



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

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## ***CED 565 – Family Spiritual Journeys***

**Spring 2012**

**Mondays Feb 6- May 7; 6:-9:00 pm**

### ***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 in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree 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*

### ***Instructor Information***

Professor: Dean G. Blevins, Ph.D.

Email: [dgblevins@nts.edu](mailto:dgblevins@nts.edu)

Office Phone: 816.268.5481

Office Hours: by appointment

### ***Catalog Description***

A study of the various spiritual journeys families may take in light of the social influences that nurture or challenge spiritual growth. Particular attention paid to formational practices that shape and/or nurture family spirituality.

### ***Course Narrative & Rationale***

Studies of spirituality often focus on people's personal journeys or upon communities of faith expressed through the church or other religious organizations. However, the family has often served as the crucible for formation both within and among people. How do we understand the spiritual journeys that families undertake? How do the narratives of family life shape their identity as a people under God's grace? Are there specific practices within the family that prove spiritually nurturing? How do we nurture families and provide resources and guidance for their continued growth as expressions of the domestic church? How do we empower them to support and minister to and for the family of God? This course assists in our discernment and

formation of family spirituality as well as our empowerment of families as expressions of God's missional heart on behalf of the church.

## ***Degree Objectives***

The MACFD Degree Program affords participating students opportunities to meet the following ministry objectives:

1. Develop a practical theology of Christian ministry consistent with his or her theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.
2. Discern the various developmental and cultural forces that influence people's lives in their growth along the life course, and design appropriate ministry strategies that forms persons into ongoing faithful disciples.
3. Cultivate practices and abilities necessary for skillful performance of age-level and family ministries, for educating the laity in faithful discipleship, for guiding relationships in the church, for spiritual and professional development, and for engaging in theological discernment of sound educational practice.
4. Exhibit a capacity and desire for growth in the context of ministry through research and leadership; demonstrating a spirit of integrity, openness, cooperation, and care in ministry

## ***Course Outcomes***

Upon completion of the course students should demonstrate:

1. An ability to identify and name basic frameworks for understanding family in general and for naming one's own family heritage.
2. An ability to identify and practice strategies for teaching/facilitating in family settings
3. An ability to describe Christian points of intersection in the midst of these concepts and practices.
4. An ability to engage in detailed research in the nature and practice of one aspect of family ministry for faithful Christian practice.
5. An ability to envision a Christian discipleship most appropriate for responding faithfully in the midst influences that shape family life.

## ***Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies***

CP26 Ability to develop and utilize existing ministry forms for age level ministry (such as worship and Bible teaching, specialized ministry\*, family nurture and formation, team development and teacher education, curriculum planning and assessment, etc.) by which individuals, families, and congregations may be formed into Christlikeness

CP27 Ability to assess and implement emerging age appropriate ministry approaches to ministry in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives

## Required Texts & Course Materials

Title	Author(s)	Pgs	ISBN (13 characters)	Publisher	Copyright Date	List price
<i>Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families</i>	Garland, Diana R	250	978-0787962579	Jossey Bass	2007	20
<i>Reclaiming Your Story: Family History and Spiritual Growth</i>	Merle Jordan	100	978-0664256418	Westminster/John Knox Press	1999	20
<i>In the Midst of Chaos: Caring for Children as Spiritual Practice</i>	Bonnie Miller-McLemore	250	978-0787976767	Jossey Bass	2007	17
<i>The Power of God at Home: Nurturing Our Children in Love and Grace</i>	J. Bradley Wigger	200	978-0787955885	Jossey Bass	2003	20
<i>Parenting is Your Highest calling and 8 Other Myths That Trap Us in Worry and Guilt</i>	Leslie Leyland Fields	200	978-1400074204	Waterbrook Press	2006	14
<i>Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life</i>	John Roberto, ed.	175	978-0-9823031-0-8	Lifelong Faith Associates	2009	24
<i>Making a Home for Faith</i> Revised and Updated	Elizabeth Caldwell	100	978-0-8298-1769-0	Pilgrim Press	2007	16
<i>Family Crucible: The Influence of Family Dynamics in the Life and Ministry of John Wesley</i>	Anthony Headley	175	978-1606080016	Wipf and Stock	2010	22

## Recommended Texts & Course Materials

Additional readings provided by the instructor including Moodle resources.

## Course Outline

**Unit 1:** Discerning Family Spiritual Journeys

**Unit 2:** Forming and Resourcing Family Spiritual Journeys

**Unit 3:** Families and the Family of God: learning and ministering together

## Course Assignments & Requirements

**1. Class participation: (200 points)** students are expected to read and discuss assigned reading in a timely fashion. For the sake of other learners in the class, students need to be able include engage, summarize, and apply readings not only for themselves but their classmates. The

assumption remains that our collective insight weekly will make for a richer learning community. **DO 1-3; CO 1-5; CP26-27**

**Moodle Discussion Component:** To assist in this process, and also to allow students to demonstrate process strengths more written than oral, a Moodle discussion process will be included, students will be asked to post preliminary insights from the reading no later than 11:55 pm Saturday prior to class.

**2. Family Reflection paper (100 points):** Students will be asked to write a 1000-1200 word (4-6) page personal reflection identifying their own family spiritual heritage. **DO 4; CO 1; CP26**

**3. Family listening papers (200 points);** Each student will interview two families outside their own kinship network, attending to that families' spiritual journey, and write a 750-1250 word (3-5) reflection paper of each interview. **DO 2-3; CO 3, 5; CP26**

**4. Research topic or ministry implementation plan: (300 points)** Each student will select one key issue intersecting with course content and explore it to a greater depth providing either a research paper or a ministry plan intersecting the spiritual journeys of families with the family of God. Preliminary approval of the topic and a working Bibliography must be submitted prior to mid-semester break. If presented as a paper will be 2500-3000 words (10-12 pages) in length, reflecting sound research methods including: establishing a key thesis for the paper, establishing backing and warrants for the thesis as well as providing qualifications as necessary, and following Turabian form and style. **DO 4; CO 4; CP27**

**4. Comprehensive essay (100 points).** At the end of the semester the student will write a 1000-1500 word (4-6 pages) summative essay giving their own approach nurturing family journeys that will guide future ministry. This summative paper may draw from sources within the class but should reflect the student's synthesis of the material presented in class and will be used as part of the oral debriefing the last week of class. **DO 1; CO 5; CP26**

**5. Family Resource Page (100 points):** Students will be asked to participate in the development of a new ministry website on Faithful Homes. This project will occur throughout the semester but final evaluation will occur at the end of the course. More information will be provided in the class. **DO 3; CO 3; CP27**

### ***Distribution of Student Learning Hours***

	Hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	39
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	10
Reading	58
Writing	23
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	15
Exams & Quizzes	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>145</b>

## ***Method for Submitting Assignments***

Please use the assignments section of Moodle unless otherwise directed.

## ***Form and Style Expectations***

Students will follow Turabian Form and Style where expected

## ***Inclusive Language***

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.

## ***Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams***

Online posting after the assigned week will not be graded. **All research/project work is due 11:55 PM of the date assigned unless designated due in-class.** Late work without a valid reason (illness or death in family) is reduced by 15% the first week and an additional 10% each week following. No coursework may be submitted two weeks after the final class assignment or after the last week of class.

## ***Additional Costs***

### ***Course Grading***

1000-901: A    900-801: B    800-701: C    700-600:D    599 or Below: F

#### **Grade Descriptions**

“A”-EXCEPTIONAL WORK (surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives)

“B”-GOOD WORK (strong, significant achievement of course objectives)

“C”-ACCEPTABLE WORK (basic, essential achievement of course objectives)

“D”-MARGINAL WORK (inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives)

“F”-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 that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

## Class Attendance

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance. If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. If a student is absent four or more weeks of the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student. Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

## Course Calendar

Date	Module/Theme	Reading	Class Assignments
<b>Unit 1: Discerning Family Spiritual Journeys</b>			
Wk 1 Feb 6	Introduction	Syllabus and Supplement	
Wk 2 Feb 13	Family Stories	Garland 1-122	
Wk 3 Feb 20	Family Practices	Garland 123-228	
Wk 4 Feb 27	Not all Journeys are alike	Jordan 1-101	
Wk 5 Mar 5	Journeys and Ministry	Headley (book)	<b>Personal reflection</b> identifying their own personal cultural heritage due in class
<b>Unit 2: Forming and Resourcing Family Spiritual Journeys</b>			
Wk 6 Mar 12	Family Responsibilities	Fields (selected readings)	
Wk 7 Mar 19	<b>Reading and Research Week</b>		
Wk 8 Mar 26	Home as center for Family Practice	Miller-McLemore 1-199	Family Interview due in Class
Wk 9- Ap 2	Home as center for Family Practice	Wigger 1-94	
Wk 10 Ap 9	Family Practice and Church Life: Formation	Wigger 95-163	
<b>Unit 3: Families and the Family of God: learning and ministering together</b>			
Wk 11 Ap 16	Family Practice and Church Life: Ministry	Caldwell	Family Interview due in Class
Wk 12 Ap 23	Research/Ministry Presentation & discussion		Research paper/ Ministry plan due in class. Semester Assignments Due Nov. 29 <sup>th</sup> , no late papers accepted past this point
Wk 13 Ap 30	Family and Church Together	Roberto Selections	Comprehensive Essay due Friday
Wk 14 May 7	Final Week		Final Discussion/Website Review