

INTERFAITH, INTERDENOMINATIONAL, AND DENOMINATIONAL (CHURCH) SEMINARS AND COURSES

- June 2023 **Swedenborgian Church of North America Annual Convention Mini Course, “Emerson, Swedenborg, and Eco-Justice.”**
Ralph Waldo Emerson’s high regard for Emanuel Swedenborg is evident in Swedenborg’s profound influence on Emerson’s thought and writing—mentioned by name in “Nature,” “The American Scholar,” and devoting an entire essay to Swedenborg in his *Representative Men* collection: “Swedenborg; or, The Mystic.” Emerson was largely attracted to Swedenborg’s Nature “correspondences” yet may not have rightly understood how they relate to Nature and Spirit. By comparing Emerson’s use of Swedenborg with Swedenborg’s own writings, I show how each writer understood Nature. This, in turn, will help us in our own understanding of Nature and Eco-Justice.
- October 2022-
December 2022 **Designed and Co-Taught Zoom Course: Chicago Swedenborg Library. “LIVING IN THE MIDST OF THE APOCALYPSE: A Seven-Week Course on the Book of Revelation.**
- September -
November 2021 **Designed and Taught Course Chicago Swedenborg Library. “THE STORY OF JESUS ACCORDING TO JOHN A SEEKER’S COMPANION: an Eight-Week Reflection Companion.**
- June 2021 **Swedenborgian Church of North America Annual Convention Mini Course, “John’s Gospel in Its Own Words.”**
- September 2020-
March 2021 **Designed and Taught Doctor of Ministry Online Learning Collegium 2: Saint Stephen’s College.**
- May 2021 **2021 Pacific Northwest Region AAR/SBL Meeting.**
Seminar Presentation, Religion and the Arts: “Eco-Justice and the Nature God Who Doesn’t Resurrect: Sir James Frazer, Jessie Weston, and the Poetry of T. S. Eliot
- June 2020 **Swedenborgian Church of North America Annual Convention Mini Course, “Regrettable Consequences of the New Church: Swedenborg’s Concept of Vastation and T.S. Eliot’s Images of the Death of God.**
- October 9, 2019 **Visiting Academic Fellow, Institute for Christian Studies and Society, Seminar Presentation, Concordia University, “Nature Mysticism and Eco-Justice: Themes in the Bible,**

Swedenborg and Emerson.” Edmonton, AB.

- September 2019
April 9, 2020 **Designed and Taught Doctor of Ministry Online Learning Collegium 1: Saint Stephen’s College.**
- January 29, 2018 **Visiting Academic Fellow, Institute for Christian Studies and Society, January 29, 2018**, Seminar Presentation, Concordia University, “Matters of Matter, *Mater*, and God: T. S. Eliot’s Poetic Prophecy of The Death of God, the Debasing of the Feminine, and the Desecration of Creation.” Edmonton, AB.
- June 2018 **Swedenborgian Church of North America Annual Convention Mini Course**, “And lo! Swedenborg is the Angel sitting at the tomb”—William Blake’s Complex Relationship with the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.
Swedenborg’s influence is everywhere in Blake’s Writings: from stylistic borrowings to theology. At times, Blake loved Swedenborg’s theology and at times he hated it. But love or hate, Blake could not get away from Swedenborg.
- August 8, 2017 **North American Interfaith Network 2017 “Connect” Conference**, Seminar Presentation, “E Pluribus Unum: Plurality, not Sameness.” San Diego, CA.
- February 23, 2016 **Visiting Academic Fellow, Institute for Christian Studies and Society**. Seminar Presentation, Concordia University, “Myth, Metaphor, and the Limits of Language.” Edmonton, AB.
- July 13, 2016 **North American Interfaith Network 2016 “Connect” Conference**, Seminar Presentation, “Toward a Spiritual Eco-Justice: James A. Nash and the Virtue of Frugality.” Guadalajara, Mexico.
- October 26, 2016 **Visiting Academic Fellow, Institute for Christian Studies and Society**. Seminar Presentation, Concordia University, “Take a Trip with Swedenborg and Blake.” Edmonton, AB.
- February 23-26, 2015 **Swedenborg Scholar-in-Residence, Urbana University**, Lectured at London Correctional Institute and Urbana University on “And lo! Swedenborg Is the Angel Sitting at the Tomb: William Blake’s Complex Relationship with the Writings of Emanuel Swedenborg.” Taught Sociology courses on Minorities, Personal Philosophy course, Presented “Swedenborg 101.” Urbana, OH.

- 2014-2015 **Online Discussion Leader: Chicago Swedenborg Library.**
Led online *Divine Providence* study groups through **Google Hangouts**. Chicago and St. Louis church participating.
- March 14, 2014 **Edmonton Interfaith Centre for Education and Action.**
Seminar Presentation, "Swedenborg's Symbolism in the Poetry of William Blake."
- March 23-25, 2010 **Swedenborg Scholar-in-Residence. Urbana University.**
Lectured at London Correctional Institute and Urbana University on "Robert Frost's Critical Appropriation of Swedenborg's Theology." Met with staff, faculty, and students over lunch discussing, "Swedenborg's Take on Angels and Demons." Lectured at Professor Scott Griswald's World Religions class. Met with Honor Students and discussed, "What Is the Place of Spirituality in an Increasingly Secular World." Met with members of the Swedenborgian Church.
- April 2009-April 2012 **Adjunct Instructor: Swedenborg House of Studies, Pacific School of Religion.**
Taught online courses, "Fostering a Personal Relationship with God," "A Survey of the Old Testament," "Introduction to the Gospels."
- November 9, 2009 **American Academy of Religions Conference, Montreal.**
"Gender Imagery as a Metaphor for God-Human Conjunction: A Comparison between Tantric Hindu Shakta Yoga and Emanuel Swedenborg's Theology of Mystical Marriage."
- April 16, 2007 **University of Alberta.**
Symposium on Religion and Place, "The Modern City as a Place of Alienation from Creation and Creator in the Poetry of T. S. Eliot." Symposium on Religion and Place.

IN-CHURCH ADULT EDUCATION COURSES, Church of the Holy City, Edmonton, Alberta, 2006-2023.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SWEDENBORGIAN WAY OF LIFE

All religion is of life; and a religious life is doing good (Swedenborg, *Doctrine of Life* 1).

**THE STORY OF JESUS ACCORDING TO JOHN: A SEEKER'S COMPANION
EIGHT-WEEK REFLECTION COMPANION**

THE STRUGGLE AND ECSTASY OF LIVING SPIRITUALLY

A study seminar designed around my self-published book, available on Amazon.

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

WEEK 1--THE PATRIARCHS

WEEK 2--THE EXODUS

WEEK 3—CONFLICTING TESTIMONIES ON THE CONQUEST OF CANAAN

WEEK 4—THE CHALLENGE OF KINGSHIP

WEEK 5—FALLEN IS VIRGIN ISRAEL

WEEK 6—THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY

WEEK 7—THE RESTORATION

AN ORIENTATION TO THE GOSPELS

WEEK 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPELS

WEEK 2: JESUS' BIOGRAPHY--BEFORE HIS MINISTRY

WEEK 3: JESUS' BIOGRAPHY--THE EVENTS OF HIS MINISTRY

WEEK 4: JESUS' BIOGRAPHY--THE TRIAL AND CRUCIFIXION

WEEK 5: JESUS' BIOGRAPHY--THE RESURRECTION

WEEK 6: JESUS' MINISTRY--THE HEALINGS

WEEK 7: JESUS' MINISTRY--THE PARABLES

WEEK 8: JESUS' MINISTRY--THEOLOGICAL TOPICS

WEEK 9: JESUS' MINISTRY--SHORT SAYINGS

FOUNDATIONAL TEACHINGS IN PAUL'S LETTERS (10-Week Course)

WEEK I: Paul's Authority and Biography

WEEK II: Christology

WEEK III: Reconciliation and Predestination

WEEK IV: Salvation by Faith Part

WEEK V: Salvation by Faith Part 2

WEEK VI: The Life of the Spirit

WEEK VII: Putting off the Old Self/Putting on the New Self

WEEK VIII: Love

WEEK IX: Sin

WEEK X: Women in Early Christianity

REFLECTIONS ON THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Nine-Week Course based on my self-published book.

THE SAYINGS OF JESUS: 20-Week Course

When one reflects on a course about the sayings of Jesus, two Gospels are best: Matthew or Luke. Those two Gospels have the most sayings of Jesus, and they have basically the same sayings. They have more sayings than the Gospel of Mark.

Mark was written first. Matthew and Luke had Mark, and used Mark when they wrote their Gospels. So most everything that is in Mark is in Matthew and Luke. But Matthew and Luke had another document. Matthew and Luke had a document called "Q" (from the German word *quelle*, which means *source*). Q is a collection of sayings of Jesus. No one has actually

found a scroll of Q. But when one compares the sayings in Matthew and Luke, one finds the same sayings in basically the same order. Mark doesn't have these sayings. So Matthew and Luke have all of Mark, plus sayings in them which Mark doesn't have. For these reasons, we think that Matthew and Luke had the same "Q" document which they used, along with Mark's Gospel, when they wrote their Gospels.

I will be using Matthew's Gospel in this course about the sayings of Jesus. Matthew has more references to the Hebrew Scriptures in it than Luke does. Early Christians drew on Hebrew Scriptures as they tried to understand who Jesus was. So we'll also learn about the Hebrew Scriptures as we learn about Jesus' sayings, and we'll see how Christians used the Hebrew Scriptures as they tried to make sense out of everything that happened surrounding Jesus' birth, ministry, death, and resurrection.

We can't use John's Gospel. John has sermons and long sayings that none of the other three Gospels have. Also, the order of the events is different in John than in all the other three Gospels. That is, Matthew, Mark, and Luke have the same events in the same order. John has events that are not in the other three Gospels and the events that he shares with them are in a different order. When we study the New Testament, we can study Matthew, Mark, and Luke together. We have to study John separately. And we have already done that in another course.

Let's now look at Jesus' sayings as we find them in Matthew.

Regrettable Consequences of the New Church: Swedenborg's Concept of Vastation and T.S. Eliot's Images of the Death of God (1 or 2 sessions).