

**Courtney E. Fitzsimmons**

3616 N Racine Ave. Apt #1

Chicago, IL 60613

(312) 218-8708

[courtne1@uchicago.edu](mailto:courtne1@uchicago.edu)**Education****Ph.D. University of Chicago**, Theology, expected June 2010**A.M. University of Chicago**, Divinity, 2003**B.A. Boston University**, Philosophy, 2000**Dissertation**

“The Question of Loving God: Images of Love in Iris Murdoch and Franz Rosenzweig”

**Committee:** William Schweiker and Paul Mendes-Flohr (co-advisors)

Maria Antonaccio (reader, Bucknell University)

**Doctoral Examinations (Winter 2006)**

- The History of Christian Thought, 150-1325
- The History of Modern Religious Thought, 1600-1970
- Modern Jewish Thought
- A Major Theologian or Doctrine: Martin Luther

**Honors**

- Evangelical Lutheran Church of America Grant for Advanced Theological Studies, 2005- 2007
- Wabash Fellowship in Pedagogy and the Study of Religion, University of Chicago, 2006
- Jerald C. Brauer Seminar Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2004

**Teaching Experience****University of Chicago: Lecturer, 2009 – 2010**

Teaching “Human Being and Citizen” in The College Humanities Core Curriculum. Hold full responsibility for syllabus design, instruction and grading. Class limit of nineteen students. Texts to be taught: *The Iliad*, *Genesis*, Plato's *Apology* and *Symposium* (Autumn); Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*, Kant's *Groundwork for a Metaphysics of Morals* and Hardy's *Return of the Native* (Spring).

**St. Xavier University: Adjunct Faculty, 2004 – 2005; Spring 2007 – 2009**

Taught two sections a semester of an introductory philosophy course entitled “The Examined Life.” Held full responsibility for syllabus design, all instruction and grading. Class limit of twenty-five students. Texts taught: Plato: *Symposium*, *Republic*, *Euthyphro*, *Apology*, *Crito* and Iris Murdoch's *The Bell*.

**University of Chicago: Writing Intern, 2006-2009**

Writing intern for “Human Being and Citizen” (2006-2007) and “Philosophical Perspectives” (2007-2009) courses in the Humanities Core Curriculum in The College. Responsibilities included: designing and conducting writing seminars, conducting one-on-one sessions with students, giving written feedback to students on their papers, assisting the professor in grading, attending all classes and completing all reading assignments.

Taught two weeks of “Philosophical Perspectives” on Nietzsche’s *Genealogy of Morals* and Kierkegaard’s *Philosophical Fragments* (spring 2008).

Taught individual class sessions of “Human Being and Citizen” on *Genesis* and *Euthyphro* (autumn); *Nicomachean Ethics* (winter); and Iris Murdoch’s *Sovereignty of Good* (spring).

**Teaching Interests**

I am interested in teaching interdisciplinary courses (within religion and in philosophy or literature) as well as traditional theology courses (historical, thematic and problem-oriented courses).

**Primary**

- Christian Theology (18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- Modern Jewish Thought
- History of Christian Thought
- Philosophical and Systematic Theology

**Secondary**

- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy (18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> century)
- Religion and Literature
- Theology of Martin Luther

**Presentations**

- “Shared Love: Franz Rosenzweig on Judaism and Christianity,” American Academy of Religion, Chicago, IL, November 2008.
- “Hollywood and Christianity,” Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenview, IL, September 2006.
- “Why Iris Murdoch is Important for Theology,” Divinity School Theology Workgroup, University of Chicago, February 2004.

**Research Interests**

- Constructive and Philosophical Theology. Specific interests include:
  - The concept of love in theology, focusing on the divine-human and human-human relationships as expressed in the double-love command.

- The language of love, specifically the divine/human relationship as exemplified in Scripture and accounts of the experience of God.
- Theodicy and the reality of evil, as related to both concepts of love and language.
- The nature of God, particularly how it is determined by conceptualizations of love.
- Theological Method, specifically taking an interdisciplinary approach to theology by using resources outside Christian theology, particularly Jewish thought and literature, for developing theological concepts.

### **Related Professional Experience**

#### **Office of the Inspector General, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services: Ethics Coordinator, June 2005 – June 2007**

Advised the Inspector General and her investigators on ethics issues. Conducted investigations into ethical misconduct by child welfare professionals. Designed and implemented ethics trainings for child welfare professionals. Provided ethics consultation for the child welfare field and the Department.

#### **Office of the Inspector General, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services: Research Assistant, July 2002 – October 2003**

Conducted research on ethics issues at the request of the Ethics Coordinator. Wrote and edited “Handbook on Pastoral Care for Child Welfare Professionals.” Edited ethics training materials designed and distributed by the office. Assisted Ethics Coordinator in conducting investigations.

### **Languages**

Reading knowledge of German and French

### **Professional Affiliations**

American Academy of Religion

### **References**

William Schweiker, Professor, University of Chicago Divinity School  
Paul Mendes-Flohr, Professor, University of Chicago Divinity School  
Nan Nan Lee, Chair, Philosophy Department, St. Xavier University  
Maria Antonaccio, Professor, Bucknell University