

# BRIERCREST

## CM 600 Spiritual Formation for Ministry (Online) Winter 2020

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Course Dates: January 6 – April 17, 2020

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 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 OUTCOMES

- 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 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.** Instructions for how to log into Zoom will be posted to Canvas.

Week and Topic	Readings	Exercise/Assignments
Pre-course	<i>A Little Guide to Christian Spirituality</i> - Scorgie	Book Review and Reflection
<b>COURSE</b>		
January 13-17 Live Online (January 14) An Introduction to Christian Spirituality	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 1	Write a reflection paper on <b>one</b> of the articles in Part 1 and a response to <b>one</b> other student's reflection paper.
January 20-24 Live Online (January 21) Historical Reflections	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 2	Write a reflection paper on <b>one</b> of the articles in Part 2
January 27-31 Live Online (January 28) 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 paper on <b>one</b> of the spiritual disciplines from Foster (Part 1) OR <b>one</b> of the chapters in Greenman and Kalantzis. Also write a response to <b>one</b> other student's reflection paper.

<p><b>February 3-7</b>  <b>Live Online (February 4)</b>                  Outward Disciplines of the Spiritual Life</p>	<p><i>Celebration of Discipline – Part 2</i>  <i>Life in the Spirit – Chapter 12</i></p>	<p>Write a reflection paper on <b>one</b> of the spiritual disciplines from Foster (Part 2) OR the chapter in Greenman and Kalantzis.                  Also write a response to <b>one</b> other student’s reflection paper.</p>
<p><b>February 10-14</b>  <b>Live Online (February 11)</b>                  Corporate Disciplines of the Spiritual Life</p>	<p><i>Celebration of Discipline – Part 3</i>  <i>Life in the Spirit – Chapter 9 &amp; 11</i></p>	<p>Write a reflection paper on <b>one</b> of the spiritual disciplines from Foster (Part 3) OR <b>one</b> of the chapters in Greenman and Kalantzis.                  Also write a response to <b>one</b> other student’s reflection paper.</p>
<p><b>February 17-21</b>  <b>Live Online (February 18)</b>                  The Centrality of Shema</p>	<p><i>The Sense of Call – Chapter 1</i></p>	<p>Reflection Paper on Chap. 1</p>
<p><b>February 24-28</b>  <b>Live Online (February 25)</b>                  Shabbat and Service</p>	<p><i>The Sense of Call – Chapters 2-5</i></p>	<p>Write a reflection paper on <b>one</b> of the chapters from Dawn.</p>
<p><b>March 2-6</b>  <b>Live Online (March 3)</b>                  Ministry of Shalom</p>	<p><i>The Sense of Call – Chapters 6-10</i></p>	<p>Write a reflection paper on <b>one</b> of the chapters from Dawn.</p>
<b>POST-COURSE</b>		
<p><b>March 9-13</b>  <b>Live Online (March 10)</b>                  Writing a Rule of Life</p>	<p><i>Rule of Life Instructions (Canvas)</i>                  Suggested Resources:   <i>Crafting A Rule of Life</i>  <i>God in my Everything</i>  <i>The Life You’ve Always Wanted</i></p>	<p>Rule of Life</p>
<p><b>March 16-20</b>  <b>Live Online (March 17)</b>                  Planning a Sabbath Day</p>		<p>Sabbath Retreat</p>
<p><b>March 23-27</b>  <b>Live Online (March 24)</b>                  Rule of Life Reviews</p>		
<p><b>March 30-April 3</b>  <b>Live Online (March 31)</b>                  Sabbath Reflections</p>		

## ASSIGNMENTS

### *Pre-Course Assignments:*

#### **Book Review and Reflection (20%) - due by January 14, 2020, submitted to Canvas**

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).

### *Mid-Course Assignments:*

#### **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:*

#### **Rule of Life (35%) - due by April 17, 2020, submitted to Canvas**

- Your Rule of Life should fit on a page or two; feel free to be creative with it.
- Recommended resources in writing your Rule of Life:
  - Crafting a Rule of Life by Stephen Macchia. See his website at: <https://ruleoflife.com>.
  - God in My Everything by Ken Shigematsu
  - The Life You've Always Wanted by John Ortberg
- 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](http://www.cslewisinstitute.org/webfm_send/338). This article will be made available on Canvas.

#### **Sabbath Experience and Report (20%) - due by April 17, 2020, submitted to Canvas**

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/>.

***Attendance Policy***

Students are expected to attend 100% of each modular for which they register. If this is impossible due to extenuating circumstances, arrangements must be made with the course professor before the first day of class. If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending class, a maximum of one full day of class can be foregone. If additional time is missed, the student will fail the course unless they first request to withdraw from the course or move the course to an audit.

***Course Schedules***

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday morning and run a minimum of 30 hours through the course of the week. The schedule is determined by the course professor. Students should check the syllabus for specifics. When the syllabus does not state class times, students are responsible to check with the professor prior to making travel plans.

***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 health condition who may need academic accommodations (permanent or temporary) should discuss them with the course instructor after contacting the Director of the Academic Resource Centre in person (L234 in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email ([academicresourcecentre@briercrest.ca](mailto:academicresourcecentre@briercrest.ca)). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

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