

BRIERCREST

CM 600 Spiritual Formation for Ministry

Spring 2019

Instructor: Richard Hovey, DMin
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Dates: April 22 – June 15, 2019 (Online)
Post-course assignments due July 15, 2019

3 Credit Hours

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of the theology of Christian life and spiritual formation through attention to the biblical theme of union with Christ. Students will also examine the formation of Christian character, as well as the rationale for and practice of spiritual disciplines. (When this course is taken on campus, it culminates in a 24-hour retreat.)

COURSE INTEGRATION

Spiritual formation is an integral element of Christianity, as seen in the biblical text and subsequent theology. This course will provide the student with a biblical and theological foundation for understanding Christian spiritual formation as well as introducing the student to practices and disciplines that have been used by the Church for personal formation into Christlikeness. Lastly, the student will be challenged with the importance of spiritual formation as integral for a life of effective ministry as well.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Provide an overview of the biblical and theological understanding of Christian spiritual formation
- Provide an overview of spiritual practices and disciplines, noting their context and development in the history of the Church
- Enable students to reflect upon, further understand and experience the varied ways they can encounter God in daily life, both individually and communally
- Have each student write his or her rule of life which will foster a disciplined life of relationship with God
- Enable students to approach ministry with a sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, ministering out of a personal experience of a life lived with God which they are then able to lead others into as well
- Encourage students in ministering with their heart as well as their mind, continuing the compassionate ministry of Christ to those they encounter
- Enrich the students' experience of ministry as a truly spiritual exercise

COURSE TEXTS

Dawn, Marva. *The Sense of Call: A Sabbath way of Life for those who Serve God, the Church, and the World*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2006.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2018.

Greenman, Jeffrey P. and George Kalantzis, eds. *Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in Theological Perspective*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Scorgie, Glen G. *A Little Guide to Christian Spirituality: Three Dimensions of Life with God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Students are expected to refer to Briercrest Seminary's Format and Style Guides and Guide for Writing Research Papers, available as PDF documents here: <https://www.mybriercrest.ca/seminary/documents/>.

Students are responsible for course materials and communication on Canvas (<https://briercrest.instructure.com>; cf. <http://briercrest.ca/online/canvas>) and their myBriercrest.ca email account.

COURSE OUTLINE AND CONTENT

NOTE: There will be an 8-week intensive period that includes online live lectures and discussion, as well as online written engagement around course material. This will be followed by a 4-week period for completing post-course assignments, during which time the online interaction will continue with a focus on the post-course assignments. **These live online interactions will be via Zoom on Tuesdays from 7pm-9pm SK time.**

Week and Topic	Readings	Exercise/Assignments
Pre-course	<i>A Little Guide to Christian Spirituality</i> - Scorgie	Book Review and Reflection
COURSE		
April 22-27 Live Online (April 23) An Introduction to Christian Spirituality	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 1	Write a reflection paper on one of the articles in Part 1 and a response to one other student's reflection paper.
April 29-May 4 Live Online (April 30) Historical Reflections	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 2	Write a reflection paper on one of the articles in Part 2
May 6-11 Live Online (May 7) Inward Disciplines of the Spiritual Life	<i>Celebration of Discipline</i> - Part 1 <i>Life in the Spirit</i> - Chapter 8 & 10	Write a reflection on paper on one of the spiritual disciplines from Foster (Part 1) OR one of the chapters in Greenman and Kalantzis. Also write a response to one other student's reflection paper.

May 13-18 Live Online (May 14) Outward Disciplines of the Spiritual Life	<i>Celebration of Discipline – Part 2</i> <i>Life in the Spirit – Chapter 12</i>	Write a reflection on paper on one of the spiritual disciplines from Foster (Part 2) OR the chapter in Greenman and Kalantzis. Also write a response to one other student's reflection paper.
May 20-25 Live Online (May 21) Corporate Disciplines of the Spiritual Life	<i>Celebration of Discipline – Part 3</i> <i>Life in the Spirit – Chapter 9 & 11</i>	Write a reflection on paper on one of the spiritual disciplines from Foster (Part 3) OR one of the chapters in Greenman and Kalantzis. Also write a response to one other student's reflection paper.
May 27-June 1 Live Online (May 28) The Centrality of Shema	<i>The Sense of Call – Chapter 1</i>	Reflection Paper on Chap. 1
June 3-8 Live Online (June 4) Shabbat and Service	<i>The Sense of Call – Chapters 2-5</i>	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters from Dawn.
June 10-15 Live Online (June 11) Ministry of Shalom	<i>The Sense of Call – Chapters 6-10</i>	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters from Dawn.
POST-COURSE		
June 17-22 Live Online (June 18) Writing a Rule of Life	<i>Rule of Life Instructions (Canvas)</i> Suggested Resources:	Rule of Life
June 24-29 Live Online (June 25) Planning a Sabbath Day	<i>Crafting A Rule of Life</i> <i>God in my Everything</i> <i>The Life You've Always Wanted</i>	Sabbath Retreat
July 1-6 Live Online (July 2) Rule of Life Reviews		
July 8-13 Live Online (July 9) Sabbath Reflections		

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS – submitted to Canvas

Pre-Course Assignments:

1. **Book Review and Reflection (20%)** Upon reading Scorgie's *A Little Guide to Christian Spirituality*, write a four page (1000 word) review in which you note the author's purpose and argument, strengths and weaknesses, and overall usefulness of the book in the field of

Christian spirituality. Following the review, write a personal two page (500 word) reflection on areas in your own life and ministry which you feel the book speaks to. In total this assignment is to be six pages (1500 words).

Assignments During Course:

1. **Reflection Posts and Responses (25%)** During the eight-week online component of this course, you will be writing reflections in which you express your personal thoughts and interactions on the weekly readings indicated in the Course Outline above. These reflections will be posted online (via Canvas) and are to be limited to 250 words. Secondly, you are to write a short response (between 100-200 words) interacting with the reflections of four other students by the end of the eight weeks.

Post-Course Assignments (due by July 15, 2019):

1. **Rule of Life (35%)**
 - a. Your Rule of Life should fit on a page or two; feel free to be creative with it.
 - b. Recommended resources in writing your Rule of Life:
 - i. *Crafting a Rule of Life* by Stephen Macchia. See his website at: <https://ruleoflife.com>.
 - ii. *God in My Everything* by Ken Shigematsu
 - iii. *The Life You've Always Wanted* by John Ortberg
 - c. When it comes to writing your Rule of Life, the following article is extremely insightful in articulating how to go about this and what should be included: http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/338. This article will be made available on Canvas.
2. **Sabbath Experience and Report (20%)** Plan a day (24-hr period) in which you “unplug” from all work-related activities, incorporating into this day such things as adequate rest, time with family/friends, and other spiritual disciplines you choose (solitude, prayer, nonwork related study, etc.). Following this planned Sabbath, write a four page (1000 words) summary of the experience, including the following: what activities you chose to do and why, what day you chose and why, your personal reflections on the experience, and how you plan to incorporate Sabbath into regular practice.

SEMINARY CALENDAR

Students are expected to be aware of the policies that govern course work at Briercrest Seminary, all of which are published in the current Seminary Calendar:

<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/calendar/>.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted no later than eight weeks after the last day of class as stated in the syllabus. The correct due dates will be clearly noted in the syllabus and each faculty member will state in their syllabus how assignments should be submitted. Assignments submitted within a week

after the due date will be accepted with a 10 per cent penalty. For additional information refer to the late assignment policy or the extension policy in the [academic calendar](#).

Return of Graded Assignments

Professors are expected to return graded assignments within six weeks of the due date. If they fail to do so, students may submit an inquiry to the [Seminary](#). If an extension is granted, the professor is no longer obligated to meet this deadline.

Academic Honesty

Students are accountable to perform each task according to principles of academic honesty. Please refer to pages 24-25 in the [academic calendar](#) for more information.

Academic Accommodations

Any student with a disability, injury, or illness who may need academic accommodations should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Student Success Centre in person (located in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (studentsuccesscentre@briercrest.ca).

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