

Thomas Merton

An introduction to one of the 20th Century's most important contemplatives and authors.

This introduction to Thomas Merton will focus on his life and work.

- † His life before Gethsemane was one of wandering and seeking;
- † After entering the Order he became a disciplined follower, author, novice master and strong social reformer.

Course Requirements:

- 1) Read one of the following books:
 - † New Seeds of Contemplation by Thomas Merton
 - † No Man Is An Island by Thomas Merton
 - † Encounters with Merton by Henri Nouwen
 - † Merton's Palace of Nowhere - A Search for God through Awareness of the True Self by James Finley(The Nouwen book is most easily accessible of the books listed)

Write a one-page book reflection **which is best due by November 1, 2026** but at the latest is due December 1, 2026.

- 2) Attend the **three class-sessions** and participate in the small-group activities.
 - Sunday November 1, 3:00 - 4:30 PM Eastern time.
 - Sunday November 8, 3:00 - 4:30 PM Eastern Time.
 - Sunday November 15, 3:00 - 4:30 PM Eastern Time.

- 3) Following the final class spend 30 days reading and ruminating or journaling on the essays of Thomas Merton. Then come debrief with pastor Paul. This is due within 60 days of the final course class (in this case **before February 15, 2027**).