

Summer Session 2016 (June 13-17)

WYP2252HS - Spiritual Formation for Ministry

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#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the central place of growing intimacy with Christ as the basis for life and effective ministry. Designed to be experienced early in the programs of all students preparing for vocational ministry, it will provide a pathway toward spiritual refreshment, deeper commitment and disciplined living. The week will be a blend of classroom and practical experiences in the spiritual disciplines. It is not intended to be a time of learning about intimacy, commitment and spiritual discipline. It is meant to be a week of making space for intimacy, reflection, prayer, worship, meditation, solitude, commitment and the nurturing of community. Students should be prepared to fully engage in the exercises that will be planned for the sake of their own journey with God. It is anticipated that having experienced some of these things together we will have learned some things about pointing others in similar directions.

#### FORMAT:

Lecture, discussion, practical spiritual exercises, spiritual retreat (post-course)

#### LEARNING GOALS:

1. Understand the importance of personal spiritual growth for those involved in vocational ministry.
2. Identify his/her own personal hurdles to a disciplined spiritual life.
3. Learn from men and women throughout the history of the Church who have developed practical ways to implement spiritual disciplines in their lives.
4. Examine his/her own life at a deeper level, evaluating his/her spiritual readiness for ministry
5. Experience a variety of spiritual exercises and activities for the sake of learning techniques associated with various spiritual disciplines.
6. Use the exercises built into the class as a means of personal spiritual growth and refreshment.
7. Appreciate both the benefits and costs of a spiritually disciplined life and make the choice to consciously pursue the benefits.
8. Establish a regimen of the spiritual disciplines to be used throughout the seminary experience and to nurture habits that will be taken into a lifetime of ministry.
9. Take the time to get away near the beginning of the seminary experience to spend time in God's presence and with a group of other "pilgrims to learn together what it means to walk with God in ministry.
10. Learn ways to motivate and teach others to develop spiritual disciplines in their lives.

Readings will be from the following texts:

Peterson, Eugene H. *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005.

Ford, David. *The Shape of Living*. Glasgow: Fount Books, 1997.

Benner, David. *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2004.

Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Kensington PA: Whitaker House, 1982.

#### COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. PRE-COURSE READING (35%)

2. PARTICIPATION (20%)

3. RETREAT (20%)

4. PERSONAL ASSESSMENT (25%)

##### PRE-COURSE READING (35%)

The reading portion of this course will be done in three separate assignments and is due on the first day of class...

a. Text Reading –Write a one page response to each of the books indicating your personal reaction to author’s perspective and suggestions. (15%)

b. Reading For Your Own Growth – Read 300 pages from the attached Bibliography for your own personal refreshment growth and nurture. Choose a specific theme or read more broadly, tasting various elements of the spiritual journey as you go. Summarize your reading by cataloguing 15 – 20 short quotes that were of particular value to you. Then, choose one of the quotes you have catalogued and write a page indicating what its specific impact was for you. (10%)

c. Reading The Experiences of Others – Choose a writer from the attached Select Bibliography of Christian Devotional Classics that is of particular interest to you (you don’t have to read the particular work that is listed but you must read 200 pages of “first person material” from their journals, prayers and reflections on their own walk with God, as opposed to reading their biographies, sermons, theology or ministry philosophies) and write a short (2 page) reflective paper on how your walk with God would be different if you were to implement some of the lessons you’ve learned from seeing their walk with God. (10%)

##### PARTICIPATION (20%)

Students will be invited to participate in numerous class exercises and activities. The grade for participation will be “self-assigned” as much of the work will be private or in groups. Please submit a one page rationale with your self assigned grade.

##### RETREAT (20%)

Between the end of the week long course and the due date for subsequent assignments, all students will participate in a spiritual retreat and maintain a journal of their responses and exercises throughout the time set aside. It will be the responsibility of individual students to structure and plan their time within the framework and schedule that will be given in class. A summary paper of 3 -5 pages will be required as a way of evaluating the experience and cataloguing the outcomes of the retreat. The grade will be self assigned and submitted with the summary.

## PERSONAL ASSESSMENT (25%)

Create a 6-8 page reflection on the following:

1. Your recent journey: What condition did you find yourself in at the beginning of this week and how did you get there?
  2. The journey during this week: What sorts of things, attitudes, longings, resistances, etc. rose to the surface during our times together? Why do you think this happened?
  3. The journey from here: What practices, attitudes, relationships, etc. will you begin to cultivate over the next years to deepen your journey in God? How will you do this?
- Feel free to be creative in your presentation but don't ignore the need for careful reflection.

## Spiritual Formation for Ministry BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Boyer, Ernest, Jr. *A Way in the World: Family Life as Spiritual Discipline*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1984.
- Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1977.
- Crabb, Larry. *Finding God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1993.
- de Caussade, Jean-Pierre. *Abandonment to Divine Providence*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1975.
- DelBene, Ron, and Mary and Herb Montgomery. *The Hunger of the Heart: A Call to Spiritual Growth*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1992.
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. rev ed. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Freedom of Simplicity*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1981.
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- Guyon, Madame Jeanne. *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ*. Goleta, California: Christian Books, 1975.
- Houston, James M. *The Transforming Friendship: A Guide to Prayer*. Lion Books, 1988.
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Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry*. New York: Seabury Press, 1981.

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Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1988.

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#### **Prayer and Meditation:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

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Bloom, Anthony. *Living Prayer*. Springfield, IL: Templegate Publishers, 1966.

Carty, James W. *Communication with God*. Nashville : The Upper Room, 1964.

DeBlassie, Paul. *Deep Prayer: Healing for the Hurting Soul*. New York: Crossroad, 1990.

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Houston, James. *The Transforming Friendship: A Guide to Prayer*. Oxford: Lion Publishing, 1988.

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Shannon, William H. *Seeking the Face of God*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1988.

Von Balthasar, Hans Urs. *Prayer*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986.

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**Fasting:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

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Ryan, Thomas. *Disciplines for Christian Living*. New York: Paulist Press, 1993.

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**Simplicity, Poverty and Wealth:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

Beisner, Calvin E. *Prosperity and Poverty: The Compassionate Use of Resource in a World of Scarcity*. Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1988.

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Vanier, Jean. *Community and Growth*. New York: Paulist Press, 1989.

**Silence and Solitude:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

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**Submission:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

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**Service:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

Foster, Richard J. *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Christian Reflections on Money, Sex, and Power*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1985.

**Confession:** (see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

**Worship and Adoration:** (see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

**Guidance and Spiritual Direction:** (also see above, “Books on a range of Christian disciplines”)

Jones, Timothy K. *Mentor and Friend: Building Friendships that Point to God*. Oxford: Lion Publishing, 1991.

Sellner, Edward C. *Mentoring: The Ministry of Spiritual Kinship*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1990.

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## **A Select Bibliography of Christian Devotional Classics**

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