

Programme: M.Th. (Carmelite Studies)

Module MTh05: Reading Edith Stein

This module is designed to enable students to engage critically with the writings of Edith Stein and to develop the capacity for independent research and study on those writings at postgraduate level.

Born a Jew, Edith Stein studied philosophy and psychology before being converted to Christianity, achieving a significant profile as a Catholic feminist, and joining an enclosed Carmelite monastery. She was put to death in the concentration camp at Auschwitz in the early hours of Sunday, August 9, 1942. Canonised as a virgin, religious, and martyr, she was made one of the co-patronesses of Europe in 1999.

The ten units explore the different kinds of writing that Stein has left us, the breadth of which can be seen from the table below:

Unit	Assigned Reading
1	Teresia Renata de Spiritu Sancto Posselt OCD, "Home," chapter 1 (pp. 3-11) of Teresia Renata de Spiritu Sancto Posselt OCD, <i>Edith Stein: The Life of a Philosopher and Carmelite. Authorized and Revised Biography by Her Prioress Sister Teresia Renata Posselt, O.C.D. (Text, Commentary and Explanatory Notes)</i> , Edited by Susanne M. Batzdorff. Josephine Koeppel and John Sullivan ed. (Washington, D.C.: ICS Publications, 2005).
2	Section 1, pp. 239-270 of chapter 7 (pp. 239-317), "Student Years in Göttingen" in Edith Stein, <i>Life in a Jewish Family</i> , Trivandrum: Carmelite Publishing Centre, 1998.
3	Subsections "m" to "p" of section 5 (pp. 84-89) of chapter 3, pp. 38-90 of Edith Stein, <i>The Problem of Empathy</i> , Trivandrum: Carmelite Publishing Centre, 1998.
4	Edith Stein, "Woman's Intrinsic Value in National Life", pp. 95-108 of Chapter 4, 'Woman and Women,' in <i>Edith Stein: Essential Writings</i> , edited by John Sullivan OCD, New York: Orbis, 1970, pp. 94-123.
5	Edith Stein, "The Church, Woman, and Youth," chapter 6, pp. 237-252, in <i>Edith Stein, Woman, The Collected Works of Edith Stein</i> , volume 2, translated by Freda Mary Oben, Trivandrum: Carmel Publishing Centre, 1998; Chapter 4, "Edith Stein's Philosophy of the Woman," in Freda Mary Oben, <i>The Life and Thought of St. Edith Stein</i> , New York: Alba House, 2001, pp. 67-85.
6	Edith Stein, "The Road to Carmel," chapter 11 (pp. 116-132) in <i>Sr Teresia de Spiritu Sancto OCD, Edith Stein</i> , translated by Cecily Hastings and Donald Nicholl, London & New York, Sheed and Ward, 1952.
7	Section 7 (pp. 55-60) of chapter 2, pp. 31-60, in <i>Edith Stein, Finite and Eternal Being</i> , Washington D.C.: ICS Publications, 2002; Chapter 13, "Edith Stein's Philosophy: The Nature and Structure of the Person," in Waltraud Herbstrith, <i>Edith Stein: A Biography</i> , San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1971, pp. 79-85.
8	Sections 2 and 3 (pp. 94-101) of chapter 3, pp. 91-104, in <i>Edith Stein, The Hidden Life</i> , Trivandrum: Carmelite Publishing Centre, 1998.

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9	Chapters 3, "Taking Up One's Cross," of Stein's <i>The Science of the Cross</i> , Washington D.C.: ICS Publications, 2002, pp. 43-55; Chapter 8, "Edith Stein since her Death: The Jewish-Catholic Dialogue," in Sarah Borden, <i>Edith Stein</i> . London - New York: Continuum, 2003, pp. 135-143.
10	The poem, "Seven Beams from a Pentecost Novena," which is on pp. 92-99 of chapter 3, "Poems and Prayers," pp. 33-102, in Suzanne Batzdorff, <i>Edith Stein: Selected Writings</i> , Springfield, Illinois: Templegate, 1990.