SF 550 Tutorial: Formational Reading- E.Stanley Jones

Reginald Johnson

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SF 550: “Tutorial: Formational Reading—E. Stanley Jones”

This 3 hour course will provide an introduction to the art of “spiritual reading” and will use a selection of readings from E. Stanley Jones for the practice of spiritual reading through the semester. In addition, students will explore themes central to Jones’ approach to Christian spiritual formation and innovative approaches that he developed.

Professor’s Name: Dr. Reg Johnson

Competencies to be developed by the Student:
Students will
- Learn and practice the art of spiritual reading;
- Understand some of Jones’ own foundational spiritual experiences
- Examine some of the themes essential to Jones’ understanding of Christian spirituality;

Required Textbooks:
- A Song of Ascents, E. Stanley Jones
- Selections from E. Stanley Jones, edited by James K. and Eunice Jones Matthews
- Three of Jones’ books (see attached bibliography for suggestions)

Required Audio Tapes:
Listen to four audio recordings of messages by E. Stanley Jones

Course requirements and means of evaluation
1. Read the required texts and listen to the required audio taped messages. (25% of grade)

2. Read Selections “formationally,” keeping a journal of your own personal reflections and applications for a minimum of 40 of the readings (25% of grade). We will read two chapters from this book each week. You are to make reflective notes in your journals on at least three passages from those two chapters. The fruits of your weekly reflection will be shared with class members. An early class session will be devoted to “formational reading” and instructions will be provided for keeping a journal of reflections at that time.

3. Prepare three retreat messages on foundational themes of the Christian faith, based on your readings from Jones. Have a supplemental handout for each message giving suggestions for
personal reflection and prayer. Each participant will share these messages with the class. (30% of grade)

4. Write a final paper of 5-8 pages, double-spaced, about some innovative aspect of Jones’ approach to ministry or missions. (20% of grade)

Bibliography of the Writings of E. Stanley Jones*

The Christ of the Indian Road, 1925  
Christ at the Round Table, 1928  
The Christ of Every Road, 1930  
The Christ of the Mount, 1931  
Christ and Human Suffering, 1933  
Christ’s Alternative to Communism, 1935  
Vindicative Living, 1936  
The Choice Before Us, 1937  
Along the Indian Road, 1939  
Is the Kingdom of God Realism? 1940  
Abundant Living, 1942  
How to Pray, 1943  
The Christ of the American Road, 1944  
The Way, 1946  
Mahatma Gandhi, 1948  
The Way to Power and Poise, 1949  
How to Be a Transformed Person, 1951  
Growing Spiritually, 1953  
Mastery, 1955  
Christian Maturity, 1957  
Conversion, 1959  
In Christ, 1961  
The Word Became Flesh, 1963  
Victory Through Surrender, 1966  
A Song of Ascents, 1968  
The Reconstruction of the Church, 1970  
The Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person, 1972  
The Divine Yes, 1975

* All Jones’ books were published by Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.