

WYP2209HS MISSIONAL SPIRITUALITY

WINTER 2015, Mondays 2-4pm

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“A missional spirituality is a spirituality that forms and feeds mission.” Roger Helland and Len Hjalmarson, *Missional Spirituality*, 27.

COURSE DESCRIPTION /PURPOSE

Can we avoid burn-out in ministry? That is one of the questions addressed in Missional Spirituality. This course provides an integrated study of the Christian spiritual life in community and mission particularly as it applies to the practice of church planting and pioneer ministries. Bringing together mission and spirituality through a biblical, theological and practical exploration students will investigate what it means to participate in the life and mission of the Triune God.

Students will discover that missional spirituality is mission that is infused with the indwelling Spirit of God, and characterized by a profound experience of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, while mission is fundamentally God’s project. Built on this foundation, spiritual practices developed in the course can help release ministry teams to delight in who God is and to engage in what God is doing in their midst, in their neighbourhoods and in the world.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a component of the MDiv Pioneering stream, the course contributes to the student’s knowledge of appropriate tools through developing understanding and practice of spiritual disciplines and their application for life and ministry.

At the completion of this course:

1. Students will be able to provide an example of an individual or community (past or present) as a clear illustration of how Christian spirituality and mission inform one another.
2. Students will understand that spiritual formation and missional living are a dynamic inter-related process, characterized by participating *in* the life and mission of the Triune God.

3. Students will be able to articulate how prayer and spiritual disciplines relate to pioneering ministries.
4. Students will have reflected on their practice of prayer and spiritual disciplines and created a plan to further integrate them into their daily lives, and specifically their pioneering placements and internships.

CLASS SCHEDULE: WEEKLY THEMES

Week One (Jan 5): Introduction: What is Missional Spirituality?
Sign Up for Historic Figure Presentation

Week Two (Jan 12): Challenges Facing Missional Spirituality: Is it culture, the church or am I, the church planter/ministry leader, part of the problem?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*: Chapter 1
Slow Church: Intro and Chapter 1

Week Three (Jan 19) Creating a Foundation: The Trinitarian Basis – Not just ministry/mission *with* God, but ministry/mission *in* God! What does it mean to pray?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*: Chapter 2
Slow Church: Chapter 2

Week Four (Jan 26): Narratives of Missional Spirituality – Have not mission and spirituality always been separate?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*: Chapter 3
Slow Church: Chapter 3

Hand in Assignment 1, Report on Mission and Spirituality Figure

Week Five (Feb 2): The Practice of Abiding – Balancing expectations and cultural emphasis on success?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*: Chapter 4
Slow Church: Chapter 4

Week Six (Feb 9): The Practice of Worship – The church planter and *Missio Dei* – Whose mission is it?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*: Chapter 5
Slow Church: Chapter 5

Feb 16-20, Reading Week, NO CLASS

Week Seven (Feb 23): The Practices of Abundance and Gratitude– The importance of desire, joy and delight!

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*: Chapter 6

Slow Church: Chapter 6

Week Eight (March 2): The Practice of Generosity – The gathering and scattering of resources. Is there enough to go around? Let's talk about money in a spirituality course!

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*, Chapter 7
Slow Church, Chapter 7

Hand in Assignment 3, Spiritual Practices Plan

Week Nine (March 9): The Practice of Hospitality – The gathering and scattering of people – the thrills and the frustrations and the liquidity of boundaries (especially when your home is the ministry center).

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*, Chapter 8
Slow Church, Chapter 8

Week Ten (March 16): The Practice of Discernment – Fasting, listening, deciding: So many things need to be done – what's next?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*, Chapter 9
Slow Church, Chapter 9

Week Eleven (March 23): The Practice of Rest – It is amazing how I can just keep going, or is it?

Reading: *Missional Spirituality*, Chapter 10
Slow Church, Chapter 10

Week Twelve (March 30): Missional Spirituality and *Missio Dei* – church planting failures and dreams, and God's plan. What do I do with my anger? What do I do with my fears? What do I do with my excitement, joy and anticipation?

Reading: complete reading both texts

April 2, 2014: Hand in Assignment 4, Final Integrative Paper

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Helland, Roger and Leonard Hjalmarson. *Missional Spirituality*.

C. Christopher Smith and John Pattison. *Slow Church: Cultivating Community in the Patient Way of Jesus*.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Mission and Spirituality Figure Study:

Presentation and Report – Show how a key figure or community (past or present) brings together mission and spirituality. (Suggestions will be handed out in class). Develop a 5-8 minute presentation to deliver in class with handout (1 page outline). Hand in a written report (4-5 pages) to highlight the way this figure integrates Christian life and spirituality. Report should include a brief biography (1-2 pages), and then discuss the interaction of spirituality and mission (3-4 pages). Include primary sources if possible. (20%)

On the first day of class, sign up for presentation date.

Reports are due: Jan 26th

2. Six Reflective Journal Entries:

Keep a regular journal of the different practices you are exploring. Over the semester, you will hand in six (6) short reflective assignments (approx. 2 pages each) that **interact with the readings**, lecture topics and your experience with a specific practice (each one is worth 5%). You can choose which six you do out of the list below. You may also choose which dates you hand these in so that these dates do not conflict with other assignments or presentation dates. (30%)

Choose six of the following topics:

- 1) Challenges facing missional spirituality
- 2) Prayer
- 3) Abiding
- 3) Worship
- 4) Abundance
- 5) Gratitude
- 6) Generosity
- 7) Hospitality
- 8) Discernment
- 9) Fasting
- 10) Sabbath (rest)

Students can choose six dates on which to hand in these assignments and will sign up for these dates during the first or second class.

3. Creation of Spiritual Practices Plan

In time spiritual practices become second nature, but intentionality is required to start the process. Create a plan, complete with rationale (include sources from assigned readings, lectures and outside reading), times, and dates to explain why, what, when, where, how and with whom, you are going to integrate the spiritual practices into your daily life and ministry. Length should be 5-6 pages. (15%)

Due Date: Feb 23, 2015

4. Integrative Paper

How do mission and spirituality relate to one another? Choose one practice, or one theological principle discussed in class and provide an integrative, research paper to

show how mission and spirituality are inter-related in this one area. Length should be 10-12 pages. (30%)

Due Date: April 2, 2015

4. Participation:

Students are expected to attend and participate in each class, demonstrating engagement with assigned and unassigned reading for the topic under discussion. (5%)

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE POLICY ON ASSIGNMENT EXTENSIONS

Basic Degree students are expected to complete all course work by the end of the term in which they are registered. Under **exceptional circumstances**, with the written permission of the instructor, students may request an extension (SDF = "standing deferred") beyond the term. An extension, when offered, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested no later than the last day of classes of the term in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar's office.

One percentage point per weekday will be deducted on the course grade if an extension has not been requested by the stated deadline.

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