch, *Absolute Truths*, Mass Market Paperbacks, 1996. ISBN: 978-0449225554, \$7.99
For the sake of uniformity among all participants, please use the Mass Market Paperback editions.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Students will:

- (a) Engage in personal spiritual reflection through a regular diary entry in which they explore their own spirituality and sense of call in the light of the weekly readings;
- (b) Engage in interpersonal reflection by coming to class with prepared questions/reflections to be shared in conversation;
- (c) Engage in leadership by taking turns in the leading of the weekly sessions on the novels' themes.
- (d) Engage in intellectual theological reflection on the themes of the books by writing a final paper exploring the writings of one of the prominent theologians that shape these novels' religious outlook.

ATTENDANCE: Required (course will be synchronously online, via Zoom)