I. Course Description

The emphasis of this course is Dallas Willard’s understanding of the presently available Kingdom of God as a reality, which is always connected to discipleship. Students will explore spiritual formation as a discipline in which the human personality is integrated in the context of the present Kingdom of God. Students’ practical apprenticeship and resulting likeness to Jesus will be explored.

Students find that it is very advisable to begin this course’s reading well before the first day of the semester. Reading begun on August 1 (or earlier) and continued, will make the October course discussions much easier. The advantage of this system is that papers are also completed early and free up December for the holiday!

II. Student Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:
1. Integrate biblical, theological, and historical reflection within the practice of ministry.
2. Apply relevant practices of ministry.
3. Demonstrate social science research, assessment, and interpretation within the context of ministry.
4. Engage in expression of fundamental commitments related to self-care and personal growth necessary to ministry.

III. Course Requirements

A. Textbooks and Other Reading

Required Reading in order of reading.

Required to Read #1-3 before class.
Read #4 following class.


Articles in order of reading. These are not read before the class meeting in October, unless you so desire. If these links fail, search for the articles on line or at [www.dwillard.org](http://www.dwillard.org).

Willard, Dallas. Living in the Vision of God.


B. Attendance
According to the student handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected unless the professor has been notified in advance. Any student missing the equivalent of 6 clock hours for a 3 hour course or 20% of a course, will be required to do additional work, receive a lower grade or withdraw from the class; this is at the discretion of the professor.

C. Assignments/Assessment
Before First October Class Session
- Read all of the first three required books within the assigned reading dates (see below). Reading for this course begins before the semester start date of Aug 24. Take Reading Notes in a computer document and submit the reading notes on the dates given below. Follow Appendix 1 for required content of Reading Notes for each of the four required books in this class.
- Reading Dates for The Divine Conspiracy: August 1-September 4.
  - Email Sharon (or teaching assistant) no later than Thursday, August 20 with a progress report on your reading and reading notes.
  - The Divine Conspiracy Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm, Friday September 4, 2014, Submit Reading Notes as email attachment to Sharon.Rowland87@gmail.com
  - As a rough rule of thumb, in order to do this book justice, your reading notes will likely and easily exceed 14 pages.

- Reading Dates for Renovation of the Heart: September 6-19.
  - Email Sharon (or teaching assistant) no later than Thursday, September 10 with a progress report on your reading and reading notes.
  - Renovation of the Heart Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm, Friday, September 18, 2014. Submit as email attachment to Sharon.Rowland87@gmail.com

- Reading Dates for Spirit of the Disciplines September 20- October 2.
  - Email me no later than Thursday, September 25 with a progress report on your reading and reading notes.
During Class Session

- Participate in Socratic style class, in small groups and lectures, having read the books before class and completed Reading Logs for each of the first three required books.
- Bring printed copies of your reading logs to class. Involvement in each class via interaction through questions, sharing, and listening is required of all students.
- Why is the reading load heavy at the beginning of this course? Dallas Willard’s books are insightful and often turn out to be game changers for many. This is not to say they are easy reading. The effort you invest to read them prayerfully and diligently will pay dividends. We will further unpack the teachings while together.
- The time together will be oriented toward helping students develop a lived theology of life in the Kingdom of God.
- Due to the heavy reading load, time will be offered in class for preparing sections of the Final Seminar Paper.

Following Class Session

- Reading Dates for Knowing Christ Today: October 9-29.
  - Knowing Christ Today Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm, Friday, October 30, 2015. Submit as email attachment to Sharon.Rowland87@gmail.com

- Complete the Required Spiritual Exercises Journal and paper October 9- November 5. Due on or before 5pm on Friday Nov 6. Dates for this will be scheduled during the October classes. Submit as email attachment to Sharon.Rowland87@gmail.com

- Seminar Synthesis Paper: 12-13 pages. Due on or before 12/4 at 5pm. Submit as email attachment to Sharon.Rowland87@gmail.com This is to be written in conformity with the DMin Writing Handbook. The subject of this paper is to articulate a lived theology from the readings of the presently available Kingdom of God. A rubric will be given to students.

D. Calculation of Grade and Connection of Learning Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments and Assessments</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meaningful Class Participation based on reading and understanding the Required Books</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Logs – four</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required Spiritual Exercises Journal and Paper</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Synthesis Paper</td>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IV. Tentative Course Schedule

This class meets on the Ashland campus October 5-8, 2015. The hours of class sessions are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day #</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Lecture/Topic – Reading assigned above</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Monday October 5, 12-6pm</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The Divine Conspiracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tuesday, October 6, 8am-5pm</td>
<td>The Divine Conspiracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dinner as a group, TBA</td>
<td>Renovation of the Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 7, 8am-6pm</td>
<td>Renovation of the Heart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Spirit of the Disciplines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Thursday, October 8, 8am-1pm</td>
<td>Spirit of the Disciplines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

V. Recommendations for Life Long Learning

The writings of Dallas Willard can be read over and over for years to come. They are not new teachings to Christianity, just currently missing. Read the old masters and early church mothers and fathers to confirm this. The depth of his teachings have breathed new life into many Christian leaders today who have followed this pattern. Make it your objective to live in personal intimacy with Jesus.

Other Course Instructions
All assignments are to be Pages or Word documents. Submit as email attachments to Sharon.rowland87@gmail.com

When saving assignments always include in the saved title your last name, first name, and assignment name. “Save As” Example: Rowland, Sharon. Divine Conspiracy Reading Notes, 9947.

Each late assignment will be reduced by 10% for any part of every 24 hour period past the due date. Let the professor know the expected delay.

The preferred communication method with the professor is Email. Replies will typically be made Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5pm. Expect a response within 48 hours, usually sooner. Messages with more urgency may be red-flagged and/or call Dr. Rowland at 440.487.7931, Monday-Friday, 9 am to 5pm. Sharon.rowland87@gmail.com

VI. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy
Ashland Theological Seminary 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.
B. Academic Support Services
As a Doctor of Ministry student, there is not a writing center available; however, as you begin your writing process whether papers for a class, proposal, or final document, you may hire an editor that will assist in editing and Turabian style concerns. Contact Dr. Matt Bevere if you are in need of an editor and he can give you further information.

C. Students with Disabilities
Ashland University makes every effort to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students who have a specific physical, psychiatric or learning disability and require accommodations are encouraged to inform their instructors of their needs early in the semester so that learning needs can be appropriately met. It is the student’s responsibility to document the disability with Disability Services in The Center for Academic Support on the 7th floor of the Ashland University Library, (419) 289-5904.

D. ATS Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>Superior achievement of course objectives, diligence and originality, high degree of freedom from error, outstanding evidence of ability to utilize course knowledge, initiative expressed in preparing and completing assignments, positive contributions verbalized in class.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-96</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>89-91</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86-88</td>
<td>Good work submitted, commendable achievement of course objectives, some aspects of the course met with excellence, substantial evidence of ability to utilize course material, positive contributions verbalized in class, consistency and thoroughness of work completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>74-76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>71-73</td>
<td>Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>65-67</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 65</td>
<td>Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VII. Selected Bibliography and References for further study and ministry

Benner, David. 2010. Opening to God: Lectio Divina and life as prayer. Downers Grove: IVP.


Conversations Journal.


Harben, Tim. https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HCFI_ver_5. Contact: Timothy.harben@gatrans.com


RENOVARÉ. http://www.renovare.org/


Willard, Dallas, and John Ortberg. 2010. The divine conspiracy: Jesus’ master class for life. DVD. Directed by


**VIII. APPENDIX 1**

**READING NOTES**

Word Processing Document

The Reading Notes are *critical* for this class. They will help you with your paper, help you interact in class, and help you when you leave this class and use the material in your ministry. It goes without saying that you must read the whole book.

*A regular rhythm of daily, prayerful reading and note taking*, beginning on day one of this course, will pay huge dividends in class and in the paper. Those who read intently and daily, summarizing as you go, will likely find that they can complete a quality synthesis paper significantly early.

**BOOK TITLE**

- State what percentage of the assigned reading you have read, noting any pages you did not read.

**AUTHOR**

**Take notes under each CHAPTER TITLE. State each title.**

- Take notes, chapter by chapter, on the assigned reading.
- Take notes in a manner that will be most helpful for future teaching and make your access to the material easy.
- Read for what the author is attempting to communicate. Don’t just lift quotes.
- Include at least 15 quotes from each chapter, taken evenly from throughout each chapter.
- Parenthetically reference page number with each quote. Ex: (50) for page 50. Page numbers will help you in referencing for the final synthesis paper.
- Seek to understand the main idea of each chapter. State in your own words, each chapter’s main idea in one–two paragraphs.
- Use a method of notation for ideas you need to further explore for full understanding.

Submit Reading Logs to Sharon.rowland87@gmail.com

Each Reading Log is submitted as a word or pages document on the following due dates:

1. *The Divine Conspiracy* Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm, Friday, September 4, 2015
2. *Renovation of the Heart* Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm Friday, September 18, 2015
3. *Spirit of the Disciplines* Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm Friday, October 2 20, 2015
4. *Knowing Christ Today* Reading Notes are due on or before 5pm Friday, October 30, 2015