



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

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## Course SPF790 — *Celtic Spirituality*

(3 credit hours)

Master's 2-Week Module 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
- *A 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, December 6, 2010 and finishes on Friday, March 11, 2011, with intensive class sessions held on Monday, January 17 – Friday, January 21 and Monday, January 24 – Thursday, January 27, 5:30 – 9:45pm, in Room #TBA.**

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*.

### Instructor Information

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### Course Description, Narrative, & Rationale

The renewal of interest in and even fascination with all things Celtic in recent decades begs the question: What do so many find compelling about these peoples and their culture? Embedded within the more well-known expressions of Celtic art, music, dance, and story are references to lesser-known spiritual traditions, both pre-Christian and Christian. What characterizes Celtic spirituality and what is its relevance for Christian spirituality today? In this course, these and other questions will be explored from the perspective of the Christian Celtic tradition.

## 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.*

It does so by providing students with the opportunity to:

1. Practice prayer and meditation using Celtic Christian resources. [Assignment #2,6,8,9]
2. Learn the basic history of Celtic peoples, places, and especially the saints. [Assignment #3,5,6,7,8,10]
3. Articulate a Celtic-informed theology of creation, asceticism, and/or mission. [Assignment #5,10,11]
4. Contextualize Celtic perspectives and practices into current life and ministry. [Assignment #4,12]

## 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 #5,10,11,12]
CN26	Ability to describe how the Church implemented its mission in the various periods of church history. [Assignment #5,10,11]
Character	Ability Statements
CH6	Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation & the classic Christian disciplines as a means of grace. [Assignment #2,6,9]
CH 7	Ability to locate, understand, & use the resources for individual & corporate spiritual formation. [Assignment #2,3,4,6,7,8,9,12]
Context	Ability Statements
CX10	Ability to understand and articulate the biblical, historical, and theological bases for Christian mission. [Assignment #3,5,10,11]

## Required Texts & Course Materials

- Balzer, Tracy. *Thin Places: An Evangelical Journey into Celtic Christianity*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood, 2007. [163 pp. ISBN: 9780891125136]
- Davies, Oliver (Trans. & Intro). *Celtic Spirituality (Classics of Western Spirituality)*. New York: Paulist, 1999. [455 pp. ISBN: 9780809138944]
- de Waal, Esther. *Every Earthly Blessing: Rediscovering the Celtic Tradition*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1991. [134 pp. ISBN: 9780819218063]
- Fitzgerald, William John. *A Contemporary Celtic Prayer Book*. Chicago: ACTA, 1998. [148 pp. ISBN: 9780879462192]
- Newell, J. Philip. *Listening for the Heartbeat of God: A Celtic Spirituality*. New York: Paulist, 1997. [107 pp. ISBN: 9780809137596]
- Newell, J. Philip. *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008. [132 pp. ISBN: 9780470183502]

# Course Assignments & Requirements

## Before Classes Begin

1. Secure the required course **texts** and begin reading according to the schedule in the Course Calendar below.
2. Incorporate into your prayer practice at least two offices (morning, midday, night) from the Fitzgerald *Celtic Prayer Book*, daily for a minimum of 5 of the 6 pre-module weeks. Submit a minimum of 5 of **Practice Reports 1-6**. All Practice Report Forms are accessible in *Moodle* and are to be submitted there electronically. Due: Monday following the week practiced [Course Outcomes: 1; COSAC Outcomes: CH6,7]
3. **Read** de Waal, the 2 Newell books, and the Introduction section of *Celtic Spirituality* (Classics of Western Spirituality).  
[Course Outcomes: 2; COSAC Outcomes: CH7, CX10]
4. Participate in the **1<sup>st</sup> Online Discussion Forum** in *Moodle*:
  - a. Initial posting:
    - Introduce yourself to the rest of the class (brief biographical info. & description of current context)
    - Share what drew you to this class and what you are most interested in learning
  - b. Response postings:
    - Read all the posts of your classmates, but respond to the two (2) classmates to whom you will be assigned with a brief greeting and conversation based on their initial posts.Due: Initial post between Monday, December 6 & Friday, December 10 and response posts no later than Friday, December 17 [Course Outcomes: 4; COSAC Outcomes: CH7]
5. Participate in the **2<sup>nd</sup> Online Discussion Forum** in *Moodle*:
  - a. Initial posting:
    - Summarize the thesis & argument of Newell's *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*
    - Summarize the thesis & argument of de Waal's *Every Earthly Blessing*
    - Critically compare & contrast these two authors/books
  - b. Response postings:
    - Read and respond to the two (2) classmates to whom you will be assigned with substantive comments & critiques of their initial posting.Due: Initial post between Monday, December 27 & Friday, December 31 and response posts no later than Wednesday, January 12 [Course Outcomes: 2,3; COSAC Outcomes: CN20,26, CX10]

## During Classes

6. 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 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 one class sessions may jeopardize a passing grade for the course (also see Policy regarding Missed Exams).  
[Course Outcomes: 1,2; COSAC Outcomes: CH6,7]
7. Attend the Heinmiller **Lectures** on the Devotional Life at NTS (<http://www.nts.edu/heinmiller-lectures-on-the-devotional-life>), featuring Dr. J. Philip Newell, Writer/Theologian, Scottish Cathedral of the Isles. The Lecture Series: *A New Harmony: the Spirit, the Earth, and the Human Soul*, is based on the following premise: "Like never before in the history of humanity we are aware of the essential unity of life, and that what we do to a part we do to the whole. Wellness is found not in separation but in relationship, whether as nations

and wisdom traditions or as individuals and as a whole earth community. How can our spirituality today, including our spiritual practices, be part of serving this new consciousness?" The Lecture Schedule:

- Tuesday, Jan. 18, 7:30-8:30pm Lecture: *The Ancient Harmony*
- Wednesday, Jan. 19, 7:30-8:30pm Lecture: *The Broken Harmony*
- Thursday, Jan. 20, 10-11am Lecture: *The New Harmony*

The first 2 Lectures will be incorporated into Class Sessions. Students unable to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> a.m. Lecture will access a recording. Each student must submit a two-page summary of and response to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lecture. Due: Monday, January 24 [Course Outcomes: 2; COSAC Outcomes: CH7]

8. **Read** selections from *Celtic Spirituality* (Classics of Western Spirituality), according to the Class Schedule below.  
[Course Outcomes: 1,2; COSAC Outcomes: CH7]

### After Classes End

9. Read Balzer's *Thin Places* and incorporate into your prayer practice the Celtic Blessing / Meditation / Reflection Questions from a chapter for a minimum of 4 of the 5 post-module weeks. Submit a minimum of 4 of **Practice Reports 7-11**. All Practice Report Forms are accessible in *Moodle* and are to be submitted there electronically.  
Due: Monday following the week practiced [Course Outcomes: 1; COSAC Outcomes: CH6,7]
10. **Read** selections from *Celtic Spirituality* (Classics of Western Spirituality), according to the Class Schedule below and participate in the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Online Discussion Forum** in *Moodle*:
- Initial posting:
    - Reflect on TBD selections from *Celtic Spirituality*(Classics of Western Spirituality), providing commentary and raising critical questions
    - State your Theology Paper Topic, your motive in selecting it, the research question/thesis governing your Paper, and your preliminary outline
    - Articulate at least one substantive question that needs to be answered or resource needed in order to complete your Paper
  - Response postings:
    - Read and substantively respond to the initial postings of the two (2) classmates to whom you will be assigned – both comments & critique to the reading commentary and resourcing for the Theology Paper.
- Due: Initial post between Monday, February 21 & Friday, February 25 and response posts no later than Friday, March 4 [Course Outcomes: 2,3; COSAC Outcomes: CN20,26, CX10]
11. Write a **Theology Paper** (minimum 10 pages) articulating your Celtic-informed understanding of a specific topic in one or more of the following areas: theology of creation; theology of asceticism; theology or mission. Drawing on both course texts and other literature pertinent to the topic,  
Due: Topic Selection & Initial Bibliography-Friday, February 18; Paper-Monday, March 7 [Course Outcomes: 3; COSAC Outcomes: CN20,26, CX10]
12. Write a **Ministry Application Paper** (approx. 5 pages) articulating how you will contextualize Celtic perspectives and practices in your current life and ministry.  
Due: Friday, March 11 [Course Outcomes: 4; COSAC Outcomes: CN20, CH7]

## Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Pre-module Hours	Module Hours	Post-module Hours	Total Hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions		38		38
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	2		2	4
Reading	22	7	15	45
Writing	3	2	27	32
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	35	1	0	36
Exams & Quizzes	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	62	48	44	154

## 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 March 14 will be graded.

An absence from the final class session will be considered a missed exam. If the absence is due to an unforeseen emergency, the course instructor is informed prior to the Exam period, and the student files a “Request to Reschedule Exam” form in the Office of the Dean of the Faculty (see the NTS *Student Handbook* for details), make-up work may be arranged for the student. Otherwise, the student’s final course grade will be reduced per the discretion of the course instructor.

## Course Grading

Practice Reports	35%	Theology Paper	35%
Online Discussion Forums	15%	Ministry Application Paper	10%
Lecture Report	5%		

### 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

### Before Classes Begin

Week of	Due	
December 6	Acquire books; Begin pre-module reading; Begin Celtic daily prayer practice; Initial post in 1 <sup>st</sup> Online Discussion Forum	Participation in 1 <sup>st</sup> Online Discussion Forum between December 6 –17*
December 13	Practice Report 1(Mon.); Response post in 1 <sup>st</sup> Online Discussion Forum; Continue reading	
December 20	Practice Report 2 (Mon.); Continue reading	
December 27	Practice Report 3 (Mon.); Initial post in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Online Discussion Forum	Participation in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Online Discussion Forum between December 27 – January 12*
January 3	Practice Report 4 (Mon.); Response posts in 2 <sup>nd</sup> Online Discussion Forum	
January 10	Practice Report 5 (Mon.); Finish pre-module reading	

\* See assignment description for specific due dates for initial posting and response postings

## Module Classes

1 <sup>st</sup> WEEK	Class #1 Mon, Jan. 17	Class #2 Tue, Jan. 18	Class #3 Wed, Jan. 19	Class #4 Thu, Jan. 20	Class #5 Fri, Jan. 21
T O P I C S	[New Student Orientation (8am-2pm)] ***** TBD	TBD  Newell Lecture #1 "The Ancient Harmony" (7-8pm)	Guest: J. Philip Newell Q&A  Newell Lecture #2 "The Broken Harmony" (7-8pm)  Newell Q&A cont'd	[Newell Lecture #3 "The New Harmony" (10-11am)] ***** TBD	TBD
D U E	Practice Report 6	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

2 <sup>nd</sup> WEEK	Class #6 Mon, Jan. 22	Class #7 Tue, Jan. 23	Class #8 Wed, Jan. 25	Class #9 Thu, Jan. 26	Fri, Jan. 27
T O P I C S	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
D U E	Lecture #3 Report	TBD	TBD	TBD	

## After Classes End

Week of	Due	
January 31	Reading & Research (no assignments due); Begin post-module reading	
February 7	Begin Celtic weekly prayer practice; Continue reading	
February 14	Practice Report 7 (Mon.) ; Theology Paper Topic Selection & Bibliography (Fri.); Continue reading	
February 21	Practice Report 8 (Mon.); Initial post in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Online Discussion Forum; Continue reading	Participation in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Online Discussion Forum between February 21 – March 4*
February 28	Practice Report 9 (Mon.); Response posts in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Online Discussion Forum; Finish post-module reading	
March 7	Practice Report 10 (Mon.); Theology Paper (Mon.); Ministry Application Paper (Fri.)	
March 14	Practice Report 11 (Mon.)	

\* See assignment description for specific due dates for initial posting and response postings

## **Bibliography**

Adam, David. *The Edge of Glory: Prayers in the Celtic Tradition*. Morehouse-Barlow, 1985.

Carmichael, Alexander. *Carmina Gadelica: Hymns & Incantations from the Gaelic*. Floris, 2004.

*Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community*. Harper San Francisco, 2002.

Joyce, Timothy J. *Celtic Christianity: A Sacred Tradition, a Vision of Hope*. Orbis, 1998.

Marsh, William Parker & Christopher Bamford. *Celtic Christianity: Ecology and Holiness*. Lindisfarne, 1987.

Newell, J. Philip. *Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer*. Eerdmans, 2000.