

BRIERCREST

CM 600 Spiritual Formation for Ministry Fall 2021

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Course Dates: September 14 to November 30, 2021

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.

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

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.

Purves, Andrew. *The Search for Compassion: Spirituality and Ministry*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1989.

Webb, Chris. *God Soaked Life: Discovering a Kingdom Spirituality*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2017.

Wirzba, Norman. *Living the Sabbath: Discovering the Rhythms of Rest and Delight*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2006.

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/>.

These texts are available in store and online at the Briercrest Bookstore: <http://briercrest.ca/bookstore>.

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
- Have students recognize their ministry as the continued ministry of Christ
- 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 a 10-week intensive period that includes live online lectures and discussion, online written engagement around course material, and live online student presentations. This will be followed by a 2-week period for post-course assignment reflections, during which time the online interaction will continue with a focus on the post-course assignment. **These live online interactions will be via Zoom on Tuesdays from 6pm-8:30pm SK time.**

Week and Topic	Readings	Exercise/Assignments
Pre-course	<i>God Soaked Life</i> – Webb	Book Review and Reflection
COURSE		
September 12-18 Live Online (Sept 14) 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.
September 19-25 Live Online (Sept 21) Historical Reflections	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 2	Write a reflection paper on one of the articles in Part 2
September 26 – Oct 2 Live Online (Sept 28) Reasoning: Disciplines for Understanding	<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.

October 3-9 Live Online (Oct 5) Reflecting: Disciplines for Personal Application	<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.
October 10-16 Live Online (Oct 12) Relating: Disciplines for Life in Community	<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.
October 17-23 Live Online (Oct 19) Restoring: Part 1 - The Centrality of Shema	<i>Living the Sabbath – Chapters 1-3</i>	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters from Wirzba.
October 24-30 Live Online (Oct 26) Restoring: Part 2 - Sabbath Lifestyle	<i>Living the Sabbath – Chapters 4-6</i>	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters from Wirzba.
Oct 31 - Nov 6 Live Online (Nov 2) Restoring: Part 3 - Ministry of Shalom	<i>Living the Sabbath – Chapters 7-9</i>	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters from Wirzba.
November 7-13 Live Online (Nov 9) Student Presentations	<i>The Search for Compassion – Chapters 1-3</i>	Student presentations on <i>The Search for Compassion</i> chapters 1-3.
November 14-20 Live Online (Nov 16) Student Presentations	<i>The Search for Compassion – Chapters 4-6</i>	Student presentations on <i>The Search for Compassion</i> chapters 4-6.
POST-COURSE		
November 21-27 Live Online (Nov 23) Writing a Rule of Life	<i>Rule of Life Instructions (Canvas)</i> Suggested Resources:	Rule of Life
November 28 – Dec 4 Live Online (Nov 30) Rule of Life Review Concluding Lecture	<i>Crafting A Rule of Life</i> <i>God in my Everything</i> <i>The Life You've Always Wanted</i>	

ASSIGNMENTS

Please submit all written assignments to Canvas.

Pre-Course Assignment (due September 14, 2021):

Book Review and Reflection (20%)

Upon reading Webb's *God Soaked Life: Discovering a Kingdom 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 for understanding ministry in the Kingdom of God. 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 first eight weeks 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 (as noted in the Course Outline).

Student Presentations (20%) In weeks 9 and 10 each student will present on one of the chapters in *The Search for Compassion* by Purves in our Live Online session. Students are expected to read all chapters. There are six chapters in this book, so up to four students will be presenting on each chapter; your chapter for presentation will be assigned to you. The presentation is to consist of:

- Insights gleaned from your assigned chapter that you found relevant for your context.
- Practical reflection on how you may adapt your life/ministry context to incorporate the relevant insights gleaned.
- A challenge from your assigned chapter to leave others with as they reflect on their own context. This is to lead to a question for discussion following your presentation.
- Post a four page (1000 word) write up of your presentation on Canvas.

Your presentation is to be 10 minutes in length, followed by 5 minutes for discussion.

Post-Course Assignment (due by December 21, 2021):

Rule of Life (35%)

- 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. This article will be made available on Canvas.

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](#).

Attendance Policy

In order to benefit fully from a seminary education, to be good stewards of time and finances, and to be considerate of their classmates and faculty members, students must be in class at every opportunity.

Modular Courses

Students are expected to attend 100 per cent 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 (1) 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.

Online Courses

If extenuating circumstances prevent a student from attending scheduled meeting times, then up to 20% of meeting time can be foregone. Students missing scheduled meeting times should make every effort to inform the course professor prior to any time missed. 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.

Semester-Based Courses

All students missing more than two full weeks of a particular course from registration to the last day of classes will receive an automatic fail (0%). A student may appeal a course failure due to excessive absences. Successful appeals will be granted only in rare cases where all absences are clearly beyond the student's control. Appeals must be made through the Academic Appeal Process.

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 seminary@briercrest.ca. 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 Student Success in person (L234 in the Library), by telephone (1-306-756-3230) or by email (egordon@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

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