

BRIERCREST

CM 600 Spiritual Formation for Ministry Spring 2023

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Course Dates: April 24 to June 23, 2023
Course Delivery Format: Online

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

Brueggemann, Walter. *Peace*. St. Louis, MI: Chalice Press, 2001.

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

Lamm, Norman. *The Shema: Spirituality and Law in Judaism*. Melrose Park, PA: The Jewish Publication Society, 2000.

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

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 an 8-week intensive period that includes live online lectures, discussion and online written engagement around course material. This will be followed by a 1-week period for post-course assignment reflections, 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 6pm-9pm Central Daylight Time.**

Week and Topic	Readings	Exercise/Assignments
Pre-course	<i>Shema</i> – Lamm	Book Review and Reflection
COURSE		
April 23-29 Live Online (April 25) An Introduction to Christian Spirituality as Restorative Ministry	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 1	Write a reflection paper on one of the articles in <i>Life in the Spirit</i> Part 1 and a response to one other student's reflection paper.
April 30 - May 6 Live Online (May 2) Historical Reflections	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 2	Write a reflection paper on one of the articles in <i>Life in the Spirit</i> Part 2.
May 7-13 Live Online (May 9) Restoring: Part 1 - The Centrality of Shema	<i>Life in the Spirit</i> , Part 3	Write a reflection paper on one of the articles in <i>Life in the Spirit</i> Part 3.

May 14-20 Live Online (May 16) Reasoning: Disciplines for Understanding	<i>Living the Sabbath</i> , Part 1	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters in <i>Living the Sabbath</i> Part 1 and a response to one other student's reflection paper.
May 21-27 Live Online (May 23) Restoring: Part 2 - Sabbath Lifestyle	<i>Living the Sabbath</i> , Part 2	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters in <i>Living the Sabbath</i> Part 2.
May 28 - June 3 Live Online (May 30) Reflecting: Disciplines for Personal Application	<i>Peace</i> , Part 1 & 2	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters in <i>Peace</i> Part 1 & 2 and a response to one other student's reflection paper.
June 4-10 Live Online (June 6) Restoring: Part 3 - Ministry of Shalom	<i>Peace</i> , Part 3 & 4	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters in <i>Peace</i> Part 3 & 4.
June 11-17 Live Online (June 13) Relating: Disciplines for Life in Community	<i>Peace</i> , Part 5	Write a reflection paper on one of the chapters from <i>Peace</i> Part 5 and a response to one other student's reflection paper.
POST-COURSE		
June 18-24 Live Online (June 20) Writing a Rule of Life	<i>Rule of Life Instructions</i> (Canvas) Suggested Resources:	Rule of Life Book Review and Application (<i>The Search for Compassion</i> , Purves)
	<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 by April 24, 2023):

Book Review (20%) Upon reading Lamm's *The Shema: Spirituality and Law in Judaism*, 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 the implications of the Shema. 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).

Post-Course Assignments (due by August 15, 2023):

Book Review and Application (20%) Upon reading Purves' *The Search for Compassion: Spirituality and Ministry*, write a three page (750 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 three-page (750 word) reflective application connecting the thesis of the book with the concept of restorative ministry covered in class. In total this assignment is to be six pages (1500 words).

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:
<https://www.briercrestseminary.ca/academics/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 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 Academic Resource Centre Coordinator in person (L234 in the Library) or by email (ntooke@briercrest.ca). Documentation from a qualified practitioner will be required (i.e., medical doctor, psychologist, etc.).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Allender, Dan B. *Sabbath*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009.

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