Process Theology is a way of conceiving, knowing, and imaging God and the universe as an organic whole. It views all reality as interrelated. Just as all the cells in our bodies are connected as part of a whole, all elements of the universe -- from the pulses of a quasar to the feathers of a certain Sun Conure -- are interconnected. What happens to and from you and me here in Indianapolis affects and is affected by events in California and in China, (even without the internet). Process theology is founded on the philosophical critiques and constructive conceptualization given by Alfred North Whitehead. He conceived of a universe in which individual entities are comprised of series of moments of experience rather than masses of static substance. In this course we will endeavor to understand important elements of his thought. And yet process theology is a movement that is wider than Whitehead’s thought. We will also engage the broader movement in which reality and in particular God and humans are viewed relationally.

Required Texts:
1. Monica Coleman, Nancy Howell, Helene Russell, Creating Women’s Theology.
4. Charles Hartshorne, Omnipotence and Other Theological Mistakes.
5. Thomas Hosinski, Stubborn Fact and Creative Advance.
7. Alfred North Whitehead, selections on reserve.
8. Other readings on reserve, on Inside CTS, on the internet (note the following resources):
   o http://www.ctr4process.org/
   o http://thomasjayoord.com/
   o http://www.ctr4process.org/media/ (videos; note esp. Suchocki on prayer)
   o http://processandfaith.org/
9. TTBD text to be determined by student interest. As a class we will pick one or two other texts/areas to read and study from the following list:
   ✤ Kathlyn Breazeale, Mutual Empowerment: A Theology of Marriage, Intimacy and Redemption
   ✤ Carol. P. Christ, She Who Changes: Re-Imaging the Divine in the World
   ✤ John B. Cobb Jr., God and The World
   ✤ Monica Coleman, Making a Way Out of No Way

Catherine Keller, *From a Broken Web* or another text by Catherine Keller


Other texts/articles on various topics researched and suggested by your classmates.

10. Two booklets available on line
   o John B. Cobb Jr., *Process Theology: An Introductory Introduction.* (booklet from Center for Process Studies) [http://www.ctr4process.org/about/process/](http://www.ctr4process.org/about/process/)

Writing Assignments, Exams, and Grading:
Grades will be based on the student’s accurate and insightful grasp of the material and on their critical engagement with that material. Students are asked for analysis as well as understanding.

There will be two types of writing in this course:

1. A final paper of 15 pages. This paper should reflect both the student’s critical understanding of process theology as well as his/her constructive appropriation of the theological ideas and their implications.
2. Three (3) "discussion starters." These are typed, single-spaced, 2 pp. papers responding to the reading assigned during the four sessions where you will take partial responsibility for getting our discussion underway. They should include 1) a summation of the major ideas discussed in the reading along with 2) your critical response to those ideas. (On part 2, try asking yourself something like, “What does this text say about God, the world, human nature, salvation or/and Experience?” See what you come up with.) Each discussion starter is due at the beginning of class for which it is scheduled. Sufficient copies should be made for distribution to the rest of the class. Each discussion starter will count for 10% of your course grade (30% total). The appropriate classes for these will be designated with **DS**.

Class participation is a significant element this course. In addition to attendance and contributing to the class discussions

**Grade Components:**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>40 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation and attendance</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 discussion starter papers</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal papers and presentations</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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100 %

**Plagiarism:**
Plagiarism will not be tolerated in any written work submitted in this course. Plagiarism is using another's words or ideas without acknowledging the source. It is a form of theft and is unethical and unscholarly. Penalties for plagiarism include reduction of one's grade and possibly a failing grade for the course, depending on the extent of the violation. If you have any questions, please consult with the instructor or acknowledge the source.

**Inclusive Language:**
Students are expected to use inclusive, nonexist language in both written and oral communication in this course. In other words, if you mean to refer to humanity in general, use "humankind," "she/he," or similar expressions. Use "he," "him," "man," only when you are referring to male persons. If you have questions concerning how to express yourself in nonexist ways, please consult your instructor.
Weekly Schedule:

Week 1: What is process theology?
R 1/19 Introduction to the course and to each other. Uncovering embedded theological and philosophical assumptions.
Read: John B. Cobb Jr., Process Theology: An Introductory Introduction; http://www.ctr4process.org/about/process/

Week 2: Introduction to Process Theology.
Read: Hartshorne, Omnipotence et al., pp. 1-6. Choose one of these six “mistakes” that Hartshorne highlights to follow throughout this and other texts as well as the course in general.
Read: McDaniel and Bowman, Handbook of Process Theology, pp. 4-8.
Look over the essays in the Handbook and in Creating Women’s Theology.
Recommended Read: Hosinski, Stubborn Fact and Creative Advance, pp. 1-18.

Week 3: Basic Principles and language of Process Thought
R 2/2 Read: Hartshorne, Omnipotence, pp. 1-49. Attend to the “mistake” you chose.
Read: Epperly, pp. 31-61.
Due: informal 1-2 page discussion clarifying the particular critique (out of the six) Hartshorne makes. Note also the way that this issue is addressed (or not) in Epperly’s treatment of God.

Week 4: Overview of Process Thought
R 2/9 Read: Epperly, pp. 62-158.

Week 5:
R 2/16 Process and relational thinking DS.
Read: one other chapter from this handbook. Be ready to share the gist of the article.
Look over: essays in Handbook and Women’s Theology and the books listed above under “TTBD (text to be determined).” Come ready to vote or suggest a different text.

Week 6:
R 2/23 God as Supremely Relational. DS.
Read: Hartshorne, pp. 51-end.

Week 7
R 3/1 No Class—Reading Week—Catch up on your reading.

Week 8
Process Theology and Ecology.
Week 9
R 3/15 Process Metaphysics
Read: Hosinski, Stubborn Fact and Creative Advance, pp. 1-27, 33-105, 125.

Week 10
R 3/22 Process Metaphysics
The Man Himself: Alf.
Michael Miller guest lecture
Skim: Hosinski, pp. 105-143.
Read: Alfred North Whitehead, photocopy in library.

Week 11
R 3/29 Process Theology and Prayer
Read: Suchocki, In God’s Presence. See also the http://www.ctr4process.org/media/
(video of Suchocki on prayer)

Week 12
R 4/5 Holy Week—continue to reflect on Suchocki and prayer

Week 13
R 4/12 Feminist Process Theological Reflection.
Read: Coleman, Howell, and Russell, pp. 3-73, 85-100.

Week 14
R 4/19 Feminist Theological Reflection.
Read: Coleman, Howell, and Russell, pp. 127-144, and 2-3 other essays in the rest of
the book (101-230).

Week 15
R 4/26 Process Theology and Relational Thought.
Read: Selected book from our list
Due: informal 2 pp paper on the Hartshornian critique of modern/classical theism as
the issue has been addressed throughout the course.

Week 16
R 5/3 Process thought and the future.
Review: texts and ideas that are most interesting or disturbing to you.
Due: 1-2 page informal response to process theology.
Selected reports on research about process theology
Your final paper is due on the 3 May at noon.