



SPIR 244 SPIRITUALITY AND MINISTRY

Spring Quarter 2009

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Office Hours: by appointment after class sessions

Course objective: What distinguishes ministry (in its Christian framework) from any other form of human activity is a spirituality centered on the person of Jesus. What that actually looks like depends on a broad array of circumstance, disposition, desire, and action. The central questions to this course are: how does spirituality inform ministry and how do those many works that constitute ministry—healing, teaching, preaching, building community—influence the minister’s developing spirituality? We will answer these questions through a combination of in-class presentations, textual analysis, theological exercises, writing, reflection and discussion.

Course requirements: Along with regular attendance, weekly readings, and participation in class discussions, students will write four brief essays (3-4 pages each) on a variety of topics that include autobiography and spirituality, the nature of ministry, the variety of prayer forms, and discernment in ministry. One of these four papers will be a critique for discussion of one of the readings for the course; this will serve as the basis of a brief class presentation and discussion.

Required Texts:

Handbook of Spirituality for Ministers, Vol. 1, ed. Robert J. Wicks, Paulist Press (1995).

George Lane, *Christian Spirituality: an Historical Sketch*, Loyola Press (2005).

The Best American Spiritual Writing 2008, ed. Philip Zaleski, Houghton Mifflin (2008).

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

1. Introduction to the Course: *What is (my) spirituality? What is (my) ministry?*

2. The Spiritual Self

Readings:

A. Krisak, 'Theological Reflection: Unfolding the Mystery' (Wicks, 308-329)

W. Au, 'A Spirituality for Collaborative Ministry' (Wicks, 391-406)

3. Ministry as Response

Readings:

Christopher Bamford, 'The Gift of the Call' (Zaleski, 1-10)

G. Aschenbrenner, 'A Hidden Self Grown Strong' (Wicks, pp. 228-48)

P. Hampl, 'Pilgrim' (Zaleski, 98-103)

4. Ministry, Spirituality and Community

Readings:

G. Lane, *Christian Spirituality*

H. Smith, 'The Master-Disciple Relationship' (Zaleski, 168-83)

5. Prayer, Worship and Spirituality

Readings:

K. M. Dyckman & L. P. Carroll, 'Presuppositions about Prayer' and 'Problems in Prayer' (from *Inviting the Mystic, Supporting the Prophet*, pp. 42-60) **handout**

Francis Dorff, 'Meditative Writing' (Wicks, 153-73)

M. Flood, 'A Brief Reflection on Prayer' (Wicks, pp. 38-42)

6. Spirituality and Everyday Life

Readings:

Joyce Rupp, 'Rediscovering God in the Midst of Our Work' (Wicks, 259-73)

J. Mossi, 'Ministering in the Present Moment' (Wicks, 274-88)

Heather King, 'Wonder Bread' (Zaleski, 119-24)

7. Spiritual Ministry I: the Discerning Spirit

Readings:

S. McCarty, 'Basics in Spiritual Direction' (Wicks, pp. 56-76)

R. Hauser, 'Each Mortal Thing Does One Thing and the Same-Selves: An Approach to Christian Discernment' (Wicks, pp. 207-27)

R. Morneau, 'Spiritual Direction: Guidelines from Some Poets'

8. Spiritual Ministry II

Readings:

William A. Barry, S.J., 'Teaching Others to Pray' (Wicks, pp. 9-17)

C. Gratton, 'Spiritual Guidance in Today's World' (Wicks, pp. 43-55)

Joann Wolski Conn, 'Dancing in the Dark: Women's Spirituality and Ministry' (Wilks, pp. 77-95)

J. G. Donders, 'Ministering in a Globalizing World' (Wicks, pp. 174-90)

9. Spirituality, Ministry and the Margins

Readings:

F. Meehan, 'Spirituality and Social Justice: A Guide for Ministry' (Wicks, 365-80)

W. J. Smith, 'Spiritual Care of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS' (Wicks, pp. 447-68)

C. Gugerty, 'From Guilt to Gratitude: Spiritual Ministry with Persons Who Are Poor and Homeless' (Wicks, pp. 469-82)

10. Ministry and Spirituality: A Synthesis