3081  Christian Spirituality and Pastoral Care
Spring 2009 / Monday 3:10-5 PM
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PURPOSE
This course explores forms of Christian spiritual practice and considers ways to enrich spirituality in the care of and ministry with individuals, families, and congregations. It hopes to help persons become more effective in attending to spirituality in pastoral care.

SCHEDULE

January 5    Introduction

Part I  Attending to God: Christian Resources   Spiritual Practice
January 12  de Waal, Seeking God  praying the psalms
January 26  Barth, Prayer  centering prayer
February 2  Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited  contemplation
February 9  Procter-Smith, Praying With Eyes Open  service/social action
February 16 Peterson, Eat this Book  lectio divina
February 23 Quenot, The Icon  praying with icon
DUE: Paper proposal

Spring Break

Part II  Making a Way for God: Care and Ministry
March 9   Justes, Hearing Beyond the Words  listening
March 16  Guenther, Holy Listening  the examen
March 23  Capps, Biblical Approaches  lectio divina
March 30  Bonhoeffer, Life Together  worship
April 6   deSilva, Sacramental Life  rest
April 13    Miller-McLemore, *In the Midst of Chaos*    playing/blessing

April 20    Research presentations—Research Paper DUE

DIVINITY REQUIREMENTS (additional work for GDR students TBD in consultation)
1. Reading and class participation (expectations to be discussed) (40%)
2. 15-20 pp./4500-6000 word research paper due April 20 (topics to be discussed) (60%)

Unexplained absence and late papers lower grade at the professor’s discretion. The University and Divinity Honor Codes apply to all aspects of the class. Students are expected to use inclusive language as a common practice in VDS. Students with a disability should ask the Opportunity Development Center for assistance in identifying yourself to the instructor so appropriate accommodation can be made.

REQUIRED READING (in bookstore and on library reserve)
Karl Barth, *Prayer (50th Anniversary edition)* (Westminster John Knox)
Donald Capps, *Biblical Approaches to Pastoral Counseling* (Wipf & Stock)
Margaret Guenther, *Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction* (Cowley)
Emma Justes, *Hearing Beyond the Words* (Abingdon)
Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, *In the Midst of Chaos: Care of Children as Spiritual Practice* (Jossey-Bass)
Eugene Peterson, *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading* (Eerdmans)
Marjorie Procter-Smith, *Praying With Our Eyes Open: Engendering Feminist Liturgical Prayer* (Abingdon)
Michel Quenot, *The Icon: Window on the Kingdom* (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press)
David deSilva, *Sacramental Life: Spiritual Formation Through the Book of Common Prayer* (IVP Books)
Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited* (Beacon)
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Class Schedule

3:10 - 3:15 PM    Rotating responsibility: Meditative reading of Psalms or other

3:15 - 3:45       GDR Student Tutorials: (1) Psychology/biology of spirituality OR (2) introduction to spiritual practice

3:45 – 4:00       Instructor: Overview remarks on the reading

4:15 - 4:25       Two divinity students: Initiation of discussion of reading (Sign-up below for 2 class sessions)

4:25 - 4:50       All students: Discussion of reading themes

4:50 - 5:00       Instructor: Summary comments Description of weekly spiritual practice

Part I  Attending to God: Christian Resources

January 12  de Waal, Seeking God

Instructor-led tutorial: Continuing introductions

Student facilitators: Sharon Weaver Caren Teichmann

January 26  Barth, Prayer

GDR student tutorial: Centering prayer (Kent Kreiselmeier)

Student facilitators: Laura Brantley Meredith Siler

February 2  Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited
GDR student tutorial: Christian insight meditation (Kreiselmeier)

Student facilitators:  Yolanda Wyatt
                     Emily Nix

**February 9**        Procter-Smith, *Praying With Eyes Open*

GDR student tutorial: Brain science and spirituality (Laura Rosser)

Student facilitators:  Tyler Delaney
                     Meredith Siler

**February 16**       Peterson, *Eat this Book*

GDR student tutorial: *Lectio Divina* (Rosser and Kreiselmeier)

Student facilitators:  Jonathan Wright
                     Mike Kiggins

**February 23**       Quenot, *The Icon*

Instructor-led: paper proposal discussion

Student facilitators:  Domingo Martinez
                     Sharon Weaver

**Part II**            *Making a Way for God: Care and Ministry*

**March 9**           Justes, *Hearing Beyond the Words*

GDR student tutorial: dream interpretation or James/Jung on religious experience (Rosser)

Student facilitators:  Tyler Delaney
                     Maris Miller

**March 16**           Guenther, *Holy Listening*
GDR student tutorial: Ignatian spirituality and the examen (Kreiselmeier)

Student facilitators:  Chance Dillon
                   Laura Brantley

March 23          Capps, *Biblical Approaches*

GDR student tutorial: Enneagram (Rosser)

Student facilitators:  Yolanda Wyatt
                    Jonathan Wright

March 30          Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*

GDR student tutorial: Enneagram (con’t) (Rosser)

Student facilitators:  Mike Kiggins
                    Emily Nix

April 6           deSilva, *Sacramental Life*

GDR student tutorial: Merton on spirituality and contemplative prayer (Kreiselmeier)

Student facilitators:  Chance Dillon
                    Domingo Martinez

April 13          Miller-McLemore, *In the Midst of Chaos*

GDR student tutorial: creativity as spiritual practice and/or God's economy (Rosser)

Student facilitators:  Caren Teichmann
                    Maris Miller

Suggestions for Class Discussion of the Reading
**Aims of the course:**

1. to explore understandings of Christian spirituality and forms of spiritual practice
2. to attend to spirituality in the care of individuals, families, and congregations

**Sample suggestions for student initiation of class discussion:**

1. *Initial impressions:* What really struck you about the reading?

2. *Critical book review themes:* Focus on any one of the following: What is the author’s main question and answer or argument? How does the author support the argument and do you agree with the sources, approach, or evidence? How does the author structure the argument, what parts make up the whole, and does it make sense to you? What are some of the author’s unstated assumptions and do you agree with them? What is the subject of the reading and does the author cover it adequately? What’s included or left out? Who is the author? Out of what context and toward what audience is the reading written?

3. *Small course comments:* Go to a specific place in the reading and raise a concrete question or make a concrete comment about what’s being said or how it’s said that has significant implications for the primary aims of the class or the focus for that particular class session.

4. *Big course comments:* Stand back for a moment from the reading and consider the questions and aims of the course and raise a question or make a comment about how this reading advances or frustrates ideas we have been developing.

5. *Personal research:* In terms of your own specific interests, identify anything that bothered, confused, and frustrated you or that confirmed, refined, and furthered your understanding.

6. *Use and application:* So what? Why does this reading matter? What difference does it make for religious life, society, or your own life or ministry?

7. *Direction:* State explicitly a specific idea or problem in the reading that you’d like people to discuss.
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Research Paper

General Comments

• Your research paper should focus on a theme from the course and should engage a text or texts we have read in class.

• You should extend and develop the ideas and insights of the text(s) by engaging at least one additional outside text.

• Your paper should begin with a specific question and offer a clear answer or argument.

• You should aim to write a publishable paper in a publication closest to your future vocation (e.g., academic journal for graduate students, such as *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*, *The Journal of Religion*, or *The Journal of Pastoral Theology*; denominational publication or popular religious magazine for divinity students, such as *Disciplesworld* or *Circuit Rider*, *Christian Century* or *Christianity Today*).

• Regardless of the imagined publication, your paper should engage scholarly literature and document sources, using any recognized form of citation.

Paper Ideas

• compare different understandings of prayer, engaging Barth’s *Prayer* and another classical theologian, pastoral theologian, or general source (e.g., *The Prayers of Kierkegaard*; Howard Thurman, *Meditations of the Heart*; Debra Hunsinger, *Pray Without Ceasing: Revitalizing Pastoral Care*; Walter Brueggemann, *Great Prayers of the Old Testament* or Marilyn McCord Adams, *Opening to God: Childlike Prayers for Adults*).

• compare one of the forms of spirituality sampled in the first part with a contrasting form (e.g. Robin Mass and Gabriel O’Donnell, *Spiritual Traditions*).

• explore spiritual care in a particular situation, such as care of children, working with the dying, or surviving domestic abuse, engaging and extending Guenther’s general ideas on spiritual direction.

• examine influence of cultural factor, such as race, gender, class, age, etc., on spirituality, engaging and extending Thurman or Procter-Smith by looking at other works by Thurman or Procter-Smith or related scholarship (e.g., Peter Paris, *The Spirituality of African Peoples* or Elizabeth Johnson, *She Who Is*).
• explore spiritual direction as a specialized ministry, engaging and extending Guenther by looking at other scholarship (e.g., William Barry and William Connolly, *The Practice of Spiritual Direction* or Duane Bidwell, *Short-Term Spiritual Guidance*)

• compare the use of scripture in pastoral counseling, engaging and extending Capps’s book by looking at other pastoral theologians (e.g., Edward Wimberly, *Using Scripture in Pastoral Counseling* or Ralph Underwood, *Pastoral Care and the Means of Grace*)

• explore the role of everyday spiritual practices, engaging and extending Miller-McLemore’s book by looking at other books in the series (e.g., Dorothy Bass, *Practicing Our Faith* or *Receiving the Day*, Stephanie Paulsell, *Honoring the Body*, etc.)

• explore the challenges of sustaining spirituality in today’s society, engaging and extending Miller-McLemore’s book by looking at other research on culture and technology (e.g., Richard Gaillerdez, *Transforming Our Days: Spirituality, Community and Liturgy in a Technological Culture*; Vincent Miller, *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture*)