CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
COURSE SYLLABUS

RELI 4984 E/649/828: Christian Masculinities
Winter 2016, Wednesday, 4:00-6:15 p.m.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Donald L. Boisvert, **e-mail:** Donald.Boisvert@concordia.ca.
Office hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Masculinity has always been a site of contestation in the Christian tradition. How masculinity is understood, constructed, lived out and critiqued has varied over the centuries. There is not just one universal form of Christian masculinity, but rather a diversity of masculinities. This course will examine, from historical and sociological perspectives, these varying types of Christian masculinities.

TEXTS: There is a course pack for this seminar, available in the bookstore. You are expected to complete fully the reading required for each weekly class meeting.

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT:

This is a senior undergraduate and graduate seminar. A mature and respectful attitude and high levels of attendance and participation are required. Your written work is also expected to be of superior quality, including technical aspects such as grammar and punctuation. All relevant rules and regulations concerning proper academic conduct also apply, especially as regards plagiarism. You should already be familiar, in a general way, with the overall historical development of the Christian tradition, as well as with broad theoretical perspectives on gender and sexuality. If you have any questions about this, please consult the instructor.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Weekly critical reading responses, **absolutely no more** than 2 pages in length. Due at the beginning of class. This **is not** a summary of the readings, but rather a critical engagement with the material. Comment, from a critical perspective, on things that struck you as important, interesting, insightful or problematic; raise one or two engaging questions. These should form the basis for your contributions to class discussion. 40% of your grade (eight responses x 5% each).
2. You will be expected to contextualize and introduce the reading material for one of the seminars (**absolutely no more** than 10 minutes). 10% of your grade.
3. Major end-of-term in-class presentation and essay on a topic related to the focus of the course, chosen in consultation with the instructor. You will be expected to submit an outline **by February 10th**. 50% of your grade (10% for the oral presentation; 40% for the written paper). 10-15 pages. Due date to be discussed.
4. If you are a doctoral student, you will also be expected to submit a publication-quality review of a recent book, chosen in consultation with the instructor. In this case, the grading distribution will be adjusted accordingly.

SEMINAR & READING SCHEDULE:

6 January: Introduction to the Course
Reading: Course pack 1

13 January: Scriptural Masculinities
Readings: Course pack 2 & 3

20 January: Masculinities in the Early Church
Readings: Course pack 4 & 5

27 January: Masculinities in the Christian Middle Ages
Readings: Course pack 6 & 7

3 February: American Evangelical Masculinity & Same-Sex Desire
Reading: Course pack 8

10 February: Anglo-Catholic/Anglican Masculinities
Reading: Course pack 9

17 February: Muscular Christianity: Old & New
Readings: Course pack 10 & 13

----- Term Break, 22-26 February ----

2 March: Religious Heroism: An Ecumenical Take
Reading: Course pack 11

9 March: Raising Masculine Religious Boys
Reading: Course pack 12

16 March: In-class Presentations

23 March: In-class Presentations

30 March: In-class Presentations

6 April: Summary Class: Contemporary Christian Masculinities