



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400 • [www.nts.edu](http://www.nts.edu)

## Course SPF650 — *Ministry of Spiritual Direction* (3 credit hours) Master's Block Course @ Kansas City Campus Spring 2011

### Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available at [http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential\\_Information](http://support.nts.edu/index.php/Essential_Information). Additional technical support information can be found at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose and Master of Divinity Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and *Moodle* support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

All standard courses at NTS span a 14-week period from the beginning of coursework to the completion of coursework. **This course commences on Monday, January 31, 2011 and finishes on Monday, April 25, 2011\***, with class sessions held on Mondays, 1:30 – 4:30pm, in Room #301.

A course syllabus will sometimes go through more than one version, reflecting scheduling updates and/or the addition of detail as the course unfolds. The document footer indicates the version #. Students are responsible for the latest version of the syllabus which will be made available along with email notice in *Moodle*.

\* This class finishes one week earlier than the normal end-of-semester-date because Dr. Hardy will be leaving Kansas City April 28 to begin a sabbatical assignment at Africa Nazarene University.

### Instructor Information

Professor: Rev. Douglas S. Hardy, Ph.D.

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### Course Description, Narrative, & Rationale

The Ministry of Spiritual Direction is a seminar-style course designed to introduce students to the ministry of Christian spiritual guidance. Its central purposes are to provide a theological foundation for understanding classic and contemporary guidance practices and encourage intentional spiritual direction practice within current pastoral ministry contexts. It does *not*, in itself, provide adequate preparation or training for certified spiritual direction practice. The course satisfies hours in the Ministries of Formation domain of the MDiv program and can count toward the Certificate in Spiritual Formation.

*Individually*, students will be encouraged to pray and seek to live a holy life. These are indispensable foundations for any Christian spiritual direction work.

*In class*, students will be invited to practice contemplation, i.e., be attentive to and discerning about what unfolds in the community of learners. This posture is necessary for theological reflection to be formative spiritually and for spiritual reflection to be formative theologically.

*Outside of class*, students will be encouraged to continue the contemplative posture as they remain open to receiving spiritual guidance, and to offering spiritual guidance as a form of pastoral care, in service to the church and the world, for the sake of God’s larger purposes.

## Course Outcomes

This course focuses on the following objectives of the MDiv program at NTS:

*#1: The practice of the Christian disciplines of worship, prayer, contemplation, study and service within the community of the seminary and in and through specific congregations and the wider church.*

*#3: The development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the intellectual challenge of the literature of the Christian faith, by the critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity, and of the literature and practices of Christian spirituality, ethics and ministry.*

*#5: The cultivation of gifts for ministry into competent skills and practices in worship and preaching, teaching, and discipleship, care and counseling, evangelism and missions, administration and servant-leadership.*

It does so by providing students with the opportunity to:

1. Learn about the tradition of Christian spiritual direction as a distinctive formational & pastoral care practice. [Assignment #1a,1c,2a,2b,4a]
2. Experience receiving and giving spiritual guidance with an eye toward discerning the role of the practice in one’s personal formation & pastoral ministry. [Assignment #2c,3b,4b]
3. Develop skills for contemplating others & engaging them in conversation regarding spiritual matters while listening for and discerning the Spirit’s presence & work. [Assignment #3a,3b,3c, 3d]
4. Articulate a Christian theological foundation for the practice of spiritual guidance. [Assignment #1a,1b,1c, 4a,4b]

## Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

For students pursuing ordination in the Church of the Nazarene, this course contributes substantively to the fulfillment of the following Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC) Ability Statements found in the *Sourcebook on Ordination* (USA Edition— validated February 2006), <http://www.nazarenepastor.org/cms>:

Content	Ability Statements
CN20	Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry. [Assignment #1a,1b,1c,2b,3c,3d,4a,4b]
<b>Competency</b>	
CP12	Ability to express pastoral care and concern appropriately for individuals and families in crises, passages, and the normal routines of life [Assignment #3b,3c,3d]
CP13	Ability to offer spiritual counsel and to discern for referral counseling needs beyond the minister's ability [Assignment #3b,3c,3d]
CP14	Ability to apply the knowledge of basic helping skills gained from historic Christian and appropriate contemporary models [Assignment #3b,3c,3d,4b]
<b>Character</b>	<b>Ability Statements</b>
CH 7	Ability to locate, understand, & use the resources for individual & corporate spiritual formation. [Assignment #1a,2a,2b,2c,3a,4a,4b]

## Required Texts & Course Materials

Bakke, Jeanette A. *Holy Invitations: Exploring Spiritual Direction*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2000. ISBN: 9780801063275, 274 pages, List Price: \$20.00

Barry, William A. *Spiritual Direction and the Encounter With God: A Theological Enquiry (Revised Edition)*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist, 2004. ISBN: 9780809142941, 108 pages, List Price: \$12.95

Guenther, Margaret. *Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction*. Boston: Cowley, 1992. ISBN: 9781561010561, 146 pages, List Price: \$12.95

Jones, W. Paul. *The Art of Spiritual Direction: Giving and Receiving Spiritual Guidance*. Nashville: Upper Room, 2002. ISBN: 9780835809832, 287 pages, List Price: \$19.00

Rice, Howard. *The Pastor as Spiritual Guide*. Nashville: Upper Room, 1998. ISBN: 9780835808460, 192 pages, List Price: \$19.00

Total Pages: 1007      Total Cost: \$83.90

## Course Assignments & Requirements

- Read** the five (5) assigned textbooks in their entirety over the course of the semester and:
  - Participate in class discussion of Guenther (February 7), Barry (February 21), and Rice (April 25). [Course Outcome:1,4; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CH7]
  - Write a 3 pages (minimum) summary of Barry's argument for a Christian theological underpinning of spiritual direction. Due: February 21 by 9am. [Course Outcome:4; COSAC Outcome:CN20]
  - Write a "Compare & Contrast" Paper on Bakke & Jones. This 6 pages (minimum) essay will express your understanding of the important similarities and differences between these two authors' understanding of the ministry of spiritual direction. Areas to evaluate for each include: fundamental thesis, theological assumptions, intended audience, approach and style, ultimate vision of direction work, and techniques. Due: March 28 by 9am. [Course Outcome:1,4; COSAC Outcome:CN20]
- Interact with Spiritual Directors:**
  - Interview at least one a spiritual director in person *or* watch a minimum of 5 SDI Educational Videos at <http://www.sdiworld.org/resources/videos.html>. Write a Report according to the instructions in *Moodle*. Due: February 28. [Course Outcome:1; COSAC Outcome:CH7]
  - Read the Interview Reports of at least two of your classmates and post a Response in the Forum in which you (1) critically assess the similarities & differences between the two directors (do not respond to a classmate who interviewed the same director as you), and (2) pose a question for theological reflection that emerges from the Interview Reports. Due: March 7. [Course Outcome:1; COSAC Outcome:CH7]
  - Meet with a local spiritual director for your own spiritual direction. This can be the same person you interviewed or a different person. You must schedule & follow-through with a minimum of two (2) separate meetings over the course of the semester (*not* including an interview meeting for the above assignment) *OR* you may schedule a Directed Spiritual Retreat with a director that would involve a minimum of two overnights and two (2) separate meetings in that context. Following your final meeting, write & submit a brief Report according to the instructions in *Moodle*. Due: April 25. [Course Outcome:2; COSAC Outcome:CH7]
- Engage in Spiritual Conversation as a Spiritual Guide:**
  - Identify an aspect of your current ministry that holds potential for you to become more intentionally engaged as a spiritual guide to others. It may be interpersonal (e.g., an acquaintance relationship with a neighbor, a new Christian at church, or a youth you are mentoring), group-oriented (e.g., a Sunday School class, Bible study, or ministry team), or organizational (e.g., staff meetings, planning, or promotion). Submit a brief write-up of your initial analysis of the spiritual guidance potential in your current ministry context(s) according to the instructions in *Moodle*. Due: February 14 by 9am. [Course Outcome:3; COSAC Outcome:CH7]

- b. Utilizing the class as a supportive & accountable resource, practice a preliminary ministry of guidance through attentive listening and intentional direction of conversations, “trying on” the perspective of a spiritual director appropriate to your context. [Course Outcome:2,3; COSAC Outcome:CP12,CP13,CP14]
- c. Write up a Case Study of one specific interaction according to the instructions in *Moodle*, and present it in Class for the purpose of supervision. Due: One week prior to scheduled Class supervision session (see Class Schedule). [Course Outcome:3; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CP12,CP13,CP14]
- d. Post a statement in the *Moodle* Forum describing what you learned personally & professionally about spiritual direction from your Case Study Presentation. Respond to each of the classmates who shared the same presentation day as you, with a specific insight into their learning. Due: Initial post by Friday after scheduled Class supervision session (see Class Schedule); Responses by following Monday. [Course Outcome:3; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CP12,CP13,CP14]

**4. Personalize & Integrate Your Learning About Spiritual Direction:**

- a. Research a Topic in spiritual direction of particular interest or relevance to you and/or your ministry. Write a 12 pages (minimum) Paper, including bibliography, that explores the topic and consolidates the pertinent information from the literature on the topic.

OR

Read the novel *Glamorous Powers* by Susan Howatch (New York: Fawcett Crest, 1988) and write a 12 pages (minimum) Reaction Paper that critically reviews the author’s understanding of the theology and practice of spiritual direction. In addition to specific references to characters and events in the novel, integrate material from the course texts into your analysis. Due: April 18 [Course Outcome:1,4; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CH7]

- b. Write a 6 pages (minimum) Vocation Paper that articulates in detail *your* understanding of the theology and practice of spiritual direction, and develops a vision and plan for your personal involvement in this ministry beyond this course. Due: April 25 [Course Outcome:2,4; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CP14,CH7]

**Distribution of Student Learning Hours**

	<b>Total Hours</b>
Face-to-face Class Sessions	36
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	3
TOTAL READING	40
TOTAL WRITING	46
TOTAL OTHER ASSIGNMENTS & LEARNING ACTIVITIES	9
TOTAL EXAMS & QUIZZES	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>134</b>

**Method for Submitting Assignments**

This course requires internet access to NTS *Moodle* for instructional information about assignments and electronic assignment submission. Unless otherwise instructed, do not send assignments to the professors via email. Your electronic submissions will automatically be linked to the “Grades” area of *Moodle* to which you have access for viewing your grades. Contact [support@nts.edu](mailto:support@nts.edu) with technical questions or for assistance.

**Form and Style Expectations**

All formal written documents are to be carefully proof-read for correct spelling and grammar before submission; it is the responsibility of the student to ensure “clean” copy, even if it means securing assistance.

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language. Inclusive Language usage guidelines can be found at [http://www.wynkoopcenter.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=85](http://www.wynkoopcenter.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=85).

All research-based written documents are to utilize complete in-text source citation with accompanying bibliography or reference list, e.g., as found in Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, Revised by Wayne C. Booth, et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007). See <http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/manual/> for a Quick Guide.

## Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Grades for late assignments will be affected as follows: 5% reduction per day. No assignments received after April 25 will be graded.

## Class Attendance

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. More than one absence may be considered grounds for a reduced grade, unless otherwise negotiated with the professor. Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits.

## Course Grading

Attendance & Class Participation	10%	Case Study & Forum	20%
Readings' Papers	20%	Topic/Reaction Paper	20%
Interview & Forum	10%	Vocation Paper	10%
Meetings with Spiritual Director	10%		

Grade Standards:

"A" (90%) - EXCEPTIONAL WORK (surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives)

"B" (80%) - GOOD WORK (strong, significant achievement of course objectives)

"C" (70%) - ACCEPTABLE WORK (basic, essential achievement of course objectives)

"D" (60%) - MARGINAL WORK (inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives)

"F" (<60%) - UNACCEPTABLE WORK (failure to achieve course objectives)

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

## Course Calendar

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
January 31	Entering the Territory of Spiritual Direction	
February 7	Discuss <i>Holy Listening</i>	Read Guenther
February 14	Movie: <i>Groundhog Day</i> – The Importance of Concrete Experience	Read Barry; Context Analysis by 9am
February 21	Discuss <i>Spiritual Direction &amp; the Encounter with God</i>	Barry Summary Paper by 9am
February 28	Issues in Spiritual Direction	Read Bakke & Jones; Interview Report
March 7	Issues in Spiritual Direction	Read Bakke & Jones; Interview Forum responses
March 14	Movie: <i>Dead Man Walking</i> – The Interpersonal & Social Challenges of Spiritual Direction	Read Bakke & Jones
March 21	<i>No Classes – Reading &amp; Research</i>	
March 28	Spiritual Direction in the Wesleyan Tradition	Bakke & Jones Comparison Paper by 9am; Case Studies posted by Katie C., Sam K., Robert P., & Roland T.
April 4	Case Study Presentations & Supervision: Katie C., Sam K., Robert P., & Roland T.	Case Studies posted by Letiah F., Stephanie L., Katie R., & Jamie S. Forum posts by Katie C., Sam K., Robert P., & Roland T. by Friday, April 8
April 11	Case Study Presentations & Supervision: Letiah F., Stephanie L., Katie R., & Jamie S.	Read Rice; Case Studies posted by Kay H., Kevin L., & Danielle M. Response posts by Katie C., Sam K., Robert P., & Roland T. Forum posts by Letiah F., Stephanie L., Katie R., & Jamie S. by Friday, April 15
April 18	Case Study Presentations & Supervision: Kay H., Kevin L., & Danielle M.	Read Rice; Topic/Novel Paper Response posts by Letiah F., Stephanie L., Katie R., & Jamie S. Forum posts by Kay H., Kevin L., & Danielle M. by Friday, April 22
April 25	Discuss <i>The Pastor as Spiritual Guide</i>	Response posts by Kay H., Kevin L., & Danielle M. Spiritual Direction Meetings Report; Vocation Paper

## Bibliography

- Addison, Howard A. *Show Me Your Way: The Complete Guide to Exploring Interfaith Spiritual Direction*. Woodstock, VT: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2000.
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- Bence, Kathy. *Under Her Wings: Spiritual Guidance from Women Saints*. Nashville: Upper Room, 2001.
- Benner, David G. *Sacred Companions: The Gift of Spiritual Friendship & Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002.
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- Stinissen, Wilfrid. *The Gift of Spiritual Direction: On Spiritual Guidance and Care of the Soul*. Liguori, MO: Liguori, 1999. (translated from Swedish by Joseph B. Board)
- Vest, Norvene (Ed.). *Still Listening: New Horizons in Spiritual Direction*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2000.
- Vest, Norvene (Ed.). *Tending the Holy: Spiritual Direction Across Traditions*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2003.
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Issues of the journal *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction* are available at the NTS Library. An index of all articles published in the Journal can be found at [http://sdiworld.org/presence\\_journal.html](http://sdiworld.org/presence_journal.html)  
 A listing of all media reviewed in *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction* can be found at <http://sdiworld.org/amazon/media-reviews-in-presence.html>