Winter 2020. SPIR 248: PRAYER AND PRAYER METHODS  
(draft syllabus: subject to change)

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Office hours: by appointment before class (please email for an appointment)

**Course Description:** This course invites us to explore a deeper understanding and practice of prayer. On a personal level, we will explore the meaning of “Pray as you can, not as you can’t”. On a broader level, we will consider prayer in relation to the beauties and struggles of our world community and our planet. A variety of prayer practices from the Christian tradition will be considered. Class participants will also be invited to engage in prayer practices involving body, mind and spirit. Class sessions will include input, group reflection/discussion of readings, and engagement in particular methods of prayer.

**Learning Objectives:** This course addresses the following Goals and Objectives of the GPPM Program, especially for students with a concentration in spirituality:

**Goal 2:** Students will develop pastoral skills, ministry knowledge, and liturgical fluencies in at least one key field of study relevant to Christian ministry. (Pastoral proficiency/Spirituality).  
**Objective A:** Students will demonstrate a depth of practical and theoretical knowledge in pastoral ministry.

**Goal 3:** Students will become competent leaders dedicated to serving the Church and to creating community in parish and other pastoral settings.  
**Objective B:** Students will apply skills from their area of concentration for use in their faith community.

**Writing Assistance:** It is expected that all written assignments reflect graduate level writing. Writing assistance is available for students. Please contact The Hub, SCU’s Writing Center, at [www.scu.edu/hub/](http://www.scu.edu/hub/). Please seek appropriate writing assistance before submitting assignments. See “Written Work” below for evaluative criteria for written assignments.

**Academic Integrity:** Santa Clara University is committed to academic honesty and integrity. Students are expected to do their own work and to cite any sources they use. For academic integrity policies of SCU, please see the following: [http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/upload/Academic-Integrity-Policy-and-Protocol.pdf](http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/upload/Academic-Integrity-Policy-and-Protocol.pdf) [http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/policies.cfm](http://www.scu.edu/studentlife/resources/policies.cfm).

**SCU’s Office of Accessible Education** has been designated by the University to ensure access for all undergraduate and graduate students with disabilities to all academic programs and campus resources. Reasonable accommodations are provided to minimize the effects of a student’s disability and to maximize the potential for success. A student may voluntarily register with the Office of Accessible Education by completing the online registration form and providing documentation of his or her disability, after which proper accommodations will be determined and implemented by the University.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. READINGS

Required:
Rollheiser, Ronald, *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing*
Rupp, Joyce, *Prayer*
Additional text(s) TBA

Reading materials posted on Camino

Recommended:
Schmidt, Joseph, *Praying our Experiences*

II. INFORMED AND ENGAGED CLASS PARTICIPATION.

Students will be asked to bring to class discussions the fruit of their weekly reading/reflection and to offer their particular cultural perspectives and experiences to our discussions.

III. WRITTEN WORK: Written work will be evaluated on quality of content, organization, clarity of expression, grammatical correctness, and appropriate citations.

1. Weekly reflection papers: 1-2 pages: *What in this week’s reading may enrich/expand/encourage/challenge my prayer life and/or understanding of prayer? How?* **Due dates: bring to each class (1st paper due January 13),**

2. 4-5 page paper exploring a form of prayer or spiritual practice from a religious tradition other than your own. **Due: Feb. 24.** More specifics will be provided in class.

3. Final Assignment: (Due March 13)
   Option 1. Final integrative paper (8-10 pages). Suggested questions will be provided in class.
   Option 2: Creative project: This may be an artistic project with brief accompanying paper (3-4 pages).
   Option 3: Ministry-oriented project, eg. preparing a retreat or prayer series for your ministerial setting (parish, classroom, community etc). Brief accompanying paper.
   Option 3: 8-10 page paper on a particular tradition or form of prayer that you wish to explore more deeply.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

JAN. 6: CLASS ORIENTATION AND INTRODUCTION. PERSPECTIVES ON PRAYER.

Readings: please read prior to our first class and come prepared to discuss.
Rupp, Joyce, *Prayer*, ch. 1, “Entering Into a Relationship”
Silf, Margaret, selections from “How Do I Pray?” (*The Gift of Prayer*)
Thompson, Marjorie J., “Communication and Communion with God” (*Soul Feast*)

JAN. 13: “WHO WE ARE IS HOW WE PRAY”: A Psychological Perspective

Readings:
Keating, Charles J., *Who We Are is How We Pray*, selections
Hirsch and Kise, *Looking at Type and Spirituality* (excerpts)
Faucett, Robert & Carol Ann, “Typology – Some Background” (*Personality and Spiritual Freedom*)
Pearman, Roger & Albritton, Sarah: “Habits of Mind: Jung and Psychological Type” (*I’m Not Crazy, I’m Just Not You*)
“Beyond Patterns and Types: Being True to Ourselves”

JAN. 20: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY: No class session, but please complete the following readings before Jan. 27 along with those assigned for that date.

Readings:
Martin Luther King, NCR article: “The Prayers of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.”
Rupp, *Prayer*, ch. 2

JAN. 27: PRAYER: SOME COMPONENTS. STRUGGLES IN PRAYER.

Readings:
Rolheiser, ch. 5
Rupp, ch. 3 and 4
Recommended:
Schmidt, “Obstacles to Praying Our Experiences”

FEB. 3: AFFECTIVE PRAYER. PRAYING WITH SCRIPTURE.

Readings:
Rolheiser, ch. 4 and 6
Schmidt, “Praying Through Scripture” (*Praying Our Experiences*)
tba
FEB. 10: PRAYER WITH NATURE/PRAYER FOR EARTH.

Reading:
Antal, Jim, “A Loving God for a Broken World” (Climate Church/Climate World)
Fisher, Kathleen, “Contemplation and the Care of Creation” (Loving Creation: Christian Spirituality, Earth-Centered and Just)
Hays, Edward, Prayers for a Planetary Pilgrim (selections)

FEB. 17: PRESIDENTS’ DAY: No class session, but please complete the following readings before Feb. 24 along with those assigned for that date.

Readings:
Merton, Thomas, selections from Thoughts in Solitude, New Seeds of Contemplation
Frolich, Mary, “A Roman Catholic Theology of Lay Contemplation” (The Lay Contemplative)

FEB. 24: CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER. ENGAGED CONTEMPLATION

Readings:
Durback, Robert, “Contemplation: Journey Inward or Journey Outward?” (The Lay Contemplative
Merton, Thomas, selections from Contemplation in a World of Action, Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander
Nangle, Joseph, “Prayer and Contemplation”
Rolheiser, ch. 6

MARCH 2: PRAYER THROUGH ART AND BEAUTY

Readings: tba

MARCH 9: CONCLUSION: topic and readings tba

MARCH 13: Final paper/project due