



## **Chalmers Summer School 2007**

---

March 13, 2007

### **Meister Eckhart's Mysticism and Ours**

**Professor Matthew Fox**

**June 27 - 6:30-9:30pm;**

**June 28 & 29 - 9am -12noon & 1:30-4:30 pm**

#### **Course Description**

The latest scholarship tells us that for Paul “you cannot be a Christian without being a mystic”. (John Dominic Crossan). How do we become more mystical and lead others into their mysticism? Why not play with the best? Meister Eckhart, the 14<sup>th</sup> century mystic, prophet and reformer whose influence has extended from Karl Marx to George Fox, from Jung to Howard Thurman, MLK, Jr., from Thomas Merton to the women’s movement (Beguines) of his own day. We will explore this theologian’s mystical and prophetic writings and its appeal and challenge to our times.

#### **Class Outline**

*June 27:* 6:30-9:30: Introduction to Eckhart (pp. 1-53 of text) and Ourselves; Via Positiva Sermons and Commentaries, 1,2.

*June 28:* 9-12: Via Positiva continued, Sermons and Commentaries, 3, 5, 9, 10.

*June 28:* 1:30-4:30: Via Negativa Sermons and Commentaries, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20.

*June 29:* 9-12: Via Creativa Sermons and Commentaries, 21, 23, 26, 27, 29.

*June 29:* 1:30-4:30: Via Transformativa Sermons and Commentaries, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36.

#### **Required Texts:**

Critical edition of Eckhart's works with commentaries, Matthew Fox, *Passion for Creation: The Earth-Honoring Spirituality of Meister Eckhart* (formerly, *Breakthrough*) (Inner Traditions Press). The sermons required are listed above.

#### **Recommended Texts:**

Matthew Fox, *Meditations with Meister Eckhart* (Inner Traditions)

Reiner Schurmann, *Meister Eckhart: Mystic and Philosopher* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1978)

Matthew Fox, "Meister Eckhart on the Fourfold Path of a Creation Centered Spiritual Journey," (handout), pp. 214-247.

Matthew Fox, "Meister Eckhart and Karl Marx: The Mystic as Political Theologian," in Matthew Fox, *Wrestling with the Prophets* (NY: Tarcher), 165-198.

Larry Marshall and Matthew Fox, *Study Guide to "Passion for Creation: The Earth-Honoring Spirituality of Meister Eckhart."*

**Course Requirements**

1. All participants are expected to attend class daily and engage the learning process for classroom lectures and seminars. Attendance is mandatory for credit students.
2. All students (credit and audit) are expected to do pre-reading of primary texts for the course, and do limited reading of handouts between classes (approximately one hour per day).
3. In order to receive credit for the course, all students taking the course for any type of credit must read three of the assigned texts.
4. For those taking the course for degree credit, (Diploma, M.Div., M.A.T.S., M.A.R.E., Th.M.), see “**Summer School Degree Credit Evaluation Information**” handout for paper requirements.
5. For those taking the course for Chalmers Institute Summer School Continuing Education credit, see handout, “**Summer School Continuing Education Credit Information,**” for requirements.
  - o For all credit students there will be an extra one-hour meeting with the course grading tutor, additional to class time, for each course, to review credit requirements and decide on an appropriate research topic.

**Matthew Fox**, a postmodern theologian, has been an ordained priest since 1967. He holds Masters degrees in philosophy and theology from Aquinas Institute and a Doctorate in spirituality, *summa cum laude*, from the Institut Catholique de Paris. He is the author of *Original Blessing; Creativity: Where the Divine and the Human Meet; A New Reformation*. Website: [www.creationspirituality.com](http://www.creationspirituality.com)

**All books will be available from the UBC Bookstore after May 14<sup>th</sup>.  
604-822-2665; Toll-Free Canada 1-800-661-3889**