

Northwest University

College of Ministry
Kirkland, Washington
JANUARY 20-23, 2015

PMIN 5253: SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DIRECTION
(3 credit hours)

John H. Spurling, D.Min.

John.spurling@tku.edu

817-552-3776 (Lisa Bolar)

2121 Southlake Blvd., Southlake, TX 76092

Spring/2015

Course Syllabus

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to enhance the minister's experience of lifelong spiritual transformation. In addition to the classic spiritual disciplines and virtues, an array of contributions from various streams of the Christian tradition will be considered, including the ways in which life experience can be spiritually forming if properly engaged. The model used in this course is designed to encourage leaders to facilitate the spiritual growth of those they lead by example, to become leaders worth following.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course is an arena for personal growth of several kinds:

- *Character development:* **humbling** ourselves as the Spirit uses a new appreciation of the spiritual disciplines to grow a greater dependence on God.
- *Historical exegesis:* **interpreting** major forms of Christian spiritual formation in their context and current application.
- *Theological reflection:* **hearing** ministry as posing critical theological questions that must be engaged through a biblically faithful theology of formation.
- *Personal reframing:* **seeing** personal and corporate ministry as an evolving, holistic relationship with God rather than a set of static roles and functions.
- *Community formation:* **relating** to other believers in a community that simulates seeking after God as the primary task of the Christian minister.
- *Ministry enhancement:* **discerning** the leading of the Spirit in the fulfillment of Christ's mission through our own calling.
- *Ongoing growth:* **equipping** with practices and insights that can inform an ongoing process of spiritual growth in all of the objectives above.

REQUIRED READINGS:

McNeal, Reggie. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2011. (240 pages)

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. HarperOne, 1999. (288 pages)

ADDITIONAL READING OPTIONS:

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001. (544 pages)

Creps, Earl. *Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network, 2006. (240 pages)

Foster, Richard J. and J.B. Smith (eds.). *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. Rev. Ed. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2005. (388 pages)

McNeal, Reggie. *Practicing Greatness: Seven Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006. (192 pages)

Mulholland, M. Robert. *The Deeper Journey: The Spirituality of Discovering Your True Self*. Intervarsity Press Books, 2006. (168 pages).

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998. (240 pages)

Tan, Siang-Yang and Douglas Gregg. *Disciplines of the Holy Spirit: How to Connect to the Spirit's Power and Presence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. (240 pages)

Wilhoit, James. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008. (240 pages)

Willard, Dallas. *Knowing Christ Today: Why We Can Trust Spiritual Knowledge*. HarperOne, 2009. (256 pages)

_____. *Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life In God*. HarperOne, 1998. (448 pages)

COURSE METHODOLOGY: The course combines lecture, discussion, multi-media, small group exercises, reading, and writing assignments to facilitate the discovery of the subject matter and its integration into ministry.

COURSE OUTLINE: The course meets from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on the following days:

Tuesday, January 20: *Spirit-Formed Living: Our "Soul" Desire*

Wednesday, January 21: *Spirit-Formed Living: Surrender, Simplicity, Solitude*

Thursday, January 22: *Spirit-Formed Living: Study, "S"elebration, Service*

Friday, January 23: *Spirit-Formed Living: Self-Leadership*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Pre-session:

- a. **Read:** 750 pages from the Course Reading Options list prior to the first class session. No books read previously should be counted toward the course reading requirement.

[The percentage of pre-session reading completed should be indicated on the Reading Reflection paper turned in on the last day of class].

- b. **Write:** a Reading Critique paper of 4-5 pages summarizing the key ideas from the pre-course reading that you found most important, disturbing, and/or enlightening. Summarize the key arguments briefly and then reflect on how they apply to your present or future ministry context. This paper is due on the last day of class, and is worth 100 points.

2. During the session:

- a. **Attendance:** at all course sessions;
- b. **Participation:** in all classroom discussions, exercises, and assignments;

3. Post-Session:

- a. **Reading:** Complete 750 pages of reading from the Course Reading Options list.

[The **Post-Session Reading Report** attached to this syllabus should be submitted on or before **February 28, 2015** with all post-session work].

- b. **Write:** a Reading Critique paper of 4-5 pages summarizing the key ideas from the pre-course reading that you found most important, disturbing, and/or enlightening. Summarize the key arguments briefly and then reflect on how they apply to your present or future ministry context. This paper is due on the last day of class, and is worth 100 points.
- c. **Living Free:** Watch each of the five core teachings on “Foundations of Freedom” from the following web address (<http://gatewaypeople.com/ministries/freedom-kairos/media1>). Upon completion of this assignment, write a five-page paper that identifies key areas of understanding related to living in God’s freedom. This assignment counts for 200 points. **Due date: February 28, 2015.**
- d. **Personal Retreat:** Spend a “half-a-day” (four hours) alone - without electronic communication with the outside world - in a personal time of devotion with God. Bring only a Bible and a notepad and pen. Spend the time as you feel led, then, drawing on course readings and sessions, write a 5-page paper reflecting on what God did for you and said to you during this retreat. This assignment counts for 200 points. **Due date: February 28, 2015.**
- e. Choose *one* of the following options (400 points): **Due date: February 28, 2015.**
- 1) **Devise a self-development plan:** write a 10-page paper detailing your plan for developing yourself and others spiritually. This should include background research, personal growth, training, skill enhancements sought, implementation challenges, evaluation methods, and a timeline.
 - 2) **Create a sermon series:** using insights gained from the class, write 3-4 high-quality sermons of significant length on the subject of spiritual growth. *Do not recycle old messages!* You may do either a manuscript, or a very detailed outline. While all sermons must be turned in hard copy, they may be accompanied by audio and/or media support (e.g., PowerPoint, video clips).
 - 3) **Write a research paper:** choose a major theme related to the course and write a 10-page research paper. The paper should identify and reflect upon key ideas related to the topic, report on some of the major literature in the area, and apply conclusions to your ministry context. Supporting footnotes and a 15-item bibliography are required.
 - 4) **Propose a self-designed project:** every student has the option of proposing one or more Self-Designed projects that relate specifically to a ministry or research interest relevant to the course subject matter. The professor must then approve a specific project in advance.

All written assignments are to be typed, double-spaced, represent high-quality, original, graduate-level work, and follow the *Turabian* style manual, 7th edition.

All assignments can be emailed to the professor (john.spurling@tku.edu) with a title page that includes name, address, phone and email, course number, title, and site.

Due date: all post-session assignments must be emailed or postmarked no later than **February 28, 2015**. Grades for late work will be lowered by one letter grade for each week by which the project exceeds this deadline.

PLAGIARISM: Registration in this course constitutes agreement to abide by Northwest University's official policy on plagiarism found in the *2008-2009 Northwest University Catalog* on p. 37. The catalog is available online at: <http://www.northwestu.edu/catalog/documents/2008nucatalog.pdf>

GRADING PROCEDURE:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Points</u>
Reading Critique (Pre-Session)	100
Reading Critique (Post-Session)	100
Living Free Paper	200
Personal Retreat Paper	200
Post-Session Project Option	400
TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE:	<u>1000</u>

RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

- Anderson, Ray S. *Self Care: A Theology of Personal Empowerment and Spiritual Healing*, 2000. (276 pages)
- _____. *Living the Spiritually Balanced Life*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. (208 pages)
- Barrier, Roger. *Listening to the Voice of God*. Bethany House, 1998. (176 pages)
- Blackaby, Henry. *Called to Be God's Leader: Lesson's from the Life of Joshua*. Thomas Nelson, 2004. (224 pages)
- _____. *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People to God's Agenda*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2001. (305 pages)
- Block, P. *Stewardship: Choosing Service over Self-Interest*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler, 1993.
- Buxton, Graham. *Dancing in the Dark: The Privilege of Participating in the Ministry of Christ*. Paternoster Press, 2003. (310 pages)
- Callen, Barry L. *Authentic Spirituality: Moving Beyond Mere Religion*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2001. (271 pages)
- Conger, Jay, ed. *Spirit at Work: Discovering the Spirituality in Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1998. (264 pages)
- Drath, Wilfred. *The Deep Blue Sea: Rethinking the Source of Leadership*. New York: John Wiley, 2001. (224 pages)
- Ezell, Richard. *Strengthening the Pastor's Soul: Developing Personal Authenticity for Pastoral Effectiveness*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1995. (111 pages)
- Fischer, James A. *Leaders and People in Biblical Stories*. Liturgical Press, 2004. (168 pages)
- Flynn, James T., Russell W. West, and Wie T. Tjong. *A Well-Furnished Heart*. Xulon Press, 2002. (320 pages)
- Greenleaf, Robert K., ed. *Servant Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*. Paulist Press, 2002. (384 pages)
- Greenleaf, Robert K., et al, eds. *On Becoming a Servant Leader*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996. (396 pages)
- Herrington, Jim, Trisha Taylor, and Robert Creech. *The Leader's Journey: Accepting the Call to Personal and Congregational Transformation*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2003. (192 pages)
- Lewis, G. Douglas. *Meeting the Moment: Leadership and Well-Being in Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997. (127 pages)
- McNeal, Reggie. *Practicing Greatness: 7 Disciplines of Extraordinary Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network, 2006. (192 pages)
- _____. *A Work of Heart: Understanding How God Shapes Spiritual Leaders*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2000. (205 pages)
- Miller, Calvin. *The Empowered Leader: 10 Keys to Servant Leadership*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997. (240 pages)
- Miller, Michael D. *The Kingdom-Focused Leader: Seeking God at Work in You, Through You, and Around You*. Broadman & Holman, 2004. (112 pages)

- Nouwen, Henri. *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*. Reissue. HarperSan Francisco, 2007. (192 pages)
- _____. *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1998. (96 pages)
- _____. *Ministry and Spirituality: The Wounded Healer, Creative Ministry, and Reaching Out*. rev. ed. Continuum Publishing, 1996. (286 pages)
- _____. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. New York: Crossroad, 1989. (81 pages)
- Noyse, Randi B. *The Art of Leading Yourself: Tap the Power of Your Emotional Intelligence*. Cypress Press, 2001.
- Owen, H. *The Spirit of Leadership: Liberating the Leader in Each of Us*. San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler, 1999.
- Oates, Wayne E. *Nurturing Silence in a Noisy Heart*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1979. (134 pages)
- Packer, J. I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1993. (286 pages)
- Parkinson, Cally. *Follow Me*. Willow Creek Resources, 2008. (158 pages)
- Sanders, J. Oswald. *Dynamic Spiritual Leadership: Leading like Paul*. Discovery Enterprises, 1999. (224 pages)
- _____. *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer*. Rev. ed. Chicago: Moody, 1994, (189 pages)
- Tan, Siang-Yang and Douglas H. Gregg. *Disciplines of the Holy Spirit: How to Connect to the Spirit's Power and Presence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Volf, Miroslav. *Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work*. Wipf & Stock, 2001. (268 pages)
- Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ*. NavPress, 2002. (272 pages)
- _____. *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1999. (228 pages)
- _____. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1998. (448 pages)
- _____. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1991. (288 pages)

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POST-SESSION READING REPORT**

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

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