



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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Master's Degree Module Course Syllabus v2 SPF570 *Christian Spiritual Practices: Connection & Service* Fall 2009 August 24–September 3, 5:30 – 9:45pm Room 103

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 laboratory course in spiritual formation explores the relational and missional practices of the Christian spiritual life—Christian formation in community and service to the world (e.g., corporate worship, spiritual friendship, spiritual direction, small group accountability, hospitality, evangelism, compassion, social justice, creation-care). Students will study, practice, and theologically reflect on these as biblical, historical, and psychological perspectives are brought to bear on the experience of class members individually and in the context of congregational leadership. Students culminate the course by articulating a spiritual theology of community and mission, and designing a strategy for implementation of select practices in their personal and congregational contexts. The course satisfies the SPF requirement of the MDiv program and can count toward the Certificate in Spiritual Formation.

Credit: 3 hours MDiv Program Prerequisite: PTH500

Course Objectives

This course provides students with the opportunity to:

1. Examine their lives through the lenses of the connectional and missional traditions of the Christian faith.
2. Engage in regular, intentional practices of relationship-building and service to the world.
3. Apply what they are learning theologically and experientially to their relationship with local Christian communities.
4. Articulate an integrated theology of connection and service for personal and corporate spiritual formation.

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

- Objectives #1&3 of the M.Div. 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.* (2008-2009 Catalog, available at <http://www.nts.edu/Websites/nts/Images/pdfs/nts-catalog/08%2009catalog.pdf>)
- The following Ability Statements found in the *Handbook for Christian Ministries*, Course of Study Advisory Committee-USA Clergy Development (September 2005): CN20, CN22, CH5, CH6, CH7, CH8, CH10, available at <http://www.nazarenpastor.org/ClergyEducation/LinkClick.aspx?link=Resources/USAHB.pdf&abid=74>.

Course Reading

Required Common Texts:

- Augsburger, David. *Dissident Disciples: A Spirituality of Self-Surrender, Love of God, and Love of Neighbor*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2006. ISBN: 978158431807 (List Price: \$24.00)
- Marsh, Charles. *The Beloved Community: How Faith Shapes Social Justice, From the Civil Rights Movement to Today*. New York: Perseus Books (Basic), 2005. ISBN: 978046504416 (List Price: \$26.00)
- Pennington, M. Basil (Ed.). *Aelred of Rievaulx: The Way of Friendship: Selected Spiritual Writings*. Hyde Park, NY: New City Press, 2001. ISBN: 9781565481282 (List Price: \$11.95)
- Rieger, Joerg & John J. Vincent (Eds.). *Methodist and Radical: Rejuvenating a Tradition*. Nashville: Kingswood Books, 2003. ISBN: 9780687038718 (List Price: \$31.50)
- Rutba House (Ed.), *School(s) for Conversion: 12 Marks of a New Monasticism*. Eugene, OR: Cascade/Wipf & Stock, 2005. ISBN: 978-1597520553 (List Price: \$22.00)
- Stringfellow, William. "Preface: The Ambivalence of 'Spirituality'", in *The Politics of Spirituality* (15-26). Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 1984. ISBN: 9781597525923 (preface available as a pdf in Moodle—no charge; Book List Price: \$13.00)

Optional Further Reading:

- Dekar, Paul R., *Community of the Transfiguration: The Journey of a New Monastic Community*. Eugene, OR: Cascade/Wipf & Stock, 2008. ISBN: 978-1556354304
- Frost, Michael, *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 2006. ISBN: 978-1565636705
- Kauffman, Ivan J., *Follow Me: A History of Christian Intentionality*. Eugene, OR: Cascade/Wipf & Stock, 2009. ISBN: 978-1556352584
- Oden, Thomas C. (Ed.). *The Good Works Reader*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing, 2007. ISBN: 9780802840318
- Sloan, Karen E., *Flirting with Monasticism: Finding God on Ancient Paths*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2006. ISBN: 9780830836024

Stock, Jon R., Tim Otto, & Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, *Inhabiting the Church: Biblical Wisdom for a New Monasticism*. Eugene, OR: Cascade/Wipf & Stock, 2007. ISBN: 978-1597529907

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.

Before Classes Begins (July 13 - August 24): Focus on personal & contextual assessment

- Read:
 - Preface ("The Ambivalence of 'Spirituality'") to *The Politics of Spirituality* (pdf in *Moodle*)
 - *Aelred of Rievaulx: The Way of Friendship*
 - *School(s) for Conversion: 12 Marks of a New Monasticism*
 - *Methodist and Radical*
- Complete and submit Practices Reports (forms available in *Moodle*) as follows:
 - Practices Report 1 due July 24
 - Practices Report 2 due August 7
 - Practices Report 3 due August 21
- Interview members of an intentional Christian community (other than your own church or group) about their commitments & practices, and write up a brief Report summarizing the interview and commenting on the theological & practical significance of what you discovered for your understanding of the Christian spiritual life. A Forum is available in *Moodle* to share questions & ideas for this assignment with others in the class. Due: August 21

During the 2-Week Module Period (August 24 – September 3): Focus on listening & learning together

- 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.
- Read:
 - *The Beloved Community*
 - *Dissident Disciples*

- Develop and submit a Proposal for initiating the first steps to create a connectional & missional community in your context OR to significantly alter an existing one. Specific instructions will be provided in *Moodle*. Due: September 4

Class Schedule:

1 st WEEK	Class #1 Mon, Aug 24	Class #2 Tue, Aug 25	Class #3 Wed, Aug 26	Class #4 Thu, Aug 27	Class #5 Fri, Aug 28
T H E M E S &	Course Introduction & Orientation Accepting Jesus as "Political" Savior	Exploring Christian Connection The Tradition of Spiritual Friendship (Discussion of <i>The Way of Friendship</i>) (Chapel: 7:30 – 8:00pm; student-led Dedication Service)	The Wesleyan Tradition (Discussion of <i>Methodist & Radical</i>)	Field Trip: Cherith Brook Catholic Worker House	Monasticism: Old & New (Discussion of <i>School(s) for Conversion</i>) Reflections on our Contexts: Invitations & Challenges
T O - D O	• Read <i>The Beloved Community</i> Part One	• Read <i>The Beloved Community</i> Part Two	• Read <i>The Beloved Community</i> Part Three	• Read <i>Dissident Discipleship</i> Chapters intro-3	• Read <i>Dissident Discipleship</i> Chapters 4-6

2 nd WEEK	Class #6 Mon, Aug 31	Class #7 Tue, Sep 1	Class #8 Wed, Sep 2	Class #9 Thu, Sep 3	
T H E M E S &	The African-American Experience (Discussion of <i>The Beloved Community</i>)	The Anabaptist Vision w/ guest Community Bible Church (Olathe) pastor Tom Cartney (Discussion of <i>Dissident Discipleship</i>) (Chapel: 7:30 – 8:00pm; Q&A with G.S. Jesse Middendorf)	Field Trip: Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church & Pastor Hartsfield	Reflections on our Learning Commissioning	
T O - D O	• Read <i>Dissident Discipleship</i> Chapters 7-appendices	•	•	• Community Proposal due September 4	

After the Classes End (September 3 – October 26): Focus on personal & contextual application

- Review assigned readings
- Write and submit a Report on your follow-through with your Proposal. Specific instructions will be provided in *Moodle*. Due: October 16
- Write a submit a summative Connection & Service Paper that articulates both 1) a substantive theology of the relationship between Christian connection and Christian service (theoretical grounding), and 2) a rich description of how you will live this out in personal & communal practices at this point in your life (practical application). Include bibliography & proper reference citations. Approximately 8-10 pages. Due: October 26.

Summary of Due Dates

Date	Assignments Due
July 24	Practices Report 1
August 7	Practices Report 2
August 21	Practices Report 3; Interview Report
September 4	Community Proposal
October 16	Community Report
October 26	Connection & Service Paper

Grading

Attendance & Class Participation	5%
Practices Reports	20%
Interview Report	10%
Community Proposal	15%
Community Report	20%
Connection & Service Paper	30%