



Chalmers Summer School 2007

3/14/2007

The Betrayal of God by Religion: The Struggle and Gift of the Spirit in an Age of Warring Fundamentalisms

The Very Rev. Dr. Alan Jones

July 23-27; 9am – 12 noon

Course Description

This course will address the reality that we are in the middle of a phony war between two “fundamentalisms”; science and religion. It’s a complicated battle fought on several fronts: the first against a secularist and scientific academy; the second against mindless religion with its attendant violence; the third against theologians who have bought the secularist vision.

Course Format

This course will integrate academic and experiential learning, with lectures, group discussion of texts read personal integration of material through reading.

Class Outline

***Monday* July 23**

Introduction to the course: the ‘phony war’ between the two “fundamentalisms” of science and religion.

***Tuesday* July 24**

The battle against the secularist and scientific academy.

***Wednesday* July 25**

The battle against mindless religion and its attendant violence.

***Thursday* July 26**

The battle against theologians who buy into the secularist vision.

***Friday* July 27**

The course will conclude with discussions around the topics covered throughout the week with the primary focus being theological reflection on the role of God or the *missio Dei* – is God with us in the age of warring fundamentalisms? Or have we been betrayed by God?

Course Texts:

Students must read any 3-5 of the following 7 books, required or suggested. Book ordering limits required that 5 books be listed as required, but students are free to choose from any of the 7 required or recommended books for the 3-5 reading component. *Book reviews will be submitted for two of the books read.*

Required Texts:

Marcus Borg. *Jesus.*, San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2006.

Richard E. Rubenstein. *thus Saith the Lord: The Revolutionary Moral Vision of Isaiah and Jeremiah.* Orlando: Harcourt, 2006.

Alan Jones. *Reimagining Christianity.* New York: Wiley, 2005.

Alan Jones. *The Soul's Journey.* San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1995.

Christopher Hitchens. *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything.* New York: Twelve, 2007.

Recommended Texts:

Richard Dawkins. *The God Delusion.* Houghton Mifflin, 2006.

David Bentley Hart. *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

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.

The Very Rev. Alan Jones is Dean of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco. Previously Professor of Ascetical Theology at the General Theological Seminary in New York City, he founded and directed the Center for Christian Spirituality. His most recent publication is *Common Prayer on Common Ground: An Anglican Vision of Orthodoxy.*

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