



Nazarene Theological Seminary

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

SPF550 — *Christian Spiritual Practices: Prayer & Scripture*

(3 credit hours)

Master's Block Course @ KC Campus

Spring 2012

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*

All standard courses at NTS span a 14-week period from the beginning of coursework to the completion of coursework. **This course commences on Thursday, February 9, 2012 and finishes on Thursday, May 10, with class sessions held on Thursdays, 9:00am – 12:35pm, 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

Professor: Rev. Douglas S. Hardy, PhD

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Office: (816) 268-5484

Office Hours: by appointment

Assistant:

Email:

Catalog Description

This laboratory course in spiritual formation explores the Word-centered practices of the Christian spiritual life: prayer and the formative use of scripture (e.g., lectio divina, contemplative prayer, intercessory prayer, searching the scriptures). 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 prayer and scripture, and designing a strategy for the implementation of select practices in their personal and congregational contexts.

Course Narrative & Rationale

A constant danger in the theological exploration of prayer and formational Scripture reading is that one never actually gets around to praying or being formed by Scripture. Therefore, this class is built around the concrete practices of prayer and Scripture reading. We will learn much by practicing together. On the other hand, there is a danger that theological students divorce their praying and Scripture reading from serious theological reflection, viewing it simply as a devotional exercise. Therefore, this class is also built around the more usual academic practices of critical reading and writing. In an integrated spiritual life, praying and formational reading of Scripture become theologizing; theologizing becomes Scripture-shaped prayer.

Degree Objectives

This course specifically addresses the following MDiv program objectives:

1. *Mature knowledge of God and self, attained through practices of Christian formation and personal discipline.*
2. *Articulation of the knowledge of this God through prayerful, scholarly study and a deepening understanding of the Christian Scripture of the Old and New Testaments.*

and the following MACFD program objectives:

2. *Develop a practical theology of Christian ministry consistent with his or her theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.*
5. *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.*

Course Outcomes

Desired Course Outcomes	Assignment Numbers
1. Intensify and regulate prayer and Scripture practice in a context of support and accountability.	2,3
2. Learn from a variety of classic and contemporary Christian approaches to personal and corporate prayer and engagement with Scripture.	1,4
3. Strategize and strengthen personal discipline with respect to these means of grace.	2,7
4. Clarify a theology of prayer & Scripture for spiritually formative Christian ministry.	4,6
5. Develop skills in praying publicly and leading others in prayer.	3,5

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

Ability Statements - Content	Assignment Numbers
CN20: Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry.	6
Ability Statements - Competency	
CP21: Ability to envision, order, and participate in contextualized, theologically grounded worship and to develop and lead appropriate services for special occasions (i.e. wedding, funeral, baptism, and Lord's Supper)	5
Ability Statements - Character	
CH6: Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation & the classic Christian disciplines as a means of grace.	2,3,4
CH7: Ability to locate, understand, & use the resources for individual & corporate spiritual formation.	1,2,5
CH8: Ability to take responsibility for his or her own continuing spiritual development.	2,7

Required Texts & Course Materials

- Benson, Robert. *Daily Prayer: A Little Book for Saying the Daily Office*. Raleigh, NC: Carolina Broadcasting & Publishing, 2006. [60pp. w/ CD available via NTS Commons]
- Bondi, Roberta C. *To Pray & To Love: Conversations on Prayer with the Early Church*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1991. [ISBN: 9780800625115 152pp.]
- Kriegshauser, Laurence, OSB. *Praying the Psalms in Christ*. Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame, 2009. [ISBN: 9780268033200 376pp.]
- MacBeth, Sybil. *Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete, 2007. [ISBN: 9781557255129 110pp.]
- Rohr, Richard. *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality*. Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger, 2008. [ISBN: 9780867166590 238pp.]
- Ulanov, Ann & Barry. *Primary Speech: A Psychology of Prayer*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1982. [ISBN: 9780804211345 192pp.]

Course Assignments & Requirements

Assignment	Outcomes
1. Secure the required course texts and begin reading according to the schedule in the Course Calendar below as preparation for class discussion, resourcing for your personal & corporate prayer practice, and for critical reflection in the Practice Reports (see #2 below).	Course: 2 COSAC: CH7
2. Dedicate a minimum of <u>One Hour per Day</u> solely dedicated to prayer and formative reading of Scripture, either individually or with others, at least six days out of each week. At least two days per week are to be an uninterrupted hour. The other four days may be divided into two half-hour segments, but an uninterrupted half-hour is the <i>minimum</i> single period to count toward the hour per day. Missed days cannot be made-up-for on subsequent days. For purposes of accountability, you will submit a <u>Practices Report</u> each Wednesday (by midnight) using the Form in the <i>Moodle</i> . The 10 most complete of the 11 Reports will count toward your grade. There is no prescribed agenda for these times other than praying and formatively	Course: 1,3 COSAC: CH6,CH7,CH8

<p>engaging Scripture, including one of the assigned Psalms for the week. You may already have established practices, but you are also encouraged to use these times to experiment with new practices and to incorporate your class learning. Robert Benson’s <i>Daily Prayer: A Little Book for Saying the Daily Office</i>, Sybil MacBeth’s <i>Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God</i>, and Laurence Kriegshauser’s <i>Praying the Psalms in Christ</i> are especially designed as resources to help you approach and engage these devotional times.</p>	
<p>3. Our class sessions at NTS will begin and end with <u>Daily Office Prayer</u> using the Benson booklet in the 3rd floor Prayer Chapel: 9:00 – 9:20am Morning Prayer and 12:15-12:35pm Midday Prayer. If you wish to count these toward your daily commitment for Practices Reports you must arrive for Morning Prayer no later than 8:50am and/or stay beyond Midday Prayer until at least 12:45pm in order to meet the half-hour minimum requirement. Please be prompt out of respect for the group prayer process.</p>	<p>Course: 1,5 COSAC: CH6</p>
<p>4. Two class <u>Field Trips</u> involve extra time beyond the regular class schedule*:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. International House of Prayer, Kansas City, MO, for Worship in the Word & exposure to the End-Times Prayer Movement. On Thursday, February 23 we leave NTS at 8:30am and return by 12:30pm. Those who prefer can travel directly to IHOP from their home for an 8:50am rendezvous in the foyer. Those with unchangeable work or class commitments in the early morning should arrive at IHOP and join the class ASAP. b. Mt. St. Scholastica Monastery, Atchison, KS, for Morning Prayer & exposure to the Benedictine tradition of singing the Psalms. On Thursday, April 12 we leave NTS at 5am and return by 1pm. Bring \$5 for breakfast. Those with unchangeable work or class commitments in the early morning have the option of leaving for Atchison at 9am and returning by 5pm (bring \$5 for lunch) <i>or</i> arranging with the Monastery to visit on a different day. 	<p>Course: 2,4 COSAC: CH6</p>
<p>5. Arrange to, prepare for, and then <u>Lead in Prayer</u> in your local community context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. As the designated “pray-er” in a public worship service, and b. As the designated leader of a “prayer meeting” (minimum of 1/2 hour). <p>Schedule these events to occur between March 5 and April 6. A <u>Proposal</u> outlining your plans is due no later than Thursday, Mar 1 and a <u>Report</u> of your outcomes is due no later than Thursday, April 12—in <i>Moodle</i> where you will find Forms and instructions for each.</p>	<p>Course: 5 COSAC: CP21,CH7</p>
<p>6. Develop and complete a <u>“Theology of Prayer & Scripture” Project</u> that articulates a critical-theological understanding of the Christian practices of prayer & scripture. Options include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Research Paper on a focused Topic • a Prayer Book for Personal & Ministry Use • a Creative Arts Display <p>Instructions and standards for each option can be found in <i>Moodle</i>, although all Projects should draw on (and appropriately reference) the course texts, class sessions & field trips, and experiential learning from your prayer & scripture practices.</p>	<p>Course: 4 COSAC: CN20</p>

<p>a. A <u>Proposal</u> is due in <i>Moodle</i> by Thursday, March 29, and</p> <p>b. Your completed <u>Project</u> is due no later than Thursday, May 3</p>	
<p>7. Write a 2 – 3 pages <u>Prayer & Scripture Plan</u> for the immediate future. Include reference to your individual, family (if applicable), and church practice, as well as any leadership role you will take in helping others to pray & engage Scripture formatively. The Plan is due no later than Wednesday, May 10 in <i>Moodle</i>.</p>	<p>Course: 3 COSAC: CH8</p>

***These dates need to be verified with the sites—the actual class day of these Field Trips may be adjusted. Check version 2 of this syllabus which will be published in January**

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

	Total Hours
Face-to-face Class Sessions	45
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	0
TOTAL READING	35
TOTAL WRITING	41
TOTAL OTHER ASSIGNMENTS & LEARNING ACTIVITIES	38
TOTAL EXAMS & QUIZZES	0
TOTAL	159

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.

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.

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*, 7th 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.

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. Inclusive Language usage guidelines can be found at http://www.nts.edu/Websites/nts/Images/pdfs/handbooks/nts_handbook_inclusive_lang-aug-05.pdf.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Grades for late assignments will be affected as follows: 5% reduction per day. No assignments received after Thursday, May 10, 2011 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 class date, 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.

Additional Costs

\$5 per student for Monastery visit.

Course Grading

Attendance & Class Participation	5%	Theology Project	30%
Practices Reports	35%	Prayer & Scripture Plan	10%
Leadership Proposal & Report	20%		

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)

You have access for viewing your grades in the “Grades” area of *Moodle*. Any questions or concerns about your assigned grades should be immediately brought to the attention of the instructor.

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 a student is absent four or more weeks of the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student.

If you are a student obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits, you must notify the professor so that attendance can be recorded for mandatory reporting.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Course Calendar

Week/Date	Topic	Assignments Due
1. Feb. 9	Welcome; Taking Stock of Prayer & Scripture Practice; Syllabus Review	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : Ch. 1 & one of Psalms 1-15 <i>MacBeth</i> : Parts 1 & 2 <i>Rohr</i> : Chs. 1-4
2. Feb. 16	Theologies of Prayer; The Formative Use of Scripture; A Spirituality of Scripture	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 16-26 <i>MacBeth</i> : Parts 3 & 4 <i>Rohr</i> : Chs. 5-7 Practices Report 1
3. Feb. 23	Visit International House of Prayer* (NOTE: leave Seminary at 7:30am; return to Seminary by 12:30pm)	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 27-38 <i>Rohr</i> : Chs. 8-10 <i>Bondi</i> : Chs. 1-3 Practices Report 2
4. Mar. 1	Guest: Rev. Rob Carr on Centering Prayer (Dr. Hardy @ WTS Meetings)	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 39-51 <i>Bondi</i> : Chs. 4-6 Practices Report 3 Leadership Proposal
5. Mar. 8	Tools for Prayer	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 52-67 <i>Ulanovs</i> : Chs. 1-3 Practices Report 4
6. Mar. 15	Pastoral Praying & Leadership in Prayer	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : Ch. 1 & one of Psalms 1-15 <i>MacBeth</i> : Parts 1 & 2 <i>Rohr</i> : Chs. 1-4 Practices Report 5
7. Mar. 22	Reading & Research Week—no class	
8. Mar. 29	Pastoral Praying & Leadership in Prayer (cont'd)	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 68-78 <i>Ulanovs</i> : Chs. 4-5 Practices Report 6 OR Lectures Report Theology Proposal
9. Apr. 5	The Body & Prayer	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 79-93 <i>Ulanovs</i> : Chs. 6-8 Practices Report 7
10. Apr. 12	Visit Mt. St. Scholastica Monastery* (NOTE: leave Seminary at 5am; return to Seminary by 1pm)	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 94-106 <i>Ulanovs</i> : Chs. 9-11 Practices Report 8 Leadership Report
11. Apr. 19	Psychological Perspectives on Prayer	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 107-119

		Practices Report 9
12. Apr. 26	Reflections on Engaging Scripture as <i>Lectio Divina</i>	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 120-141 Practices Report 10
13. May 3	Resourcing Each Other for Prayer Ministry	<i>Kriegshauser</i> : one of Psalms 141-150 Practices Report 11 Theology Project
14. May 10	Retrospective; Evaluation	Prayer & Scripture Plan Course Evaluations (in <i>Moodle</i>)

***These dates need to be verified with the sites—the actual class day of these Field Trips may be adjusted. Check version 2 of this syllabus which will be published in January**

Bibliography

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- Balentine, Samuel E. *Prayer in the Hebrew Bible: The Drama of Divine-Human Dialogue*. Fortress Press, 1993. ISBN: 9780800626150
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- Bloom, Anthony. *Beginning to Pray*. New York: Paulist, 1970.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Meditating on the Word*. (Edited & Translated by David Mcl. Gracie), Cambridge, MA: Cowley, 1986.
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- Foster, Richard J. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.
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- Vennard, Jane E. *A Praying Congregation: The Art of Teaching Spiritual Practice*. Herndon, VA: The Alban Institute, 2005. 164 pp. ISBN: 9781566993135 List Price: \$17.00
- Weigelt, Morris A., & E. Dee Freeborn. *Living the Lord's Prayer: The Heart of Spiritual Formation*. Kansas City : Beacon Hill, 2001.