

Curriculum Vitae (5-25-2012)

Philip Charles Novak

novak@dominican.edu

Current Position:

- Tenured Full Professor, Department of Humanities, Program in Philosophy and Religion

Education:

- Ph.D. Dept. of Religion, Syracuse University, 1981. Dissertation: *Empty Willing: Contemplative Being-In-The-World in Dogen Zenji and St. John of the Cross*
- M.A., Dept. of Religion, Syracuse University, 1975.
- B.A., Dept. of English, University of Notre Dame, *magna cum laude*, 1972.

Publications

Books:

1. *The World's Wisdom: Sacred Texts of the World's Religions* (San Francisco: Harper, 1994). Adopted as a text in college courses on the World's Religions, a selection of the Book of the Month Club and the History Book Club, translated into Portuguese and Dutch, with over 72,000 copies in print.
2. *The Vision of Nietzsche* (New York and London: Element Press, 1996, republished in London: Vega Books, 2001).
3. *Buddhism: A Concise Introduction* (HarperSanFrancisco: 2003), co-authored with Huston Smith.
4. *The Inner Journey: Views from the Buddhist Tradition* (Sandpoint, Idaho: Morning Light Press, 2005).

Monographs:

1. *Religion and Altruism*, Institute of Noetic Sciences, Sausalito, California: February, 1992.

Articles (8 peer-reviewed in bold):

1. "C.G. Jung in the Light of Asian Psychology" *Religious Traditions*, (Vol. 14, 1991), pp.66-87.
2. "The Chun-tzu," *Fragments of Infinity (Festschrift for Huston Smith)*, Arvind Sharma, ed. (New York: Avery Publishing, 1991).
3. "Mystical Experiences and the Search for Human Spiritual Perfection" *New Realities* (Vol.X, No.6, 1990, pp.22-24).
4. "The Practice of Attention" *Parabola* (Vol. XV, No. 2: May, 1990), pp.4-13. Reprinted in *The Inner Journey: Views from the Buddhist Tradition* (Morning Light Press: 2005).
5. "Mysticism, Enlightenment and Morality" *ReVision*, Volume 12, no.1, Summer 1989.

6. **"Buddhist Meditation and The Great Chain of Being: Some Misgivings,"***Listening*, Vol.24, No.1, Winter, 1989.
7. "Buddhism and the Problem of Identity--Or, On the Virtue of Not Knowing Who You Are" *Man's Search For Meaning in a Fragmented Universe*, P. De Silva and H.O. Thompson eds., (Barrytown, New York: Unification Theological Seminary, 1988).
8. "On the Virtue of Not Knowing Who You Are" *Quest*, Vol.1, no.2, Winter, 1988
9. "Plato and the Computer: The Pursuit of Wisdom in an Age of Information," *The Thread of Ariadne*, P. Umphrey, ed. (Fort Bragg, CA: Q.E.D. Press, 1988).
10. "Time, Noise and God: A Commencement Address" *Dominican Quarterly*, Summer, 1988.
11. **"Attention,"** *Encyclopedia of Religion* Mircea Eliade et al, eds. (New York: Macmillan, 1987), vol.1, pp. 501-509.
12. **"Tao How?: Asian Religions and the Problem of Environmental Degradation,"** *REVISION*, Vol.9, No. 2, Winter/Spring, 1987. Reprinted as a "classic" in a special Ecology edition of *REVISION*, Fall, 1993.
13. "The Chun-Tzu," *Syracuse University Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 1, February, 1987.
14. "The Buddha and the Computer: Meditation in an Age of Information," *Journal of Religion and Health*, Vol.25, no.3, July, 1986.
15. "The Dynamics of Attention in Spiritual Discipline", in *Ultimate Reality and Spiritual Discipline*, James Duerlinger, ed. (New York: Paragon House, 1984).
16. **"The Dynamics of Attention: Core of the Contemplative Way,"** *Studies in Formative Spirituality*, Vol. V, No.1, February, 1984.
17. **"The Dynamics of the Will in Buddhist and Christian Practice,"** *Buddhist-Christian Studies*, Journal of the East-West Religions Project, University of Hawaii, vol.4, 1984.
18. "Spiritual Discipline and Psychological Dream Work: Some Distinctions," *Studia Mystica*, Spring, 1980.
19. **"Archetypes, Angels and Kant's A Priori: The Guardians at the Gate,"** *ReVision*, Vol.3, No.2, Fall, 1980.
20. "From *The Religions of Man* to *The World's Religions*: A Conversation with Huston Smith" *Quest*, Vol. 4, no.4, Winter, 1991
21. "Universal Theology and the Idea of Cosmic Order" in *Dialogue and Alliance*, Vol. 6, no.1, Spring 1992.
22. "Universal Theology and the Idea of Cosmic Order" in *World Faiths Encounter*, July, 1992.
23. **"Buddhist Meditation and the Transformation of Time Consciousness,"** *Journal of Consciousness Studies* Vol. 3, No. 3, 1996.
24. "Who Really Killed Jesus?" in the Academic Vice-President's Faculty Newsletter, D.U.C., May 2004.

Book Reviews:

1. *Concept and Empathy: Essays in the Study of Religion*, by Ninian Smart, ed. Donald Wiebe, in *Critical Review of Books in Religion*, 1987-88.
2. *Search for Nothing: The Life of St. John of the Cross*, by Richard Hardy, in *Studia Mystica*, Spring, 1984.
3. *Inter Views*, by James Hillman, in *Commonweal*, October 7, 1983.
4. Buddhism and Christianity: A Preface to Dialogue, by Georg Siegmund, in *Philosophy East and West*, Spring, 1982.

5. *Fullness of Life: Historical Foundations of Christian Asceticism*, by Margaret Miles, in *New Catholic World*, Summer, 1982.
6. *America Without Violence*, by Michael Nagler, in *Studia Mystica*,
7. *Towards a New Mysticism: Teilhard de Chardin and Eastern Religions*, by Ursula King, in *New Catholic World*, Spring, 1981.
8. *Mencius and Aquinas: Theories of Virtue and Conceptions of Courage*, by Lee Yearley, in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 60, 2, Summer 1992.
9. *Street Zen*, by David Schneider, Sunday Book Review, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 12-19-93.
10. *Resurrection*, by John Shelby Spong, Sunday Book Review, *San Francisco Chronicle*, 4-3-94.
11. *Essays on World Religion: Huston Smith*, ed. by Darrol Bryant, in *Dialogue and Alliance*, Vol. 11, No. 1, Spring-Summer, 1997.
12. *Dimensions of the Sacred*, by Ninian Smart; in *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, Vol. 66, No.1, Spring 1998.
13. *Woven On the Loom of Time: Many Faiths, One Divine Purpose* by Darrol Bryant in *Dialogue and Alliance*, Vol. 16, No.1, Spring/Summer 2002.
14. "One for the Sages", a review of *The Great Transformation* by Karen Armstrong in the *Shambhala Sun*, July, 2006. Circulation 75,000.
15. "Living Buddha, Living Christ": a tenth-anniversary appreciation of Thich Naht Hanh's book by the same name, *Tricycle*, Summer, 2007.
16. "Buddhist Thoughts on The Battle for God" tenth-anniversary review of Karen Armstrong's *The Battle for God* (New York: Ballantine) in *Tricycle*, Spring, 2009.

Prefaces and Forewords:

1. Foreword to the republication of *The Religion of Man* by Rabindranath Tagore (Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Monkfish Publishing, 2004).

Honors and Awards

1. Sr. Mary Aquinas Award for Outstanding Career Service to the University and Its Students, presented by the Alumni Association, May 2008.
2. Graves Award "for outstanding contribution to the actual teaching of the Humanities"; issued by Pomona College and the American Council of Learned Societies, December, 1987, providing funds for summer travel and research in India.
3. Sarlo Distinguished Professor at Dominican University of California for "lifetime achievement" and for "outstanding and inspirational teaching, scholarship and mentoring, distinguished leadership, devotion to the ideals of higher education, and service to the community," since 2001.
4. Visiting Professor, University of California, Berkeley, in the Division of Undergraduate and Interdisciplinary Studies, Spring, 1996.
5. Presidential Fellow (two-year Fellowship, made possible by the James Irvine Foundation, awarded by the President of Dominican College for excellence in teaching, publishing and leadership, January, 1990.
6. National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Seminar for College Teachers, Summer, 1987. (University of California, Berkeley).

7. Winner, Templeton Science and Religion Course Competition, Spring, 1998; \$10,000 award for self and institution (co-winner, Prof. Sherry Volk).
8. Awardee, Templeton, Science and Religion Course Development Grant, \$2000 for graduate level revision of original course (see no. 2), 2000.
9. Co-Founder and Director of the Honors Program (appointed by Academic Vice-President to create and direct the Dominican College Honors Program, Fall 1989 to 1995).
10. Teacher of the Year Award (Dominican College) ("in recognition of outstanding contributions to undergraduate education and campus life"), May 1991.
11. Syracuse University Fellowships, 1976-77, 1977-78.
12. Syracuse University Summer Fellowship, 1976.
13. Syracuse University Full Scholarship, 1973-74.

Professional Experience (not including the past two years as Dean)

Administration:

- Dean (interim) of the School of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, July 2009 to July 2011, Dominican University of California, 50 Acacia Ave., San Rafael, CA. 94901.

Teaching:

29 years of university teaching, approximately 145 courses.

- Courses Taught Most Frequently: Undergraduate Level: World Religions Survey, Philosophies and Religions of Asia, Ethics, Western Religions, Philosophy of Religion, Myth, Symbol and Ritual, History of Western Philosophy. **Graduate Level:** Culture and Symbol: The Creation of Meaning; The Psychology of Religion; Philosophy of Religion: Pluralism; Buddhism, Science, Religion and the Human Future.

Conference Papers and Selected Public Addresses: (6 academic conferences in bold):

1. **"In Search of a Theological Commons: The Idea of Cosmic Order" God: The Contemporary Dialogue, VII, Assisi, Italy. May 1990.**
2. **"Religion and Altruism," at the Association for Humanistic Psychology annual meeting, Stanford University, August 18. 1989.**
3. **"The Future of Religion" at the Philosophy and the Human Future Conference, St. John's College, Cambridge, England, August 6-11, 1989.**
4. "The Endangered Earth and the Power of Myth," a talk presented to a class on Living Myths, Humboldt State University, February, 1989.
5. **Respondent to "The Hindu Attitude to Knowledge and Nature" by R. Balasubramanian, at the East-West Perspectives on Spirit and Science section of the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, Los Angeles, CA., Nov. 1988.**
7. "Attitudes Towards Nature in Asian Religions," Institute for Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA. April, 1988.
8. "Tao How?" in the "Cry of the Environment" series, First Unitarian Church, San Francisco, March, 1988.

9. "Asian Religions and the Environment," guest lecture at Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, November, 1987.
10. "Tao How? Asian Religions and the Problem of Environmental Degradation," Religion and the Environment Studies Group, United Church of Christ, Santa Cruz, CA., November, 1986.
11. Tao How?: Asian Religions and the Problem of Environmental Degradation" Ethics and the Environment lecture series, sponsored by the California Council for the Humanities, Coyote Point Museum, San Mateo, CA., June, 1986.
- 12. "Attention and Temporality: Buddhist Perspectives on the Transformation of Time" in the Time and Consciousness section of the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, Seoul, Korea, August, 1991.**
13. "Encounter with the World's Religions," a series of 5 lectures at Sr. Mary the Virgin Church, San Francisco, Summer 1992.
14. "The Mystical Core of Organized Religion" and "The Light is One, the Lamps are Many," a two-lecture series at St. Mary the Virgin Church in San Francisco, Summer 1993.
15. A series of 5 lectures--"Religion: A Planetary Overview," at St. John's Church in Ross, CA, January-February 1993.
16. "Religions in World Perspective," Marin Philosophical Society, June, 1994.
17. Fall Lecture Series (October-November 1995) at the Branson School, Ross, CA: "Forays in the Philosophy of Religion," (4 lectures: "Religions in World Perspective," "The Lamps are Many. Is the Light One?", "The Mystical Core of Organized Religion," "Time, Noise and God: The Cultivation of Contemplative Life."
18. "Religion in World Perspective," a series of 5 lectures for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, San Rafael, Sept/Oct 1996.
19. "Religion and the Human Future," a series of 4 lectures for St. Paul's Episcopal Church, San Rafael, CA. Sept/Oct. 1997.
20. "Religion in World Perspective," a series of 5 lectures for St. John's Episcopal Church, Ross, CA. Jan/Feb 1998.
21. "The World's Religions and Global Politics," delivered at the World Affairs Council, San Francisco, CA., March 24, 1998.
22. "The World's Religions and Global Politics," delivered at the World Affairs Council, Marin Branch, San Rafael, CA., March 25, 1998.
23. Guest lecture on Rumi to the Byzantium Seminar, Dominican Humanities Graduate Program, October 2001.
24. Lecture on Islam to the congregation of Sausalito Presbyterian Church on Oct. 14, 2001.
25. Lecture on Islam to the members of the Mill Valley Outdoor Art Club on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, January 2002.
26. "On Sabbatical," a talk given to the Dominican University Provost's Forum, 2-10-2003.
27. Six-lecture series on the World's Religions, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Adult Education, Mill Valley, CA., Fall, 2003.
28. Six-lecture series on the World's Religions, First Presbyterian Church, San Rafael, CA., Spring 2004.
29. "Interfaith Friendly Theological Perspectives," panel member, sponsored by the Presidio Interfaith Center, San Francisco, CA., 10-20-04.
30. "Four Dimensions of Human Unity: Cosmological, Biological, Cultural, Spiritual," a talk given to the community of St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church in San Francisco, April, xxxx

31. “C.G. Jung in the Light of John Hick’s Philosophy of Religious Pluralism,” a half-day seminar given to the graduate program in depth psychology at Sonoma State University, December, 2006.

32. “Building a Bridge of Understanding between Islam and Theravada Buddhism,” a paper given at the “Building Bridges of Religious Understanding” conference at Dominican University of California, February 3, 2007.

33. “Christianity in the 21st century” – an all-day conversation between myself and New Testament scholar Dr. Scott Sinclair at the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, Nov. 3, 2007.

34. “Spiritual but not Religious?” a talk given at the annual World’s Religions series at Unity Church, Novato, California, August, 2011.

34. “How Big History Became a General Education Requirement at Dominican University,” talk given at the 31st Annual First-Year Experience conference, Feb. 18-21, 2012, San Antonio, Texas.

Mentioned by name in a preface or introduction as having materially contributed to the publication:

- Michael Murphy et al, *God and the Evolving Universe* (Los Angeles: Tarcher, 2002).
- Roger Walsh, *Essential Spirituality* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1999).
- Huston Smith, *Why Religion Matters* (HarperSanFrancisco, 2001).
- Cynthia Brown, *Big History* (New York, New Press, 2007).

Quoted as an endorser on the backs of the following books:

- Andrew Cohen, *Living Enlightenment* (Lenox, Mass: Moksa Press, 2002);
- Paul Fleischman, *Karma and Chaos* (Vipassana Research Publications of America, 1999);
- James Cutsinger, *Prayer Fashions Man* (Bloomington: World Wisdom, 2005)
- Harry Oldmeadow, *Light from the East* (Bloomington, World Wisdom, 2006).

Service to the University

Between 1980 and 2000 I served on every major committee at the College/University including three terms on the Professional Review and Ethics Committee. Tenure did not exist when I arrived on campus in 1980 but from 1984 to 1991, I led a politically fraught but ultimately successful effort for its adoption. I was the primary author of Dominican’s new Review, Promotion and Tenure Policy approved by the Board of Trustees in 1991. In the mid-1990s I played a key role, including participating in a series of hearings in federal court, in a two-year Dominican faculty effort to establish collective bargaining. Though ultimately denied by the judge, the effort was valuable training in campus governance at the highest levels. I also played a central role on the marathon General Education Revision Committee of 1994-2001, successfully leading it out of deadlock as its Chair in the final year. More recently, I played a pivotal role on the General Education Revision Committee of 2007-2009, introducing reforms that have won Dominican national attention. I was the Chairperson of the Philosophy & Religion department for 25 years. In 1999-2001, I served two terms as president of the Faculty Forum.

