



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131  
816-268-5400 • FAX 816-268-5500 • [www.nts.edu](http://www.nts.edu)

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## Master's Degree Semester Course Syllabus, v1 PTH500 *Personal & Spiritual Development of the Minister* Fall 2009 Tuesdays, 9:00am – 12:35pm Room 304

NOTE: 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 header indicates the version #. Students are responsible for the latest version of the syllabus which will be made available along with email notice on *Moodle*.

### Course Instructors

Rev. Judith A. Schwanz, Ph.D.  
[JASchwanz@nts.edu](mailto:JASchwanz@nts.edu) 816-268-5491  
Assistant: TBD

Rev. Douglas S. Hardy, Ph.D.  
[dshardy@nts.edu](mailto:dshardy@nts.edu) 816-268-5484  
Assistant: Jay Wilson  
[wilsonj45@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonj45@gmail.com)

### Course Description

This required first-year course in the MDiv program provides new students with an orientation to seminary education and ministerial credentialing from the perspectives of personal and spiritual formation. Through faculty instruction and consulting, the use of psychological and spiritual assessment tools, participation in group interaction, and reflective reading and written assignments, students will deepen their self-awareness and learn to develop a personal and professional growth plan that addresses their strengths and weaknesses. The assessment file established in this course will serve as the base for ongoing assessment of each MDiv student.  
*Credit:* 2 hours (students will also be billed a testing fee)

### Course Objectives

This course provides students with the opportunity to:

1. orient to the Seminary community and experience
2. increase in self-awareness, including one's calling, strengths and gifts, growing edges, possible ministry pitfalls, and learning styles
3. develop a personal *Rule of Life*—a personalized strategy for ongoing spiritual & professional formation
4. contribute to a *Professional Portfolio* which will form a foundation for determining readiness for participation in the MDiv Supervised Ministry Experience (SME) program, for future NTS assessment checkpoints such as Middler Assessment and Senior Integrative Seminar, and for communications with ecclesial officials regarding ministerial credentialing and/or employment. The contents of Portfolio will be accessible to the NTS faculty for use in the

ongoing “in-house” assessment process that is part of the MDiv program. Students will be given the opportunity to sign a waiver release for NTS to release the Portfolio information (all or in part) in response to requests from ecclesial authorities in reference to ministerial credentialing and/or employment.

In so doing, the course contributes substantively to the fulfillment of:

- The following Ability Statements found in the *Handbook for Christian Ministries*, Course of Study Advisory Committee-USA Clergy Development (September 2005), available at <http://www.nazarenpastor.org/ClergyEducation/LinkClick.aspx?link=Resources/USAHB.pdf&tabid=74>: CN20, CN23, Personal Growth Portfolio, CH6, CH7, CH8, CH9, CH10, CH11, CH12, CH13, and CH14
- Objective #4 of the M.Div. program at NTS: *The growth of mature self-awareness and self-understanding as flawed human beings, reconciled to God and to each other within the Christian community who are being transformed into the perfect likeness of Christ, filled with his Spirit, and gifted for the service of humanity.* (2008-2009 Catalog, available at <http://www.nts.edu/Websites/nts/Images/pdfs/nts-catalog/08%2009catalog.pdf>)

## Course Reading

### Required:

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Faith in Community*. New York: Harper & Row, 1954. [128 pp. ISBN: 9780060608521 List Price: \$13.99]

Oswald, Roy M. and Otto Kroeger. *Personality Type and Religious Leadership*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 1988. [178 pp. ISBN: 9781566990257 List Price: \$18.00]

Palmer, Helen. *The Enneagram in Love & Work: Understanding Your Intimate & Business Relationships*. HarperSanFrancisco, 1995. [432 pp. ISBN: 9780062507211 List Price: \$16.95]

Rolheiser, Ronald. *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*. New York: Doubleday, 1999. [208 pp. ISBN: 9780385494182 List Price: \$12.95]

Schwanz, Judith A. *Blessed Connections: Relationships That Sustain Vital Ministry*. Herndon, VA: Alban Institute, 2008. [200 pp. ISBN: 9781566993562 List Price \$17.00]

*StrengthsQuest* ID Code—ask for and purchase at NTS Campus Store (816-268-5555) [NTS Price: \$19.00]. Take test at <https://www.strengthsquest.com>

### Additional Recommended Reading (On library reserve):

Ackerman, John. *Finding Your Way: Personalized Practices for Spiritual Growth*. The Alban Institute, 1992, 2001.

Clifton, Donald O. and Edward “Chip” Anderson. *StrengthsQuest: Discover and Develop Your Strengths in Academics, Career and Beyond*. The Gallup Organization, 2001-2004.

Daniels, David and Virginia Price. *The Essential Enneagram: The Definitive Personality Test and Self-Discovery Guide*. HarperSanFrancisco, 2000.

## Course Assignments

**NOTE:** This course requires internet access to NTS *Moodle* for instructional information about assignments and electronic assignment submission. Do not send assignments to the professors via email. Your electronic submissions will automatically be linked to the “Grades” area of *Moodle*. All assignments are due on the dates indicated unless re-negotiated in advance with the professor. Late submissions will result in lower grades.

1. Attend and be attentive in each class session. Each class will include significant opportunity for individual self-reflection and group interaction. Each week you will be invited to think, to feel, and to do, i.e., to engage your critical faculties, your embodied memories and affect, and your social & cultural identities. Bring all of you to class and commit to participate. If you must, due to unforeseen circumstances, miss a session, alternative readings and/or a project may be required. Missing more than two class sessions may jeopardize a passing grade for the course. *Note:* An absence from the final class session (during exam week) will be considered as a missed exam, and require make-up work for the student to be eligible for a passing grade.
2. Attend the NTS Community Chapel service with the professors each Tuesday morning from 10:30 – 11:15am—this is required, not optional.
3. Participate weekly in your designated class small group.
4. Complete the *Psychological Assessment Package* at *one* of the Testing Sessions that will be held on Tuesday, September 15 at 1:30pm and 6:00pm. A summary of the results, interpreted by a psychologist, will be placed in your NTS *Professional Portfolio*.
5. Read all the assigned texts and submit the appropriate Reading Reports according to the Class Schedule below. All Reading Report Forms are accessible in *Moodle* and are to be submitted there electronically according to the due dates indicated.
6. Write a *Spiritual Autobiography* and complete the *Spiritual Practices Checklist* as a way to introduce yourself to the instructors, deepen your own understanding of God’s work in your life, and think about the role of spiritual disciplines in your Christian life. Paste the completed checklist into your autobiography document before submitting it (so that it is a single document). Instructions and the Checklist can be found in *Moodle*. The combined *Autobiography & Checklist* are to be submitted electronically by Tuesday, September 22. This document will remain confidential with the course professors.
7. Take the *StrengthsQuest* test online at <https://www.strengthsquest.com>, using the ID code # you purchased from the NTS Campus Store; and complete the self-scoring Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) provided in class. Bring to class on Tuesday, September 22: (a) a printout of the *StrengthsQuest* “Brief Theme Report” of your Top 5 strengths, (b) the completed MBTI booklet, and (c) the corresponding Student Information Sheet. These documents will be placed in your NTS *Professional Portfolio*.
8. Keep an *Assessment Journal* utilizing the instructions provided at the end of each chapter in Schwanz’s *Blessed Connections*, and submit copies of your entries according to the two (2) due dates in the Class Schedule below (October 13 & November 10) either electronically via *Moodle* or in hard copy (loose leaf pages or photocopies from your journal book—the writing must be legible).
9. Complete and electronically submit the *Spiritual Mentor Selection Form* and forward the instructions for the *Rule of Life* assignment to your spiritual mentor (and your spouse, if you are married) no later than Tuesday, October 13. Both documents can be found in *Moodle*.
10. Schedule a half-hour *Psychologist Interview* and meet with the psychologist who will provide you with individual feedback on the results of the Psychological Assessment Package. A summary of these results will be placed in your NTS *Professional Portfolio*. Scheduling

information will be provided in class and the Interview must be completed by Tuesday, November 3.

11. In consultation with your chosen spiritual mentor (and spouse, if you are married), construct a *Rule of Life*, a personalized strategy for ongoing spiritual formation & professional development that reflects the God-ward trajectory discerned and nurtured in the context of this class. Specific instructions for you, your spouse, *and* your spiritual mentor can be found in *Moodle*. It is your responsibility to initiate contact and schedule meetings, and to follow-through with submitting and receiving feedback on your *Rule of Life* drafts according to the dates in the instructions. The final version is due to both the professors (electronically via *Moodle*) and your spiritual mentor/spouse by Tuesday, December 8. A copy will be placed in your NTS *Professional Portfolio*.
12. Remind your Spiritual Mentor to submit her/his brief Assessment via email to the professor with whom you scheduled an Exit Interview by Tuesday, December 15. If you are married, remind your spouse to email that professor, acknowledging that he/she has read and is supportive of your final *Rule*, also by Tuesday, December 15.
13. Meet for a half- hour *Exit Interview* with your chosen or assigned professor to discuss your *Rule* and readiness participation in the MDiv Supervised Ministry program. Sign-up information will be provided in class, but the Interview must be completed by Friday, December 18.

## Grading

For individual assignments in *Moodle*:

When you see . . . .	It means . . . .	And . . . .
<b>100</b>	The assignment was substantively completed and on time	Read any comments, feedback, or instructions from the professors
<b>90</b>	The assignment was incomplete, complete but not substantively, or submitted late	Read any comments, feedback, or instructions from the professors
<b>0</b>	The assignment was not completed	The "0" can be changed to a "90" when you complete the assignment

Note: These numbers are *not* value points that can be averaged toward a letter grade.

An "**A**" course grade is earned when a student satisfactorily completes all assignments according to instructions and on time, i.e., no "0"s and no more than one "90" (allowable at the professors' discretion). Specifically, this requires:

- No more than 1 class absence (with appropriate make-up work; includes chapel attendance and small group participation)
- *Spiritual Autobiography* (including *Spiritual Practices Checklist*) written substantively and submitted on time
- *StrengthsQuest* Brief Theme Report submitted on time
- The *Psychological Assessment Package* completed as scheduled
- *MBTI* Booklet and Student Information Sheet submitted on time

- All *Reading Reports* submitted on time, indicating assigned reading completely read and containing appropriate commentary
- All *Assessment Journal* entries written substantively and submitted on time
- Psychologist Interview scheduled and completed on time
- *Spiritual Mentor Selection Form* submitted on time
- *Rule of Life* written substantively and submitted on time
- Spiritual Mentor’s Assessment (& Spouse’s Affirmation, if married) emailed to interviewing professor
- Exit Interview with professor scheduled and completed on time and determination made to approve readiness for participation in the MDiv SME program

A “B” course grade is earned when a student completes all assignments (i.e., no “0”s) but not substantively according to instructions and/or not on time. (i.e., 2 or more “90”s); and/or if a student misses 2 or 3 class sessions (with appropriate make-up work); and/or if determination is made that a student needs remedial work before approval for participation in the MDiv SME program.

An “F” course grade is earned when a student fails to complete all assignments (i.e., there is at least one “0”); and/or if more than 3 class sessions are missed; and/or if determination is made that the student is not capable of or amenable to remedial work required before approval for participation in the MDiv SME program.

## Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignments Due
September 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Seminary as a Crucible for Personal &amp; Spiritual Formation</li> <li>▪ A Paradigmatic Prayer</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> <li>▪ Psychological Testing Sessions: 1:30pm &amp; 6:00pm (you must attend <u>one</u>)</li> </ul>	Psychological Assessment Package (at Testing Session)
<b>Relationship with Self: “Open My Eyes”</b>		
September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Theological Foundations for Assessment</li> <li>▪ Discernment &amp; Accountability: The Role of Others (Mentors) in our Formation</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz intro-2; Oswald &amp; Kroeger intro-VII</li> <li>▪ Spiritual Autobiography &amp; Spiritual Practices Checklist</li> <li>▪ <i>StrengthsQuest</i> Brief Theme Report Printout</li> <li>▪ MBTI Self-Scoring Form &amp; Student Information Sheet</li> </ul>
September 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Spirituality of Individual Differences: <i>MBTI</i></li> <li>▪ Gilbert Lectures with Dr. Mark McMinn</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz 3; Oswald &amp; Kroeger VIII-appendix</li> <li>▪ Reading Report 1: Oswald &amp; Kroeger</li> </ul>

October 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Guest: George Gordon on <i>The Enneagram</i> as a tool for Spiritual Formation</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz 4; Palmer I &amp; II; intro by Gordon in <i>Moodle</i></li> </ul>
<b>Relationship with Others: "Incline My Heart"</b>		
October 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Family Relationships &amp; Formation</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz 5; Palmer III</li> <li>▪ Reading Report 2: Palmer</li> <li>▪ Assessment Journal 1 (Schwanz 1-5)</li> <li>▪ Spiritual Mentor Selection Form by October 16</li> <li>▪ Meet with Spiritual Mentor by October 23</li> </ul>
<i>October 20 Reading &amp; Research Week—no class</i>		
October 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ The Church and Spiritual Formation</li> <li>▪ Discussion: Bonhoeffer</li> <li>▪ Role Conflict &amp; Ambiguity in Ministry</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz 6-7; all of Bonhoeffer</li> <li>▪ Reading Report 3: Bonhoeffer</li> </ul>
November 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Constructing a Rule of Life</li> <li>▪ Categories for Examining Spiritual Practices</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz 8-9; Rolheiser 1-2</li> <li>▪ Psychologist Interview completed</li> </ul>
<b>Relationship with God: "Order My Steps"</b>		
November 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Sabbath &amp; Self-Care</li> <li>▪ The Contemplative Tradition</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read: Schwanz 10-12; Rolheiser 3-5</li> <li>▪ Assessment Journal 2 (Schwanz 6-11)</li> <li>▪ Rule of Life Draft to Spiritual Mentor/Spouse</li> </ul>
November 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Academics &amp; Spiritual Formation</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read Rolheiser 6-8</li> </ul>
November 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Establishing Community at NTS</li> <li>▪ Discussion: Rolheiser</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Read Rolheiser 9-10</li> <li>▪ Reading Report 4: Rolheiser</li> <li>▪ Rule of Life Feedback from Mentor/Spouse back to Student</li> </ul>
December 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Discussion: Rolheiser (cont'd)</li> <li>▪ Spirituality of Stewardship</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	
December 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prayer</li> <li>▪ Course Retrospective</li> <li>▪ Small Groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Final Rule of Life (copies to Mentor/Spouse)</li> </ul>
December 15 (9:00–10:50am)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Covenant Service with Eucharist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Spiritual Mentor Assessment/ Spouse Acknowledgement due</li> <li>▪ Exit Interview completed by December 18</li> </ul>