



Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University

PTH 691: Spiritual Formation for Ministry Leaders

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Winter 2017
3 credit hours
Prerequisites: n/a

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Online
Participation via MyCampus

1. Course Description

Christian spiritual formation is a popular concept that stems from ancient roots. This introductory course will invite students to explore the nature of their own spiritual formation as well as introduce beliefs and practices of formation and community from Christian traditions of spirituality. Students will discover a variety of ancient and modern Christian spiritual practices that encourage a Biblical and holistic approach to life. Throughout the course, participants will explore specific theological and practical frameworks to evaluate their own spiritual health and ministry leadership.

2. Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, each participant should be able to:

- Identify the Biblical, theological and historical elements of Christian spirituality.
- Articulate a Biblical theology of personal spiritual growth.
- Thoughtfully answer the question, "What does it mean to live a Christian life?"
- Describe and evaluate the various principles, methods and teachings used to help people grow spiritually, in light of the Old and New Testaments.
- Study and apply spiritual formation in ministry and leadership settings.

3. Course Textbooks/Articles

Foster, Richard J., and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. Revised ed. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2005.

Sittser, Gerald Lawson. *Water from a Deep Well: Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2010.

Snyder, C Arnold. *Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

An English translation of the Bible (both Old and New Testaments).

4. Course Outline

- Seven Reflection Papers and Replies 35%
- Book Review 25%
- Spiritual Formation and Leadership Plan 25%
- Reading Report 15%

There are no extra credit assignments available.

Week	Learning Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seasons of the Soul Living Intentionally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any 15 Psalms Sittser, Intro 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Paper and Replies #1
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relational Spirituality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ephesians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Paper and Replies #2
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perspective Spirituality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romans Sittser, ch 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Paper and Replies #3
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core Spirituality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deuteronomy Sittser, ch 9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Paper and Replies #4
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disciplined Spirituality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luke Sittser, ch 3,4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Paper and Replies #5
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supernatural Spirituality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts Sittser, ch 7,8 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Paper and Replies #6
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Spirituality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sittser, ch 2,5,6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book Review Reflection Paper and Replies #7
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Christian Beliefs Finishing Well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sittser, ch 10,11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spiritual Formation and Leadership Plan Reading Report

5. Course Assignments

Reflection Papers

Seven brief assignments in which you express your personal thoughts and interaction with both the reading and the Reflection Questions, as described below. Each reading is taken from a specific section in the Devotional Classics textbook. For each week's Reflection Paper assignment:

1. Read the entire section and work through each of the Reflection Questions (identified in the textbook, at the end of each reading), and write a 500 word summary of your observations about the text and your thoughts about its practical application.
2. Reply to two other students Reflection Papers, with a minimum of 250 words each.
3. Grading is based on both quantity and quality of insightful, substantive messages posted (messages that simply offer one line comments will not count). Students who desire full marks for discussions will make well-thought contributions to the discussion that indicate careful reading of the course materials as well as careful thought about their fellow classmate's comments.
 - a. High quality comments reflect keen insight and analytical skills as well as original thinking and interpretation of the issues. Don't be afraid to disagree with someone but be sure to explain your own reasoning behind your disagreement. Better yet, take someone else's observations to the next level – apply your own unique twist to the points being made, add something beyond what someone else has said.

The seven Reflection Paper readings are:

- Week 1 – Either Jonathan Edwards (pages 19-25) or Francis de Sales (pages 26-32)
- Week 2 – Bernard of Clairvaux (pages 41-47)
- Week 3 – Blaise Pascal (pages 143-149)
- Week 4 – E. Stanley Jones (pages 281-287)
- Week 5 – Either Henri Nouwen (pages 80-86), Evelyn Underhill (pages 94-100) or Brother Lawrence (pages 369-375)
- Week 6 – Either Ignatius of Loyola (pages 193-199) or John Bunyan (pages 213-219)
- Week 7 – Either William Temple (pages 223-229) or Dietrich Bonhoeffer (pages 271-277)

Book Review

A ten page book review of *Following in the Footsteps of Christ: The Anabaptist Tradition*, following the standard guidelines below (important: the assignment is to write a book review, not a book report):

1. Introduction (6 marks):
 - a. A general description of the book: title, author, subject and format. Here you can include details about who the author is and where he/she stands in this field of inquiry. You can also link the title to the subject to show how the title explains the subject matter.
 - b. A brief summary of the purpose of the book and its general argument or theme. Include a statement about who the book is intended for.
 - c. Your thesis about the book: is it a suitable/appropriate piece of writing about the problem for the audience it has identified?
2. Summary of Content (2 marks):
 - a. This can be done in the same way that it is done for a simple book report (do not spend too much time or paper on this section, as the analysis and evaluation of content is more important than a simple summary).
3. Analysis of Text (11 marks):
 - a. What is the writer's style: simple/technical, persuasive/logical?
 - b. How well does the organizational method (comparison/contrast; cause/effect; analogy; persuasion through example) develop the argument or theme of the book? (Give examples to support your analysis.)
 - c. What evidence does the book present to support the argument? How convincing is this evidence? (Select pieces of evidence that are weak, or strong, and explain why they are such.)
 - d. How complete is the argument?
 - e. Are there facts and evidence that the author has neglected to consider? (You may need to refer to other relevant material)
4. Evaluation of the Text (6 marks):
 - a. Give a brief summary of all the weakness and strengths you have found in the book. Does it do what it set out to do?
 - b. Evaluate the book's overall usefulness to the audience it is intended for.

Spiritual Formation and Leadership Plan

A 12-15 page paper in which you explore and answer the questions in the *Spiritual Formation and Leadership Plan*. Your completion of the plan will provide you with a framework for strategically applying your course experiences and learnings in your life and ministry. The document will be distributed during the first week of class, and must be submitted on or before the last day of class.

Reading Report

Before the last day of class, you must indicate how much of the required reading you thoughtfully read (not skimmed) during the course, as a percentage (eg. 50%, 90%, etc), and also as a 500 word summary of your observations and comments about the readings. The required reading includes the textbooks as well as the specified books of the Bible.

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A+	97-100	4.30
A	93-96	4.00
A-	90-92	3.70
B+	87-89	3.30
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.70
C+	77-79	2.30
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.70
F	Below 70	0.00

6. Miscellaneous Notes/Policies

Writing Expectations:

- All assignments must be submitted online through the MyCampus website.
- Papers must be uploaded as .doc, .docx, or .pdf files, and must adhere to the following format:
 - 11 or 12 point font in either Arial, Times New Roman, or Calibri style,
 - Top, bottom and side page margins of 2.5cm (1 inch),
 - Double-spaced, and
 - Current Chicago Manual of Style or Turabian guidelines.

Late Assignments:

- Manage your time well. Review the required assignments and write out a realistic schedule for completing each assignment's research and writing.
- Assignments can be submitted prior to their due dates (often, it is better time management to do so).
- Late assignments will be deducted 10% per day, to a maximum of five days. Any assignment submitted more than five days late will not be accepted.
- Please note that any assignment submitted after the last day of class will not be counted toward your final grade – there will be no exceptions. It is your responsibility to ensure that all assignments are submitted on time. If you have requested and been approved for a formal course extension, it is your responsibility to submit all assignments before the expiry of the extension.

7. Supplement: Important Academic Notes from ACTS

Web Support – Student Portal <https://www1.twu.ca/services>

- All students at TWU have a TWUPass username and password. This is determined at the time of an online application or can be managed through the computing services help desk or the link on the student portal. Your student email account is also available through this student portal and is vital for communication about grades, account statements, lost passwords, sign-up instructions, etc. If you do not know your account or password, there is a link at the login area called "I forgot my password." When you click on that link, you will be walked through the process of retrieving your account information.

Paper Formatting

- Students are strongly encouraged to use EndNote Basic/Web (to create an account or log in, go to: <http://libguides.twu.ca/EndNote/>) as their bibliographical manager and as

a tool for formatting bibliographies. It is free. The link to EndNote from the library home page provides detailed instructions. Students will need to be aware that it is necessary to “clean up” most bibliographies generated by this program. Students are encouraged to view the documents on the following websites for format samples:

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html or www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/. In EndNote Basic/Web the available formatting styles are those of Turabian Bibliography, and APA 6th edition. For Turabian, there are two formats – Notes (Bibliography) and Reference List (a short format citation style). ACTS uses the Notes (Bibliography) format, not Reference List.

- For free online programs that will enable students to create properly formatted bibliography citations, go to <http://www.eturabian.com/turabian/index.html> or <http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/> (“Chicago” stands for “Turabian”).

Course Evaluations

- Course evaluations are important for improving teaching outcomes, faculty professional development, and the student learning context. Completion of course evaluations is, therefore, considered to be a course expectation. Information about how to access online evaluation forms will be provided to the faculty and students prior to the last week of classes by the ACTS Administration.

Research Ethics

- Please note that all research projects involving human participants undertaken by members of the TWU university community (including projects done by ACTS students to satisfy course or degree requirements) MUST be approved by the Trinity Western University Research Ethics Board. Information and forms may be found at <http://www.twu.ca/research/research/research-ethics/default.html>. Those needing additional clarification may contact the ACTS Academic Dean’s office. Please allow at least three (3) weeks from the date of submission for a review of the application.

Academic Integrity and Avoiding Plagiarism at TWU

- Christian scholars at TWU regard academic integrity to be a core value. Students are invited into this scholarly culture and are required to abide by the principles of sound academic scholarship. This means that all members of the TWU academic community must avoid all forms of plagiarism and cheating in scholarly work. ACTS uses the TWU Student Handbook as a guide for our seminary students. Though some features in the handbook are focused on the university’s undergraduate population, it provides the essential student life information for ACTS students as well. It can be found online at: <http://www.twu.ca/studenthandbook/>.

- Learning what constitutes plagiarism and avoiding it is the student's responsibility. An excellent resource in this regard has been prepared by TWU Librarian William Badke and is freely available for download (PPT file) or can be viewed in flash (self-running) tutorials of different lengths:
<http://williambadke.com/plagiarism.ppt>
<http://williambadke.com/Plagiarism.swf> (14 minute flash tutorial)
http://williambadke.com/Plagiarism_Short.swf (8 minute flash tutorial)

Equity of Access

- Students with disabilities who need assistance are encouraged to contact the Equity of Access Office upon admission to TWU to discuss their specific needs. All disabilities must be recently documented by an appropriately certified professional and such documentation should include a statement regarding the educational impact of the disability along with recommended accommodations. Within the first two weeks of the semester, students must meet with their professors to agree on accommodations appropriate to each class. Students should follow the steps detailed by the Equity of Access Office outlined on the TWU website at
<http://twu.ca/life/wellness/learningresources/disabilities-and-equity-of-access/steps-to-attaining-disability-services.html>.

Policy Information and Student Concerns

- Information on academic and community life policies and procedures that affect students can be found in the ACTS Academic Catalogue, which is available on the ACTS website (www.actsseminaries.com) under the Academics tab. Students who wish to communicate concerns or to lodge academic appeals are welcome to contact the appropriate faculty or staff member directly, or to fill out and submit the relevant Concerns & Grievances or Appeals form found on the Files & Forms page of the Current Students section of the ACTS Website.