

## Summer Session 2015

# WYP2252HS - Spiritual Formation for Ministry

Revd Dr Calum Macfarlane  
Email: [cmacfarlane@briercrest.ca](mailto:cmacfarlane@briercrest.ca)

### **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 culminating in a personal spiritual retreat. 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

### **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%)

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.

(Bibliography included on the next page)

**Spiritual Formation for Ministry**  
**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Spiritual life and growth in general:**

- Blackaby, Henry T. *Experiencing God*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1994.
- 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Christian Reflections on Money Sex and Power*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1983.
- 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Heart's Desire: A Guide to Personal Fulfillment*. Oxford: Lion Publishing, 1992.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *In Search of Happiness: A Guide to Personal Contentment*. Oxford: Lion Publishing, 1990.
- Jones, Cheslyn, Geoffrey Wainwright, and Edward Yarnold, eds. *The Study of Spirituality*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986.
- Leech, Kenneth. *Experiencing God: Theology as Spirituality*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1985.
- Lewis, C.S. *The Screwtape Letters: Screwtape Proposes a Toast*. New York: Macmillan, 1961.
- Macy, Howard, R. *Rhythms of the Inner Life: Yearning for Closeness With God*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1988.
- McNeill, Donald P., Douglas A. Morrison, and Henri J. M. Nouwen. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1983.
- Merton, Thomas. *Contemplative Prayer*. Garden City, NY: Image Books, 1969.
- Murray, Andrew. *Abide in Christ*. New York: Grosset & Dunlap. n.d.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Absolute Surrender*. Chicago: Moody Press, n.d.
- Nee, Watchman. *The Normal Christian Life*. London: Victory Press, 1961.
- Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry*. New York: Seabury Press, 1981.
- Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*. Portland: Multnomah Press, 1986.
- Schaeffer, Francis, A. *True Spirituality*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1971.

Steindl-Rast, David. *Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer: An Approach To Life in Fullness*. New York: Paulist Press, 1984.

Whittier, John G. ed. *The Journal of John Woolman*. London: Headley Brothers, 1900.

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

**Books on a range of Christian disciplines:**

Bondi, Roberta C. *To pray and to love: Conversations on Prayer with the Early Church*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1988.

Merton, Thomas. *The Wisdom of the Desert*. New York: New Directions Books, 1960.

Rumford, Douglas J. *Soul Shaping: Taking Care of Your Spiritual Life*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1996.

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

Thomas, Gary. *Seeking the Face of God*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1994.

Van de Weyer, Robert. *The Way of Holiness: A Guide to Living with Spiritual Discipline*. London: Fount Paperbacks (HarperCollins), 1992.

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

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

Bloesch, Donald G. *The Struggle of Prayer*. Colorado Springs: Helmers & Howard, 1988.

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.

Delffs, Dudley J. *The Prayer Centered Life: Living in Conversation with the Fathers*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

Foster, Richard. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1992.

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

Lord, Peter. *Hearing God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988.

Martin, Ralph. *Hungry for God : Practical Help in Personal Prayer*. London: Collins, 1975.

Murray, Andrew. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Chicago: M.A. Donohue, n.d.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Answering God: the Psalms as tools for prayer*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1989.

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

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

Wangerin Jr., Walter. *Whole Prayer: Speaking and Listening to God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998.

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

Beall, James Lee. *The Adventure of Fasting: A Practical Guide*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1974.

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

Wallis, Arthur. *God's Chosen Fast: A Spiritual and Practical Guide to Fasting*. London: Victory Press, 1968.

**Study:** (also see above, "Books on a range of Christian disciplines")

Casey, Michael. *Sacred Reading: The Ancient Art of 'Lectio Divina'*. Liguori, MS: Triumph Books, 1995

Fee, Gordon, and Douglas Stuart,. *How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1982.

Sterrett, T. Norton. *How to Understand Your Bible*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1974.

Vos, Howard F. *Effective Bible Study: A Guide to Sixteen Methods*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1956.

Ward, Oletta. *The Joy of Discovery in Bible Study*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1975.

**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.

Foster, Richard J. *Freedom of Simplicity*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1981.

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

Gish, Arthur G. *Beyond the Rat Race*. Kitchener, ON: Herald Press, 1973.

Sider, Ronald J., ed. *Lifestyle in the Eighties: An Evangelical Commitment to Simple Lifestyle*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1982.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Scandal of the Evangelical Conscience*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.

Stott, John. *Decisive Issues Facing Christians Today*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell Co., 1990.

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

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

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

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *The Way of the Heart*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1981.

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

Foster, Richard J. *Freedom of Simplicity*. San Francisco: HarperCollins Publishers, 1981.

**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.

Willard, Dallas. *In Search of Guidance*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1983.

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

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

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

Aelred of Rievaulx. *On Spiritual Friendship*. Translated by Mary E. Laker, Cistercian fathers Series vol. 5. Washington D. C.: Cistercian Publications, 1974.

Andrewes, Lancelot. *Selected Writings*. ed. by P. E. Hewison. Manchester: Carcanet Books, 1995.

Augustine. *Confessions*. Translated by R.S. Pine-Coffin. New York: Penguin Books, 1961.

Baxter, Richard. *The Saint's Everlasting Rest*. The Ancient and Modern Library of Theological Literature. London: Griffith, Farran, Okeden, and Welsh, 1887.

Bernard of Clairvaux. *Selected Works*. Translated by G.R. Evans. New York: Paulist Press, 1987.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York: Harper and Bros., 1954.

Calvin, John. *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. ed by Tony Lane and Hilary Osborne. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1987.

Cassian, John. *The Institutes*. New York: Newman Press, 2000.

Catherine of Siena. *The Dialogue*. Translated by Suzanne Noffke, O.P. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.

John of the Cross. *The Dark Night of the Soul*. Translated by E. Allison Peers. New York: Image Books, 1959.

Julian of Norwich. *Showings*. Translation by Edmund Colledge and James Walsh. New York: Paulist Press, 1978.

Keble, John. *The Christian Year and Other Poems*. London: Society of SS Peter and Paul, 1975.

Kelly, Thomas R. *A Testament of Devotion*. New York: Harper and Row, 1941.

Thomas a Kempis. *The Imitation of Christ*. Translated by Leo Sherley-Price. New York: Penguin Books, 1978.

Law, William. *A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life*. London: J.M. Dent, 1906.

Brother Lawrence. *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Translated by John Delaney. New York: Image Books, 1977.

Luther, Martin. *Martin Luther: Selections from his Writings*. ed. by John Dillenberger. New York: Anchor Books, 1961.

Pascal, Blaise. *Pensees*. Translated by F.W. Trotter. Introduction by T.S. Eliot. New York: Dutton, 1958.

Spener, Philip Jacob. *Pia Desideria*. Translated by Theodore G. Tappert. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1964.

Symeon the New Theologian. *The Discourses*. Translated by C.J. deCatanzaro. New York: Paulist Press, 1980.

Taylor, Jeremy. *The Whole Works*. ed by Reginald Heber. London: Longman, Brown, Green and Longman, 1850.

Teresa of Avila. *The Interior Castle*. Translated by E. Allison Peers. New York: Image Books, 1961.

Traherne, Thomas. *Centuries of Meditation*. ed. by H.M. Margoliouth. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1958.

Ward, Benedicta, ed. *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*. Oxford: Mowbrays, 1975.

Wesley, John. *Selections from the Journal*. ed. by Hugh Martin. London: S.C.M. Press, 1955.

William of St. Thierry. *The Works of William of St. Thierry. Volume One: On Contemplating God. Prayer. Meditations*. Translated by Sister Penelope. Cistercian fathers series vol. 3. Spencer, Mass.: Cistercian Publications, 1971.

Woolman, John. *The Journal of John Woolman*. The John Greenleaf Whittier Edition text. New Jersey: Citadel Press, 1972.