SPF 5542 (Detroit)
Introduction to Spiritual Formation II: Prayer
Ashland Theological Seminary
Spring Semester 2016 Detroit Campus
Monday Evenings 6:00pm to 9:00 pm
January 11, 2016 through March 28, 2016

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Introduction to Spiritual Formation (4 hours)
This course introduces students to the essential dynamics of spiritual formation in its individual and corporate dimensions. It invites students to learn about and practice a variety of classical spiritual disciplines, with a special focus on prayer, for the purpose of formation in Christlikeness in both personal and social contexts. This course is 4 hours with two parts of 2 hours each – SPF5541 Spiritual Formation I: Spiritual Disciplines, and SPF 5542: Spiritual Formation II: Prayer

SPF 5542: Spiritual Formation II: Prayer (2 hours)
This course introduces students to the varieties of prayer in the Christian tradition. It focuses on the role of prayer in the formation of believers in the image of Christ for the sake of the church and the world. Students will practice a variety of individual and corporate prayer forms for personal and ministry formation.

This course is two hours of credit and meets weekly with no hybrid online component. This course is offered on a grade or pass/fail basis. You must contact the Office of the Registrar within the first week of class to communicate your choice.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this course, students will be able to:
1. Reflect theologically upon the prayers of the Bible.

2. Explore the varieties of prayer throughout Christian tradition.

3. Not assessed in this course.

4. Integrate theological and ethical reflection with the practice of prayer in students' own ministry context.

5. Not assessed in this course.

6. Practice a variety of prayer forms for both personal and ministry formation.
III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Textbooks and Other Materials
Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press. ISBN 0830833544

Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press. ISBN 0830835695

Holy Bible, any version. We will be reading through the Book of Psalms during this class.

The books listed above are required along with one Student’s Choice selection (see below)—
you must choose one of the following books (see the instructor for more suggestions):


Please Note: The ATS Book store will not stock the Student’s Choice books, so you will need to
find another source (e.g., Amazon, or a bookstore that will order a book for you).

B. Attendance
According to the Student Handbook, attendance at all class sessions is expected unless the
professor has been notified in advance and has approved the absence. Unexcused absences can
result in a loss of class participation points. Students should be on time and should stay through
the duration of all classes. Any student missing more than six class hours (2 weeks) will be
required to do additional work, receive a lower grade or withdraw from the class at the discretion
of the professor. Attendance is mandatory on February 15 and March 28.

C. Assignments/ Assessment of Student Learning
- Assignments must be turned in on time, as no late assignments will be accepted.
- All writing assignments must conform to the writing guidelines specified below.
- To receive a grade of “pass,” students must complete all assignments. A failure to submit
an assignment will result in a course grade of “fail.”
1) **Prayer: Current and Desired Conditions (20%)**
Write a paper following the writing guidelines below (minimum 4 pages, maximum 6 pages) that describes the current state of your prayer life and that articulates your desires for growth in your prayer life. More instructions will be provided in class. The paper is due January 25.

2) **Prayer and Practice (60%), 2 Papers 30% each**
Write two papers following the writing guidelines below (each paper should be a minimum 7 pages, maximum 9 pages). Each paper will be about a specific practice of prayer. The student will choose from a list of practices provided by the instructor. More Instructions will be given in class.

Paper 1 is due February 15 and Paper 2 is due March 28. These papers will be shared in class on the due dates. *No incompletes or extensions will be given.*

3) **Book Reflection Paper (10%)**
Write a paper following the guidelines below (minimum 2 pages, maximum 4 pages) that provides your reflections on the Student’s Choice book you chose. More instructions will be provided in class. The paper is due March 28.

**Specifications for All Writing Assignments**
- Please use inclusive language in the papers.
- Please follow the instructions provided for the paper in class. A failure to do will result in a loss of points.
- All writing assignments must use the proper punctuation and Turabian citations where appropriate (i.e., do not use another person’s ideas or words without the proper punctuation and/or citations).
- Please use Turabian parenthetical or footnote formatting style and follow the *ATS Writing Handbook* for all reference and formatting questions.
- All papers must contain a Reference Page listing the sources used.
- All writing assignments must be typed using 12-point, Times New Roman font, double spaced (no extra space between the paragraphs), with one inch margins on all sides.
- Content, spelling, grammar, citations, and proper formatting are all important elements of the papers. The student’s grade will be affected negatively by errors in these categories.
- Please provide the number of pages requested (minimum 4 pages means 4 full pages, not 3 and ¾ pages). A typical double-spaced page with one-inch margins contains 23 lines of Times New Roman text. Failure to meet length guidelines will also result in a loss of points.
- All papers must have headings for each section (more instructions given in class).
- All assignments are due on the due dates, no late assignments accepted.
- Please contact the instructor with any questions about the assignments.
- Please note that plagiarism (intentional or unintentional) will not be tolerated. It is the student’s responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism and to avoid it. Plagiarism (intentional or unintentional) will result in a failing grade for the assignment and may result in a failing grade for the class.
4) Class Participation Small Group Discussion of Work/Practice of Prayer (10%)
Each student will be expected to participate in class activities, class discussions, and in small group discussions and activities—all of which will occur during class time. If a student has an unexcused absence, the student will lose participation points.

The activities include the practice of prayer as well as discussions about prayer, practices in the student’s tradition, the text of scripture, and the spiritual masters of prayer. Participation in class discussion is critical and necessitates the timely completion of class reading assignments.

Students will also keep a prayer log (which will be turned in) that records the prayer requests (and the answers to the prayers) of the students in their small group.

D. Calculation of Grade: Grade of Pass/Fail Basis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Percent of Final Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Life Condition Paper</td>
<td>1, 2, 4</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Practice Paper 1</td>
<td>2, 4, 6</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer Practice Paper 2</td>
<td>2, 4, 6</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book Reflection Paper</td>
<td>2, 6</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation &amp; Log</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 6</td>
<td>Weekly &amp; March 28</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E. Other Instructions
- The instructor may change portions of this syllabus to fit the needs of the class.
- If you have any questions about the course or the assignments, please contact the instructor as soon as possible. Do not waste time wondering, ask!
- The instructor generally declines to accept late assignments. However, if, in the event of an unavoidable and extreme emergency (for which documentation is provided by the student), the instructor chooses to give grace and accept a late paper, the assignment or paper may not be eligible for an A and/or may be marked down one-half letter grade (below the awarded grade) for each day that it is late.
- There will be no extensions or incompletes granted except for extenuating circumstances (such as a death in the family). An extension or incomplete must be requested before the end of the course. In the case of an extension or incomplete, the instructor will specify the time period in which the student must complete the work. The student’s grade may be negatively affected due to the late submission of the work.
### IV. **Tentative Course Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day #</th>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Lecture/Topics</th>
<th>Readings/Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Introduction Moving Inward</td>
<td>Packer: Intro &amp; Ch. 1 Willard: Preface &amp; Ch. 1 Psalms 1 &amp; 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January 18</td>
<td></td>
<td>Holiday – No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>Moving Inward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 2 Willard: Ch. 2 Psalms 3-42 Conditions Paper Due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Moving Inward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 3 Willard: Ch. 3 Psalms 43-56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>February 8</td>
<td>Moving Inward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 4 Willard: Ch. 4 Psalms 57-70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>February 15</td>
<td>Moving Upward Paper Presentations Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 5 Willard: Ch. 5 Psalms 71-84 Practice Paper #1 due and shared in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>Moving Upward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 6 Willard: Ch. 6 Psalms 85-98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>Moving Upward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 7 Willard: Ch. 7 Psalms 99-112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Break – No Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Moving Outward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 8 Willard: Ch. 8 Psalms 113-126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Moving Outward Discussion Groups</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 9 Willard: Ch. 9 Psalms 127-140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Moving Outward Paper Presentations Discussion Groups Concluding Reflections</td>
<td>Packer: Ch. 10 &amp; Postscript Willard: Epilogue Psalms 141-150 Practice Paper #2 Due and Shared in Class Student’s Choice Reflection Paper Due Prayer Log Due</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

- Students would do well to continue exploring the discipline of prayer and practicing both personal and corporate prayer regularly
- Consider regularly taking a silent retreat during which you focus on prayer
- Consider inviting others to join you to meet regularly as a small group to pray
- Consider keeping a prayer journal and record prayer requests and answers and/or your personal prayers written to God
- Students are encouraged to read the books listed in the bibliography and to be aware of both classic and new books published about the discipline of prayer.
- Students are encouraged to check out the following organizations:
  o Renovare
    http://www.renovare.us/
  o Biola: Institute for Spiritual Formation
    http://www.biola.edu/spiritualformation/
  o The Transforming Center
    http://www.thetransformingcenter.org/
- Students are encouraged to check out the following journals:
  o Conversations Journal
    http://conversationsjournal.com/
  o Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care
    http://journals.biola.edu/sfj/
  o Spiritual Life
    http://www.spiritual-life.org/
  o Weavings
    http://weavings.upperroom.org/
- Students are encouraged to check out the following website:
  o Pray-as-you-go.org

VI. Seminary Guidelines

A. ATS Academic Integrity Policy
Ashland Theological Seminary expects each student to uphold the Seminary’s core value of academic excellence by contributing to an environment that is both challenging and supportive. In such an environment a student will neither seek nor offer improper assistance. All students have an obligation to be forthright in their academic endeavors and to respect ethical standards. The work that one submits for academic evaluation must be one’s own, unless an instructor expressly permits certain types of collaboration. Academic integrity requires that each student will use one’s own capabilities to achieve one’s fullest potential and will neither offer nor accept aid that is not in keeping with regularly accepted standards of academic integrity. Failure to conform to this conduct shall constitute academic dishonesty. The full Academic Integrity Policy statement may be found in the Student Handbook.

B. Academic Support Services
If you need assistance with writing projects for your coursework, contact the ATS Academic Support Center. The center provides free sessions with a peer consultant who can help you with all of your concerns about academic support including writing, critical thinking, documentation, reading skills, study
skills, test taking skills, time management. Contact the center if you have a question about how to complete your assignment, if you have documentation questions, or if you would like to have your paper evaluated for areas needing improvement. The ATS Academic Support Center can be reached at 419-289-5162 or by e-mail at atswc@ashland.edu.

C. Students with Disabilities
A student who has a specific physical, psychological or learning disability and requires accommodations is encouraged to inform the instructor during the first days of the semester so that learning needs can be appropriately met. It is the student’s responsibility to document the disability with Disability Services located in the Center for Academic Support, Library Seventh Floor, (419) 289-5904, ssalvo@ashland.edu prior to receiving accommodations. Ashland University makes every effort to comply with Sections 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Amendments to the Act (2008).

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></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>68-70</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 will be provided in class