



TYNDALE
Seminary

**Course Syllabus
Spring/Summer 2012**

**PRAYER PATHS TO GOD
SPIR 0603S**

**JUNE 18-22, 2012
MONDAY – FRIDAY, 8:30- 4:00**

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To access your course materials at the start of the course, please go to
<https://www.mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey of the history, theology and practice of Christian prayer as it pertains to the role of prayer in nurturing a spiritual life. Some attention is given to prayer classics within various Christian traditions. Includes prayer practica in the discipline of praying with Scripture (*lectio divina*).

Prerequisites: SPIR 700

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should:

1. comprehend some of the highlights in the development of Christian prayer from the first to the 19th centuries;
2. have acquired an appreciation for some of the major prayer 'classics' in the Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions;

3. have a heightened sense of the centrality of the prayer experience in the cultivation of a spiritual life;
4. be able to use the discipline of praying with Scripture (*lectio divina*) in conjunction with the keeping of a holistically-styled prayer journal.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Ford, Leighton. *The Attentive Life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008. ISBN - 9780830835164
2. Foster, Richard. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. San Francisco: Harper, 1992. ISBN – 0060628464
(NB: The course will assume students have read Foster's book in SPIR 700, and will build on this survey).
3. Luther, Martin. *A Simple Way to Pray*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox, 2000. ISBN – 0664222730
4. Mathewes-Green, Frederica. *The Jesus Prayer*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete, 2009. ISBN – 9781557256591

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All Assignments are due on Friday, August 17. All papers should be mailed to me, (preferably express mail) at Ambrose University College, 150 Ambrose Circle SW, Calgary AB T3H 0L5, with a self-addressed, stamped envelope and should be postmarked no later than August 17, 2012. Please do not email papers.

The assignments are designed to reinforce the objectives of the course. The guided book reviews are consistent with the convergent, ecumenical character of the course content which delves into Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions of Christian prayer. They also provide an opportunity to engage the subjects from both critical/analytical and formational perspectives. The prayer journal supports the holistic, pedagogical intent of the course which includes offering practical instruction in a classical tradition of meditative prayer.

1. Attendance at all prayer practica is necessary.
2. A review-response paper (6-8 pages) on Mathewes-Green, *The Jesus Prayer*. which:
 - a. summarizes the content of the book and explains its relationship to the title/subtitle (5 marks);
 - b. describes the nature of the prayer experience according to the book(10 marks);
 - c. reflects on the potential contributions which the book could make to the student's personal prayer experience; (7 marks)

- d. identifies 5 significant questions which the book raises in the student's mind (make specific references to book's content!) (5 marks);
 - e. gives an overall evaluation/impression of the book (3 marks). (30%)
3. A review-response paper (6-8 pages) on Luther, *A Simple Way to Pray*. which:
 - a. discusses the relationship between the contents and the title of the book (5 marks);
 - b. summarizes Luther's understanding of the nature and content of the prayer experience (10 marks);
 - c. discusses Luther's 'prayer techniques' and their relevance for the student's personal prayer journey (10 marks);
 - d. gives an evaluation/overall impression of Luther's treatise (5 marks). (30%)
4. An evaluation/overall impression (2 pages) of Leighton Ford, *The Attentive Life*. which identifies the thesis of the book and assesses its value for the study and practice of Christian prayer. (10%)
5. A prayer journal, based on three practica which includes the following:
 - a. a separate entry for each practicum session (be sure to date the entries);
 - b. a record of physical, emotional, intellectual responses as well as images/insights/impressions received in each session;
 - c. a written prayer for each practicum based on the assigned Scripture text;
 - d. an overall evaluation of the value of *lectio divina* for one's personal prayer journey and the church collectively. Discuss strengths and weaknesses, possibilities and liabilities. (30%)

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially [ch. 14](#). For citing scripture texts, refer to sections [10.46 to 10.51](#) and [14.253 to 14.254](#).

Students should consult the current *Academic Calendar* for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System. The Academic Calendar is posted at www.tyndale.ca/seminary/calendar.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments [*Sample*]

Review/response paper #1	30 %
Review/response paper #2	30 %
Reading Report	10 %
Prayer Journal	30 %
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Day 1- Praying with Jesus and the Early Church

Foster, *Prayer*, pp. 17-36

Day 2- Praying with Jesus and the Early Church (cont'd)/Praying With
the Monks

Foster, *Prayer*. pp. 37-82.

Day 3- Praying with the Monks (cont'd)/Praying with the Mystics

Foster, *Prayer*. pp. 83- 149

Day 4- Praying with the Reformers

Foster, *Prayer*, pp. 150-215

Day 5- Praying with Evangelical Protestants

Foster, *Prayer*, pp. 216-274

All assignments are due on or before (TBA) and must be mailed to the professor at the above address.

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appleton, George ed. *The Oxford Book of Prayer*. Oxford/New York: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Barrington – Ward, Simon. *The Jesus Prayer*. rev. ed. Oxford: The Bible Reading Fellowship, 2007.

Barry, William A. SJ. *What Do I Want In Prayer?* Mahwah: Paulist Press, 1994.

Bloesch, Donald G. *The Struggle of Prayer*. Colorado Springs: Helmers and Howard, 1988.

Bradshaw, Paul F. *Daily Prayer in the Early Church*. London: SPCK, 1981.

Brock, Sebastian, trans. *The Syriac Fathers on Prayer and the Spiritual Life*. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1987.

Bunge, Gabriel, OSB. *Earthen Vessels*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 2002.

Carson, D. A. ed. *Teach Us to Pray*. Exeter: Paternoster Press and Baker Book House, 1990.

Casey, Michael. *Toward God*. Liguori: Triumph Books, 1996.

- Crump, David. *Jesus the Intercessor*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1992.
- Cunningham, Agnes, SSCM. *Prayer Personal and Liturgical*. Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 1985.
- De Waal, Esther. *The Celtic Way of Prayer*. New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Forest, Jim. *Praying With Icons*. New York: Orbis Books, 1997.
- Gire, Ken ed. *Between Heaven and Earth*. San Francisco: Harper, 1997.
- Houston, James. *The Transforming Power of Prayer*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1996.
- Jasper, R.C.D. and Cuming, G.J. *Prayers of the Eucharist: Early and Reformed*. London: Collins Publishers, 1975.
- Leech, Kenneth. *True Prayer*. New York: Harper and Row, 1980.
- Magdalen, Sr. Margaret, CSMV. *Jesus- Man of Prayer*. London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1987.
- Payne, Leanne. *Restoring the Christian Soul Through Healing Prayer*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1991.
- Pennington, M. Basil, OCSO. *Lectio Divina*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1998.
- Pokrovsky, Gleb, trans. *The Way of a Pilgrim*. London: Darton Longman and Todd, 2003.
- Quoist, Michel. *Prayers of Life*. Dublin: Gill and Son, 1963.
- Rahner, Karl. *Prayers for a Lifetime*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1987
- Ramon, Brother, SSF. *A Hidden Fire*. Basingstoke: Marshall, Morgan and Scott, 1985
- Shoemaker, H. Stephen. *Finding Jesus in his Prayers*. Nashville: Abington Press, 2004.
- Tugwell, Simon. *Prayer in Practice*. Springfield: Templegate Publishers, 1974.
- Urs von Balthasar, Hans. *Prayer*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986.
- Yancey, Philip. *Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.