

DM 961 — ORGANIZING FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Ashland Theological Seminary

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I. Course Description

To deepen and cultivate participant's knowledge of spiritual renewal theologically, historically and to practically equip them to experience, lead, prepare and organize the local church for renewal.

II. Course Objectives

- ! To encourage personal examination, spiritual reflection and to deepen the spiritual journey of the pastoral leader
- ! To review the biblical, theological and historical models and means of renewal of the church
- ! To exegete critical biblical passages on renewal
- ! To gain perspective on a theological framework and world view to examine revival and renewal movements
- ! To review current literature, spiritual renewal movements and world wide awakening
- ! To acquire new skills as both a spiritual and strategic leaders within the organizational parameters of local church ministry
- ! To acquire new resources, tools and strategies for congregational renewal
- ! To rekindle hope that change is possible within the local church

III. Purpose / Focus

Why we are teaching this course: This class will explore these areas and answer these questions: How persons change and what prevents it; how churches develop and behave; how leaders learn, grow, and lead. The class is aimed at applying these lessons of personal change, church culture and leadership competency to your personal ministry.

What we will accomplish in this class: Through the week, you will be exploring five questions:

- A. Can we really organize spiritual renewal? Or, is our task to establish a

spiritual atmosphere creating the opportunity for spiritual renewal to occur?

B. Is spiritual renewal a mass movement? Can spiritual renewal be found in smaller settings / individual settings? Is there more spiritual renewal happening on an ongoing basis than we recognize? Should we be looking for a world wide or even a nation wide renewal?

C. Where am I in my personal spiritual journey with the Lord Jesus Christ? In what area of my spiritual journey am I in need of personal renewal? How have I positioned myself to grow in my relationship with God and move forward on my spiritual journey?

D. What would it take for my church / ministry to position itself to experience spiritual renewal? Like an archeological dig, you will work through layers of visible behaviour, to stated reasoning, into the realm of forgotten assumptions in search of the spiritual nature of your church / ministry. You will develop a strategy for opening the church / ministry to spiritual renewal.

E. What do I need to be / to do as a leader to position myself to guide the church / ministry in spiritual renewal? You will look at skills, knowledge, self understanding, and your deepest motives as they express your calling. You will develop a strategy for increasing your competence in leading toward spiritual renewal.

IV. How the Class is set up:

Class format will include large and small groups, lecture, worship and other formational experiences. Class hours will be as follows:

Monday	1:00 - 5:00
Tuesday	8:30 - 12:00 and 1:30 - 5:30
Wednesday	8:30 -12:00 and 1:30 - 5:30 and 7:00 - 8:30
Thursday	8:30 - 12:00 and 1:30 - 5:30

V. What the time / allocation is for this class:

It is expected that the student will devote 150 hours total to this course. A suggested breakdown of these hours is: 30 hours in the classroom, 70 hours of reading, (required texts and collateral reading), and 50 hours of writing.

VI. Required Texts

Claiborne, Shane. 2006. *The irresistible revolution: Living as an ordinary radical*. Zondervan. ISBN: 0310266300 (paperback)

A graduate of Eastern University, studied sociology and youth ministry. Did

some graduate work at Princeton Seminary, but took a leave of absence. Now is a part of The Alternative Seminary in Philadelphia.

Boa, Kenneth. 2001. *Conformed to his image: Biblical and practical approaches to spiritual formation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN: 031023848X

A textbook that offers a comprehensive, balanced, and applicable approach to what it really means to know Christ by presenting a variety of pathways in the spiritual life and showing how each of these pathways can contribute to the dynamic process of spiritual growth. A journey of Spiritual Formation.

Lovelace, Richard F. 1979. *Dynamics of spiritual life: An evangelical theology of renewal*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press. ISBN: 087784626X (paperback)

A church historians perspective on a theology of renewal.

Strom, Mark. 2000. *Reframing Paul: Conversations in Grace and Community*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press. ISBN: 0830815708 (paperback)

This resource will help us to see the several cultural and theological legacies that stand in the way of deep renewal. Strom is an Australian.

The Rutba House, ed. 2005. *Schools for conversion: 12 marks of a new monasticism*. Cascade Books, Eugene, OR. ISBN: 1597520551 (paperback)

The text will challenge us to discover that God generates renewal in a variety of through the Holy Spirit.

Wright, Nigel Goring. 2003. *A theology of the dark side: Putting the power of evil in its place*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press. ISBN: 08830827897 (paperback)

This resource will take us into the opposition to spiritual renewal. We need to have understanding about the enemy who is totally opposed to any kind of renewing work from the Trinity.

Yaconelli, Michael. 2002. *Messy spirituality: God's annoying love for imperfect people*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN: 0310235332

A pastor, a minister to students, founder of Youth Specialities, and former editor of the Door desired for young people to be renewed spiritually.

VII. What you are expected to do before and in the class and after:

Read all the texts **BEFORE** coming to class: There will not be time to read them after your arrival, and in-class our discussions and projects will necessitate your having already done the reading.

You will do a reflection paper for **each** text: The reflection paper should be typed, double-spaced, use correct spelling and grammar and should be no more than four pages for each text. In the paper you should note your insights, questions and responses to what you are reading, such as the main themes of the author, agreement and disagreement and your personal response for application. **In other words, I desire for you to interact with the material. I am not expecting book reports please.** These papers will be turned in on Monday the 4th, the first day of class. They will comprise 35% of your grade.

After the class is over: Complete a strategic plan for Spiritual Renewal for your church ministry: Based on your reading, in-class exploration, reflection, and subsequent research you will write a 20-25 page paper, outlining a strategic plan for spiritual renewal of your church or ministry.

The paper should include:

Research — Conclusions and convictions from scripture

Reflection — Theological and historical

References — 3 historical models and 3 contemporary models

Reality — Conclusions for personal and pastoral applications

Resources — Compile a selected bibliography

The nature of the project will be chosen during the week of class and must be approved by the professor, in writing. The paper is to be similar in structure to your eventual D. Min. Proposal. Specific details and format for the written portion of this project will be clarified in class.

Expectations for the writing assignment:

1. The paper must use inclusive language about people and align in form with the seminary's D. Min. Program guidelines (Turabian 6th edition, parenthetical style).
2. The paper must be based on assigned reading for the course but go beyond it; research is important to this level of study.
3. You are welcome to include personal experience and your context of ministry.

VIII. Evaluation and Grade Components

1. Reflection Papers are due Monday, February 4, 2007 35%
2. Project papers (the Strategic Plan) are due on or before Monday, April 14, 2007 65%

IX. Ashland Theological Seminary Integrity Policy:

ATS seeks to model servant leadership derived from biblical standards of honesty and integrity. We desire to encourage, develop, and sustain men and women of character who will exemplify these biblical qualities in their ministry to the church and the world. As members of the seminary community, students are expected to hold themselves to the highest standards of academic, personal, and social integrity. All students, therefore, are expected to abide by the academic integrity standards outlined in the Student Handbook.

X. Students with disabilities:

For students who have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let the professor know early in the quarter (preferably the first week) so that your learning needs can be appropriately met. In order to receive accommodations, documentation concerning your disability must be on file with Classroom Support Services, 105 Amstutz Hall, Ashland University, 419-289-5953. Please contact them with any questions you may have.

XI. Grading Scale:*A = 97-100; A - = 92-96; B + = 89-91; B = 86-88; B - = 83-85; C+ = 80-82; C = 77-79; C - = 74-76; D + = 71-73; D = 68-70; D - = 65-67; F = below 65

XII. Attendance:

Attendance at all classes sessions is expected unless the professor has been notified in advance. The Student handbook requires that "any student missing the equivalent of six class hours or more will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade, or withdraw from the class, at the discretion of the instructor."

XIII. Deadlines:

Graduate students are expected to anticipate the demands of school, work, ministry, and family and plan accordingly so as to avoid undue stress and delay in completing assignments in a timely manner. Completed assignments are to be delivered to the instructor by the dates specified. Work submitted after the date due may be assigned a grade of no higher than B; work submitted more than one week after the date due may be assigned a grade no higher than C.

One: *Messy spirituality*
Who needs Renewal?

Two: *Conformed to his image*
Where does Renewal begin?

Three: *Dynamics of spiritual life*
How is Renewal experienced?

Four: *The irresistible revolution*
How can Renewal be experienced?

Five: *Reframing Paul*
What can Renewal overcome, and
then become (Grace - Community)

Six: *Schools for conversions: 12 marks of a new monasticism*
Who is responsible for Renewal?

Seven: *A Theology of the dark side*
Who is the enemy of Renewal?