Course Syllabus

SUMMER 2018
DYNAMICS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE: THE LEGACY OF HENRI NOUWEN
SPIR 0615

JUNE 11 – 15
MONDAY – FRIDAY, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

INSTRUCTOR: WIL HERNANDEZ, PhD
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The Nouwen Legacy – 595 E. Colorado Blvd., Ste. 431, Pasadena, CA 91101
Email: whernandez@tyndale.ca
Office Hours: By Appointment

To access your course material, please go to http://classes.tyndale.ca. Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account. For information how to access and forward emails to your personal account, see http://www.tyndale.ca/it/live-at-edu.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the spirituality of Henri Nouwen set against the background theme of spiritual journey. The main focus will be threefold: Nouwen’s integrated journey, his tensional and imperfect spirituality, and his integrated ministry.

First, the course provides a synthesis of Nouwen’s holistic approach to the nature of the inward, outward, and upward spiritual journey—one that integrates spirituality, psychology, ministry, and theology together in a seamless fashion. Second, it is an exploration of Nouwen’s spirituality of imperfection which he embodied throughout his lived experience—where the journey toward perfection is through the realities of tension and imperfection. Finally, it is an overview of Nouwen’s well-integrated ministry of soul care based upon his integrated yet imperfect spirituality.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students should be able to:
1. To identify the inward, the outward, and the upward nature of the Christian spiritual journey and appropriate its reality within one’s own experience.
2. To explain the integrated dynamics of the journeying experience that incorporates the coherently realities of spirituality, psychology, ministry, and theology.
3. To analyze the true essence of a spirituality of imperfection and the tension-filled journey that Nouwen embodied and exemplified throughout his lived experience in both theological and practical ways.
4. To articulate Nouwen’s integrative approach to the ministry of soul care and spiritual formation—one that goes against the expert-driven, individualistic, and overly specialized approach that is often one-dimensional, hierarchical, and highly institutionalized in focus.
5. To synthesize one’s own understanding of Nouwen’s integrated journey, his tensional and imperfect spirituality, and his holistic ministry.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Primary Texts:

Choose one journal text of Henri Nouwen: (Post-Class)

Secondary Texts:
Choose **one biographical text** on Henri Nouwen: *(Pre-Class)*


Read **one short article** written about Nouwen *(Pre-Class)*


**B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:**


**C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING**

**FOUR SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENTS**

1. **Book Report (Pre-Class Reading)**

   Each student will choose a specific [Nouwen] biographical text to read and report on *(Choose out of the two recommended biographical books)*. The overall objective is to be able to present a clear portrait of Henri Nouwen based upon the text chosen. Specific guidelines for the structure of the report are as follows:

   a. The length is three pages (double-spaced) with a Title page.
   b. The first page should outline the flow and main thrust of the book.
   c. The second page should highlight the outstanding insights you have gained about the person of Nouwen as they relate to the integrated/imperfect nature of the journey and the spiritual nature of ministry.
   d. The final page should sum up your own understanding of how Nouwen has been particularly portrayed in the book and should end with a brief personal response from you about such portrayal of Nouwen.
   e. Do not use direct quotes from the book at all. Try to use your own paraphrase of the book’s content and salient points.
   f. Do not stray from the primary thrust of the exercise: to present a clear portrait of Nouwen as gleaned from the author’s unique perspective.
g. Be concise and direct to the point in your writing. Aim for brevity without sacrificing depth.

Due: June 13 (In-Class)

2. Personal Essay

This represents your personal application of one of the main themes of the course. Write a two-page (double-spaced, without title page) paper connecting the whole notion of a spirituality of imperfection with your own journeying experience. Do not philosophize but instead personalize. The key word is application.

Personal essay is to be shared with your small group. Further details about the mechanics of group sharing time will be discussed in class.

Final Draft Due: June 13 (In-Class)

3. Interactive Journal Analysis

Choose one journal you want to read and analyze out of the four recommended spiritual journals by Nouwen. The three-page (double-spaced, with title page) paper should follow the prescribed format.

- 1st page – Synopsis: Sketch the overall theme of the journal. What is the journal specifically all about? Be able to highlight it in such a way that a person who has not read the journal will have a basic grasp of its thrust.

- 2nd page – Analysis: Interact personally and directly with the general contents of the journal and analyze “WHY and HOW Nouwen wrote WHAT” in his journal. (Remember, this is meant to be an interactive analysis!).

- 3rd page – Response: Why did you choose this particular journal? How do the journal entries grab you personally? Are there any specific elements that relate with your own journeying experience?

Due: June 30 (Post-Class) – To be submitted via email with Word attachment

4. Integration Paper

This represents the main paper requirement for this course. Choose ONE particular focus (psychology, ministry, or theology) and write a 10-12 page paper that synthesizes your own understanding of spirituality’s coinherence with your chosen focus. I suggest that you provide a title for your paper that reflects your
thematic focus and approach. This is not meant to be a research paper but rather more of a synthesis/integration paper that involves a certain measure of focused theological reflection. Thus, there should be no need to go beyond our course experience here. All you have to do is to integrate everything in your thinking philosophically and methodologically based on the course overview slides, online discussions and course readings. This is not a ‘testimonial’ paper either although you may utilize personal applications within the context of your own journeying reality (just don’t overdo it!). Be able to articulate the concepts which we have covered and which you have gleaned from your readings in your own words (i.e., without ‘slavishly’ rehearsing the covered contents). Use quotes sparingly (only when they substantiate your point or advance your argument). Strive to be “original” in your synthesis work. This is a focused integration work. Use the prescribed Rubric as guide.

Due: July 8 (Post-Class) – To be submitted via email with Word attachment

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Style Issues

   a. Follow the prescribed format for each required paper (make sure you double-check the syllabus for the said the format for each paper)
   b. Double space the essay (unless specified otherwise). Use one-inch margins on all sides. Text font should be 12-point, Times New Roman, and boldface or italics should be avoided unless needed for technical accuracy.
   c. Italicize book titles. Be consistent throughout the essay.
   d. Indent paragraphs three-quarters of an inch or eight spaces.
   e. Use only left justification.
   f. The page number for the first page should be centered at the bottom, following pages should be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
   g. 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.

2. Other Writing Issues

   Beyond the style issues noted above, be aware of the following suggestions:

   a. Use first-person sparingly; however, you may use “I” when referring to your opinion of a text.
   b. Avoid contractions in formal writing (Do not write “don’t”.)
c. Be clear and precise. A certain page limit allows no room for wandering from your objective.
d. Use your spell-checker, but do not trust it. A spell-check will not catch the error in such sentences as “The whole church voted too pass the amendment.” Use your eyes as well as your spell-checker.
e. Proofread your paper.

3. Quality Writing Standards

In addition to comments already noted, the following standards characterize quality graduate writing. Clear and accurate communication is expected in all writing assignments.

Content:
Worthwhile ideas
Clear, precise expression of meaning
Adequate support of topic
Scholarship (breadth and depth)
Evidence of analysis and synthesis

Structure:
Topic sentences to assert what each paragraph is about
Paragraphs that develop the topic sentences and support the main ideas.
Specific and concrete details, illustrations, examples, arguments, etc.
Unity and continuity
Summary statements and transitional words / phrases.

Style:
Correct spelling
Properly constructed sentences
Grammatical correctness
Formal punctuation and capitalization

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism. Tyndale University College & Seminary takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students should consult the current Academic Calendar for academic polices 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 http://tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING
Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance/Class Participation/Reading</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Report</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Essay</td>
<td>15 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interactive Journal Analysis</td>
<td>20 pts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Focused Integration Paper</td>
<td>35 pts.</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
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**F. COURSE EVALUATION**

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

**IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS**

There will be a mixture of class lectures, student report/discussion, and small group interaction. The class will meet for whole-day class sessions for one straight week (June 11-15) from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>SESSION TITLE/REQUIREMENT DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 11 (Mon.)</td>
<td>INTRODUCTION[]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Course Overview /Syllabus Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- MS Hernandez, Introduction, Overview – xv-xxvii</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>THE INTEGRATED JOURNEY OVERVIEW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PSYCHOLOGY &amp; SPIRITUALITY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The INWARD Journey (SELF)</td>
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</table>
- “Reaching Out” pp. 1-62
- Living Reminder, Part I
- SOI Hernandez, Chapter One – pp. 9-25
- LOT Hernandez, Chapters 1 & 2
- MS Hernandez, Part I

**SPIRITUALITY & MINISTRY I**
- A Spirituality of Ministry/A Ministry of Spirituality
  - “Reaching Out” pp. 63-109
  - SOI Hernandez, Chapter Two – pp. 26-44
  - LOT Hernandez, Chapters 4 & 5
  - MS Hernandez, Part II

**SPIRITUALITY & MINISTRY II**
- The OUTWARD Journey (OTHERS)
  - SOI Hernandez, Chapter Two – pp. 45-53
  - Living Reminder, Part II
  - MS Hernandez, Part III

**THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY**
- The UPWARD Journey (GOD)
  - “Reaching Out” pp. 111-162
  - SOI Hernandez, Chapter Three – pp. 54-71

**June 12 (Tues.) INTEGRATION SESSION**

**SPIRITUAL READING:** “The Living Reminder”
- Living Reminder, Part III
- LOT Hernandez, Chapter 6

**VIDEO SHOWING**
- “Journey of the Heart: The Life of Henri Nouwen”
- Response/Discussion

**SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION I**
- The Journeying Reality: Perfection via Imperfection
  - SOI Hernandez, Chapter Four – pp. 75-94

**SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION II**
- Overview of Spiritual Polarities: A Life of Tension
  - LOT Hernandez, Intro, Chapters 3, 7 & 8, Conclusion

**June 13 (Wed.) SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION III**
- Spiritual Profile of an Imperfect Saint
- Small Group SHARING (Personal Essay)
DUE: Personal Essay
DUE: Book Report
- SOI Hernandez, Chapter Five – pp. 95-129

June 14 (Thurs.)

SOUL CARE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION I
- Spiritual Nurture of the Soul
- Soul Companioning
  - MOI Hernandez, Introduction – pp. 1-6
  - MOI Hernandez, Chapter One – pp. 7-19

SOUL CARE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION II
- Soul Companion: Friend and Guide
  - MOI Hernandez, Chapter Two – pp. 20-33
- Soul Companion: Mentor and Director
  - MOI Hernandez, Chapter Three – pp. 34-47

June 15 (Fri.)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION DYNAMICS
- A Ministry of Integration
- Psychological Dynamics
- Ministerial Dynamics
- Theological Dynamics
  - MOI Hernandez, Chapter Four – pp. 48-68
  - MOI Hernandez, Conclusion – pp. 69-72
  - “In the Name of Jesus”
- Course Wrap-Up/Sharing

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources on Henri Nouwen

Major Books


**Collections/Anthologies/Readers**


**Secondary Sources on Henri J.M. Nouwen**

**Books**


**Biographical Works**


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Name _______________________________ Email: _____________________

COURSE REPORT / GRADING SHEET
(To be submitted along with the final paper)

1. Course Attendance/Participation/Reading 15pts. ___
- Did you attend all the classroom sessions? Yes___ No ___
- Which particular session did you miss, if any? __________________
- Were you always on time for the sessions? Hardly ___ Sometimes ___ Almost Always ___
  Everytime ___
- How would you rate your class participation? Low___ Moderate ___ Active ___
- Did you get to share your Personal Essay in your small group? Yes ___ No ___
- Did you read all the primary texts as scheduled? Hardly ___ Minimally ___ Largely ___
  Completely ___
- What biographical text did you read? _____________________
- What journal text did you read? _________________________
- Did you read all the secondary texts (including the Essays/Articles) as scheduled?
  Hardly ___ Minimally ___ Largely ___ Completely ___

2. Short Papers 85pts. ___
- Did you submit the Book Report on time? 15pts. Yes ___ No ___
- Did you submit the Interactive Journal Analysis Paper on time? 20pts. Yes ___ No ___
- Did you submit the Personal Essay Paper on time? 15pts. Yes ___ No ___
- Did you submit the Focused Integration Paper on time? 35pts. Yes ___ No ___
- What integration focus did you choose? _____________________
- Did you follow the prescribed format for each of the paper requirements? Yes ___ No ___
- How would you rate the written papers you submitted in accordance to the course
  standards? Below Average ___ Average ___ Above Average ___

TOTAL POINTS ___

All of the above information I have provided accurately reflected my work for the course.

Signature: _______________________________ Date: _____________________

11.09/17