SYLLABUS for READING POETRY THEOLOGICALLY Summer 2015
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MONDAY, JUNE 8
Introductions
Why poetry and the study of poetry offer a creative and important form of theological discourse …
What does the study of poetry contribute to the tasks of theology and the mission of the church?
What does it mean to read poetry theologically, and how do we do it?

Warming Up & Honing Our Skills
Selected poems by George Herbert, R.S. Thomas, Anthony Hecht, Susan Howe

TUESDAY, JUNE 9
Poetry of Nature
Selected Poems by Gerard Manley Hopkins, Wendell Berry, Mary Szybist
Secondary Reading: Intro to Upholding Mystery (Impastato); “A Sense of Place” (Seamus Heaney)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10
Poetry of Sacred Spaces
Selected poems by R.S. Thomas, Geoffrey Hill, Lucille Clifton, Glenn Shea
Secondary Reading: “Religion and Literature” (T.S. Eliot); “A Frame for Poetry” (R.S. Thomas)

THURSDAY, JUNE 11
Poetry of Sacred Texts
Selected poems by T.S. Eliot, Elizabeth Jennings, Denise Levertov, Scott Cairns, Mary Karr
Secondary Reading: “Poetics and the Kenotic Hymn” (Geoffrey Hill); “Facing Altars” (Mary Karr)

FRIDAY, JUNE 12
Poetry of the Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, and Love
Selected poems by Denise Levertov “Poetics of Faith” & “Annunciation” (faith); T.S. Eliot “Song of Simeon”, Micheal O’Siadhail “Prisoners of Hope” (hope); Wendell Berry “The Guest”, Maura Eichner “The Father” (love)
Secondary Reading: “What Dante Means to Me” (T.S. Eliot)