



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

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## Master's Degree Module Course Syllabus, v1 PTH500 *Personal & Spiritual Development of the Minister* Spring 2010 January 19–29, 8:00 – 12:15pm 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 Instructor

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### 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.nazarenepastor.org/ClergyEducation/LinkClick.baspx?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.* (2009-2010 Catalog, available at [http://www.nts.edu/Websites/nts/Images/Registrar/2009-10%20Catalog\\_WEBSITE.pdf](http://www.nts.edu/Websites/nts/Images/Registrar/2009-10%20Catalog_WEBSITE.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*. Harper San Francisco, 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 professor via email. Your electronic submissions will automatically be linked to the “Grades” area of *Moodle*. It is your responsibility to ensure that your computer system & software is set to receive communications *via Moodle* and via email from the professor and the professor’s faculty assistant (see p. 1 of this syllabus for those email addresses). All assignments are due on the dates indicated unless re-negotiated in advance with the professor. Late submissions will result in lower grades.

### Before Class Begins on January 19

- Write a *Spiritual Autobiography* and complete the *Spiritual Practices Checklist* as a way to introduce yourself to the professor, 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 Thursday, December 31. This document will remain confidential with the course professor.
- Read *Blessed Connections* chapters 1-7 and keep an *Assessment Journal* utilizing the instructions provided at the end of each chapter. Submit your journal entries for chapters 1-7 either electronically via *Moodle* or in hard copy (loose leaf pages or photocopies from your journal book—the writing must be legible) no later than the first class day, Tuesday, January 19.
- Read *Personality Type and Religious Leadership* (the entire book) and Part I of *The Enneagram in Love & Work*. Reading Report 1 documenting this reading with brief reflections is due on the first day of class (Tuesday, January 19). The Reading Report Form is accessible in *Moodle* and is to be submitted there electronically.
- Take the *StrengthsFinder* test online <https://www.strengthsquest.com/register/default.aspx> using the ID code # you purchased from the NTS Bookstore. Submit in *Moodle* an electronic copy of the “Brief Theme Report” of your Top 5 signature themes (from your account at the *StrengthsQuest* website) or print out and bring a hard copy to the first class meeting on Tuesday, January 19. This document will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.
- Arrange your schedule to participate in *one* of two *Psychological Testing* sessions to complete the *Psychological Assessment Package*: either Monday, January 18, 5:30 – 8:30pm, or Tuesday, January 19, 1:30 – 4:30pm, in Room 304.

### During the 2-Week Module Period (January 19 – 29)

- Complete the *Psychological Assessment Package* at *one* of the two Testing Sessions: either Monday, January 18, 5:30 – 8:30pm, or Tuesday, January 19, 1:30 – 4:30pm, in Room 304. A summary of the results, interpreted by a psychologist, will be placed in your NTS *Professional Portfolio*.
- Monitor the daily Class Schedule (last page of this syllabus) that outlines the basic flow of the course, topics for each day, and assignments.
- Attend and be attentive in each class session. Each day’s class will include significant opportunity for individual self-reflection and group interaction. You will daily be invited to think, to feel, and to do, i.e., to engage your critical faculties, embodied memories, affect, and social & cultural identities. Bring all of you to class and commit to participate. This is critical

in an intensive course because of the length of each session (to miss a single class day is the equivalent of missing a week of class during a regular semester schedule) and the group process component. If you must, due to unforeseen circumstances, miss a session, alternative readings and/or a project will be required. Missing more than one class session may jeopardize a passing grade for the course. If you know in advance that you will miss more than one day of class, you should not take this course at this time.

- Complete the self-scoring *Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)* and accompanying Student Information Sheet that will be distributed during the opening class, Tuesday, January 19. Return everything at the beginning of class on Wednesday, January 20. The results will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.
- Attend Chapel services with the class each Thursday morning—this is required, not optional.
- Finish reading *Blessed Connections* and submit your journal entries for chapters 8-11 either electronically via *Moodle* or in hard copy (loose leaf pages or photocopies from your journal book—the writing must be legible) no later than Friday, January 22.
- Read Part II of *The Enneagram in Love & Work* and *Life Together* and submit *Reading Report 2* electronically by Tuesday January 26.
- Read *The Holy Longing* and submit *Reading Report 3* electronically by Saturday January 30.
- Schedule a half-hour *Psychologist Interview* with the professional psychologist who will provide you with individual feedback on the results of the Psychological Testing. Scheduling information will be provided in class. A summary of these results will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.
- Meet with the psychologist as scheduled, no later than Thursday, January 28 (In-Service students only).

### After the Class Ends on January 29

- If you haven't already done so, submit *Reading Report 3* electronically by Saturday January 30.
- Complete and electronically submit the *Spiritual Mentor Selection Form* and forward the instructions for the *Rule of Life* to your spiritual mentor (and to your spouse, if you are married) no later than Monday, February 8. Both documents can be found in *Moodle*.
- Meet with the psychologist as scheduled, no later than Friday, February 19 (non-In-Service Students only).
- In consultation with your chosen spiritual mentor (and your 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 by Friday, March 19. A copy will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.
- Remind your Spiritual Mentor to submit her/his brief Assessment via email to the professor with whom you scheduled an Exit Interview by Friday, April 2. If you are married, remind your spouse to email that professors acknowledging that he/she has read and is supportive of your final *Rule*, also by Friday, April 2.
- Meet for a half-hour *Exit Interview* (by phone for In-Service students) with the professor to discuss your *Rule* and to determine readiness for participation in the MDiv Supervised Ministry program. Sign-up information will be communicated via *Moodle*, but the Interview must be completed by Friday, April 16.

### Summary of Due Dates

Thursday, December 31	Autobiography (including Spiritual Practices Checklist)
Monday, January 18	Psychological Testing Session option #1: 1:30 – 4:30pm
Tuesday, January 19	Assessment Journal I; Reading Report 1; StrenghtsQuest Brief Theme Report; Psychological Testing Session option #2: 5:30 – 8:30pm
Wednesday, January 20	Completed MBTI Forms
Thursday, January 21	Schedule meeting w/ Psychologist (In-Service students only)
Friday, January 22	Assessment Journal II
Tuesday, January 26	Reading Report 2
Thursday, January 28	Schedule meeting w/ Psychologist (Non-In-Service students); Meeting w/ Psychologist completed (In-Service students only)
Saturday, January 30	Reading Report 3
Monday, February 8	Spiritual Mentor Selection Form; Instructions sent to Mentor/ Spouse
Friday, February 12	Planning Session with Spiritual Mentor
Friday, February 19	Meeting w/ Psychologist completed (non-In-Service students)
Friday, February 26	Draft of Rule of Life to Spiritual Mentor/Spouse
Friday, March 12	Feedback from Spiritual Mentor/Spouse
Friday, March 19	Final Rule of Life (copy to Spiritual Mentor/Spouse)
Friday, April 2	Spiritual Mentor’s Assessment & Spouse’s Affirmation
Friday, April 16	Exit Interview with Professor completed

### Grading

For individual assignments in *Moodle*:

When you see . . . .	It means . . . .	And . . . .
100	The assignment was substantively completed and on time	Read any comments, feedback, or instructions from the professor
90	The assignment was incomplete, complete but not substantively, or submitted late	Read any comments, feedback, or instructions from the professor
0	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 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 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 2 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

1 <sup>st</sup> WEEK	Mon, Jan 19	Class #1 Tue, Jan 19	Class #2 Wed, Jan 20	Class #3 Thu, Jan 21	Class #4 Fri, Jan 22
T H E M E S &		Prayer  Seminary as a Crucible for Personal & Spiritual Formation  A Paradigmatic Prayer  Small Groups	<b>Relationship with Self: "Open My Eyes"</b>  Prayer  Spirituality of Individual Differences: MBTI  Small Groups	Prayer  Guest: George Gordon on The Enneagram as a tool for Spiritual Formation  [10- 10:30pm Chapel]  Small Groups	Prayer  Theological Foundations for Assessment  Small Groups
T O - D O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Psychological Testing Session option #1 5:30pm - 8:30pm (Room 304)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Journal I</li> <li>Reading Report 1</li> <li><i>StrenghtsQuest</i> Brief Theme Report</li> <li>Psychological Testing Session option #2 1:30pm -4:30pm (Room 304)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completed MBTI</li> <li>Read <i>Blessed Connections</i>, 8-9</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit small group preferences</li> <li>Read <i>Blessed Connections</i>, 10-11</li> <li>Schedule Meeting w/ Psychologist (In-Service only)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessment Journal II</li> <li>Read <i>Enneagram</i>, Part II</li> </ul>

2 <sup>nd</sup> WEEK	Class #5 Mon, Jan 23	Class #6 Tue, Jan 26	Class #7 Wed, Jan 27	Class #8 Thu, Jan 28	Class #9 Fri, Jan 29
T H E M E S &	<b>Relationship with Others: "Incline My Heart"</b>  Prayer  Family Relationships  Discernment & Accountability : Mentors  Small Groups	Prayer  Spirituality of Stewardship  Academics & Spiritual Formation  Small Groups	<b>Relationship with God: "Order My Steps"</b>  Prayer  Sabbath & Self-Care  The Contemplative Tradition  Small Groups	Prayer  The Church & Spiritual Formation  Discussion: Bonhoeffer & Rolheiser  Small Groups	Prayer  Categories for Examining Spiritual Practices  Constructing a Rule of Life  Covenant Service with Eucharist
T O - D O	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Life Together</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Report 2</li> <li>Read <i>Holy Longing</i>, 1-3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Holy Longing</i>, 4-7</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting w/ Psychologist completed (In-Service)</li> <li>Schedule Meeting w/ Psychologist (non-In-Service)</li> <li>Read <i>Holy Longing</i>, 8-10</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading Report 3 (by Saturday)</li> </ul>