

SPF 5542 AS (Ashland)
Introduction to Spiritual Formation II: Prayer
Ashland Theological Seminary
Summer Semester 2017 Ashland Campus
June 19-23, 2017
Monday-Friday 9 AM-Noon, 1-4 PM

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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 credit and meets this week with no hybrid online component. This course is graded unless the student exercises the pass/fail option at the time of registration.

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

Foster, Richard, J. 2003. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. New York: HarperCollins. ISBN 0060628464

Washington, J. M., ed. 1994. *Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans*. New York: HarperCollins. ISBN 0060926570 (2014).

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. 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.

C. Assignments/ Assessment of Student Learning

Prayer and Practice Paper (80%)

One 15 page, double-spaced paper on a particular practice of prayer of student's choice with reflection and integration into the student's ministry context and calling. Paper is due July 14, 2017. No incompletes or extensions will be given. Mail a hard copy to Dr. Watson at Ashland Theological Seminary, 910 Center Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805 by July 14, 2017.

Please use inclusive language in the papers. Use footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references to document your papers, following consistently the style you select as found in the *Ashland Theological Seminary Writing Handbook*.

Students will study and practice a particular prayer form within a particular Christian tradition, looking at the history, development, current practice or the way it has contributed to forming the tradition. Students will examine the prayer form, engaging in the literature of the tradition with outside research and sources. These papers will include both the practice of the prayer form and reflections with outside research and sources. Particular attention will be given to the integration into the student's ministry context.

Small Group Discussion of Work/Practice of Prayer (20%)

Discussion of prayer, practices in tradition, exploring the text of scripture, and engage the spiritual masters of prayer. Engagement in daily discussions is critical to continue

discussion with contributions about the readings completed.

D. Calculation of Grade: Pass/Fail Basis

<i>Assignments</i>	<i>Learning Outcomes</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>Percent of Final Grade</i>
Small Group Discussion	1,2,4,6	Daily	20%
Reflection Paper Due	1,2,4,6	July 14, 2017	80%

IV. Tentative Course Schedule

<i>Day #</i>	<i>Date(s)</i>	<i>Lecture/Topics</i>	<i>Readings/ Assignments</i>
Session 1	June 19 Monday Morning	Introduction Moving Inward: Transformation Prayer Discussion Groups	Foster, intro John 14-17 Foster, chs. 1-4 Washington, Parts I & II
Session 2	June 19 Monday Afternoon	Spiritual Formation & Prayer Discussion Groups	Foster, chs. 5-7
Session 3	June 20 Tuesday Morning	Moving Upward: Intimacy Discussion Groups	Foster, chs 8-10
Session 4	June 20 Tuesday Afternoon	Prayer of the Heart Discussion Groups	Foster, chs. 11-12 Washington, Parts III & IV
Session 5	June 21 Wednesday Morning	Contemplative Prayer Discussion Groups	Foster, chs. 13-14
Session 6	June 21 Wednesday Afternoon	Moving Outward Petitionary Prayer Discussion Groups	Foster, chs. 15-17
Session 7	June 22 Thursday Morning	Moving Outward: Authoritative and Healing Prayer Discussion Groups	Foster, chs. 18-20 Washington, Part V
Session 8	June 22 Thursday Afternoon	Radical Prayer Discussion Groups	Foster, ch. 21 Washington, Part VI

Sessions 9-10	June 23 Friday Morning and Afternoon	Concluding Reflections Small Groups Prayer Cells	
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V. Recommendations for Lifelong Learning

1. Consider a prayer retreat.
2. Participate in a small group for prayer.
3. Continue to read resources on prayer and particular traditions of prayer.

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. Seminary Writing Consultation Service

The Seminary Writing Consultation Service can help you brainstorm, draft, and revise your writing assignments in your graduate Seminary classes. Masters-qualified Consultants can advise you online or in person. E-mail your request for assistance to swc_group@ashland.edu. Include the following information: Your name, the course # & professor’s name, a brief description of the assignment, and your timeline. For more information, visit: <http://seminary.ashland.edu/services/student-services/seminary-writing-consultation-services>

C. Students with Disabilities

It is Ashland University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on a disability, please contact Disability Services at [419-289-5904](tel:419-289-5904), or send an email to dservices@ashland.edu. The Disability Services office and the course instructor will work together in order to establish accommodations and to meet your learning needs.

D. ATS Grading Scale

Grade	Percent	Description
A	97-100	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.
A-	92-96	
B+	89-91	
B	86-88	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.
B-	83-85	
C+	80-82	
C	77-79	Acceptable work completed, satisfactory achievement of course objectives, demonstrating at least some ability to utilize course knowledge, satisfactory class contribution.
C-	74-76	
D+	71-73	
D	68-70	Passing but minimal work, marginal achievement of course objectives, poor performance in comprehension of work submitted, inadequate class contributions.
D-	65-67	
F	Below 65	Unacceptable work resulting in failure to receive class credit, inadequacy of work submitted or of performance and attendance in class.

VII. Selected Bibliography or References

- Chambers, O. 1993. *Prayer: A Holy Occupation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Discovery House Publishers.
- Merton, T. 1971. *Contemplative Prayer*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday.
- Murray, A. 2002. *Teach Me to Pray*. Minneapolis: Bethany House.
- Nouwen, H. 1997. *Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco.
- _____. 1999. *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*. Wendy Greer, editor. New York: Crossroad Publishers.
- Steere, D. 2002. *Dimensions of Prayer: Cultivating a Relationship with God*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books.
- Teresa of Avila, Translated by E. Allison Peers. 1989. *The Interior Castle*. NY: Image Books.