

Stephen R.L. Clark's Philosophy of Religion

Dr. Joseph Minich, Instructor

Course Description

This course will be a guided discussion of three books by Stephen R.L. Clark: *From Athens to Jerusalem*, *The Mysteries of Religion*, and *God, Religion, & Reality*. Clark is a unique thinker who has consolidated insight from many sub-disciplines and eras of scholarship. While he is not here commended as correct in all his claims, the goal is to engage with an open, honest, and courageous mind in order to cultivate our own Christian imagination.

Course Format

The format of the course will be predominantly one of guided discussion. The instructor will often be doing most of the talking, but generally to illuminate and draw out themes from the text for discussion, rather than in straight-up lectures. Thus, students will be expected to come having read and engaged with the text selection for the week, and with thoughts prepared to contribute. Classes will meet via Zoom for one hour each week and will be recorded for later viewing by students who cannot participate. Additional student participation and instructor interaction can take place on our private Davenant Commons discussion board.

Course Objectives

This course aims (1) to introduce students to an intellectual exemplar in Stephen R.L. Clark, (2) to dialogically engage, learn from, and help train students in the art of thinking well, and (3) to encourage students concerning the veracity of the Christian faith by means of an expanded (rather than calcified) imagination.

Course Requirements

1. Weekly readings (due before our session each week)
2. Weekly interaction with instructor and fellow students in online class session

Additional Recommended Course Elements

1. Participation on the course discussion board on Davenant Commons.

2. For any who are so interested, you might enjoy writing a paper tackling any argument that strikes you as a conundrum or which requires you to do a bit of research.

Course Texts

Stephen R.L. Clark. *From Athens to Jerusalem: The Love of Wisdom & the Love of God*
(Brooklyn: Angelico Press, 2019 - originally 1984)

Stephen R.L. Clark. *The Mysteries of Religion: An Introduction to Philosophy through Religion* (Eugene: Wipf & Stock, 2017 - originally 1986).

Stephen R.L. Clark. *God, Religion, & Reality* (Brooklyn: Angelico Press, 2017).

Course Schedule

| Week | Dates | Discussion Topics | Reading |
|-------------|--------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | TBD | From Athens to Jerusalem | Chapters 1-3 |
| 2 | TBD | From Athens to Jerusalem | Chapters 4-6 |
| 3 | TBD | From Athens to Jerusalem | Chapters 7-10 |
| 4 | TBD | The Mysteries of Religion | Chapters 1-4 |
| 5 | TBD | The Mysteries of Religion | Chapters 5-7 |
| 6 | TBD | The Mysteries of Religion | Chapters 8-10 |
| 7 | TBD | The Mysteries of Religion | Chapters 11-14 |
| 8 | TBD | God, Religion, & Reality | Chapters 1-3 |
| 9 | TBD | God, Religion, & Reality | Chapters 4-6 |
| 10 | TBD | God, Religion, & Reality | Chapters 7-9 |

Note: Books will be read in original publication (rather than republication date) order.