



TYNDALE
• SEMINARY •

**Course Syllabus
Winter 2013**

**THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF A LEADER: HARDSHIP AND HOLINESS
LEAD 0549**

JANUARY 17 – APRIL 11, 2013

THURSDAY, 1:00 – 3:50 PM

PROFESSOR ARTHUR BOERS, DMin

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To access course material, please go to
Courses on-campus <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Practicing leadership is both deeply demanding and richly rewarding; both offer great opportunities for spiritual growth. Maturity is not an option but is essential and intrinsic to fruitful Christian leadership. Understanding and practicing leadership in terms of spiritual formation helps avoid hazards and temptations and, more importantly, draws us closer to God and to fellow Christians and makes us better agents of the priorities of God's Reign.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course the student will demonstrate:

1. biblical, theological, and imaginative understanding of the relationship between Christian leadership and Christian spirituality.
2. deepened commitment to spiritual disciplines within the context of one's own life, ministry, and vocation.
3. growth in knowledge and awareness of God and of one's self and one's ministry in relationship to God .
4. reflection on regular daily spiritual disciplines over the course of the semester.
5. articulation of one's own understanding of relationship between spirituality and leadership.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership: Seeking God in the Crucible of Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008. ISBN 9780830835133.

Bernardin, Joseph Cardinal. *The Gift of Peace*. New York: Image, 1997. ISBN 0385494343.

Boers, Arthur. *Living into Focus: Choosing What Matters in an Age of Distractions*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos, 2012.

Fryling, Robert A. *The Leadership Ellipse: Shaping How We Lead by Who We Are*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2010. ISBN 9780830835386.

Peterson, Eugene H. *Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1992. ISBN 9780802837059.

B. SUPPLEMENTARY/RECOMMENDED/RESERVED READING

Various readings as announced, either distributed in class, found in library reserve or posted on Moodle (class.Tyndale.ca).

Bernanos, George. *The Diary of a Country Priest*. Trans. Pamela Morris. New York: Carroll & Graf Publishers, Inc., 1965.

Boers, Arthur. *Day by Day These Things We Pray: Uncovering Ancient Rhythms of Prayer*. Waterloo, ON: Herald, 2010.

Boers, Arthur Paul, et al, eds. *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book – Ordinary Time – Volume I*. Waterloo, ON: Herald, 2007.

_____. *Take Our Moments and Our Days: An Anabaptist Prayer Book – Advent to Pentecost – Volume I I*. Waterloo, ON: Herald, 2010.

Bouttier, Michel, *Prayers for My Village*. Trans. Lamar Williamson. Nashville, TN: Upper Room, 1994.

Hinson, E. Glenn. *Spiritual Preparation for Leadership*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room, 1999.

Lowney, Chris. *Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company that Changed the World*. Chicago, IL: Loyola, 2003. ISBN 9780829418163.

Mogabgab, John S., ed. *Communion, Community, Commonwealth: Readings for Spiritual Leadership*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room, 1995.

Paul, Ian, ed. *Building Your Spiritual Life: The Best Contemporary Writing on Christian Spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Tickle, Phyllis, ed. *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Autumn and Wintertime*. New York: Doubleday, 2000.

_____. *The Divine Hours: Prayers for Springtime*. New York: Doubleday, 2001.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Class Participation: 15% of final grade.

Classes consist of lecture, discussion, prayer exercises. Students prepare carefully for each session as outlined below. Preparation is reflected in intentional quality class engagement.

Student participation is graded on a scale of 1 to 4; 1 (D): present, not disruptive; responds when called on but does not offer much; infrequent involvement; 2 (C): adequate preparation, but no evidence of interpretation or analysis; offers straightforward information; contributes moderately when called upon; 3 (B): good preparation, offers interpretation and analysis, contributes well to discussion in on-going fashion; 4 (A): excellent preparation, offers analysis, synthesis and evaluation of material; contributes significantly to ongoing discussion.

If you arrive at class after the devotional has begun, do not enter until the devotional is finished. Three tardies equals one absence; this adversely affects participation grade.

This requirement is relevant to all outcomes.

2. Spiritual Disciplines: Over the semester, students practise a disciplined spiritual life.

Developing and Practising a Rule of Prayer (15%): Students commit to praying 20 minutes of prayer at least 5 days a week during the semester. Students may already have particular disciplines/practices in place that they continue or may elect to experiment with practices during the semester. Rule of prayer submitted on 7 February 2013.

This requirement is relevant to all outcomes.

3. Reflection Papers: 30% of final grade.

Short (two-to-three page) papers will be submitted: a brief history of your practice of spiritual disciplines (24 January); a report about an experience of practice that invigorates you or "gives you life" (31 January); a reflection on the film "Of gods and men" (28 March). Each paper is worth 10% for total of 30% of final grade. These reflections are due at the beginning of class. Extensions are not an option; assignments are key to the afternoon's work. Professor's responses on these papers will demonstrate expectations around style, grammar, critical thinking.

This requirement is particularly relevant to outcomes 1, 3, and 5.

5. Integration Paper: 40% of final grade.

A twelve page integration paper will articulate your understanding of the relationship between prayer and work/ministry/leadership, contemplation and action, challenge and character, the growth into holiness and the facing of hardship. Students research a patron matron saint: choose one exemplary Christian leader and explore how her or his life, ministry, vocation, and leadership were informed by the practise of Christian spiritual disciplines. Weave together with learnings from reflection papers, class lectures and discussions, the living of the Rule this semester, and vision for the future unfolding of their ministry and leadership with their spiritual lives. Due 11 April 2013.

This requirement is particularly relevant to outcomes 1, 2, 3, and 5.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

All papers should meet graduate level academic research standards of Tyndale in approach, quality, length, style. *Use Turabian for formatting, title page, footnotes, bibliography.* 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 <http://tyndale.ca/registrar>.

Students are encouraged to print all papers double-sided.

Grades for papers submitted late without advance permission are lowered at the rate of one grade per week or fraction thereof (i.e. 7 days late moves grade from A- to B-).

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity, and includes cheating (using unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism.

As well as submitting papers on hard copy, *always simultaneously submit papers as Word.doc attachments to the professor by email (aboers@tyndale.ca)*. This facilitates checking for plagiarism. Papers not submitted both in hard and soft copies will not be graded.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Required Reading and Class Participation	15 %
Rule of Prayer	15 %
Reflection papers (3 x %5)	30 %
Research/Integration Paper	40 %
Total Grade	100%

IV. COURSE OUTLINE, SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS –

(Schedule and topics may be subject to slight modifications)

(Readings, Assignments, and Reflection Suggestions are pursued after the date under which they fall.)

Class #1 (17 Jan, 13) Introduction to Course and to Each Other **Why the Spiritual Life of a Leader?**

Write a brief (2 pages, double-spaced) history of your spiritual disciplines. **Due: 24 January.**

Begin reading Bernardin, *The Gift of Peace*. Complete by 31 January 2013.

Class #2 (24 Jan, 13) Contemporary Spiritual Questing and Pace of Life

Write a 2 page, double-spaced reflection paper on a practice or experience that “gives you life.” Explore what aspects/dynamics feel life-giving. (Note: This practice does not have to be traditionally associated with “spiritual” or “pious” activities.) **Due: 31 January.**

Read Boers, *Living into Focus*, up to p. 64.

Class #3 (31 Jan, 13) Exploring Focal Practices Be prepared to discuss Bernardin and Boers

Read Boers, *Day by Day These Things We Pray*, chapters 3-7, Appendices A and C. Complete by 1 February.

Read Boers, *Living into Focus*, ch. 12.

Class #4 (7 Feb, 13) Role of “Rules” and Discipline in the Spiritual Life **Fundamental and Daily Choices** Be prepared to discuss Boers and Boers

Finalize your Rule of Prayer. How do you intend to be a steward of God’s gifts to you? **Due 14 February 2013.**

Read Barton, *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*. Complete by 21 February.

Class #5 (14 Feb, 13) Total Institutions and Finding Sanctuary

Class #6 (21 Feb, 13) Role and Self

Class #7 (28 Feb, 13) Action and Contemplation Be prepared to discuss Barton

Begin reading Peterson, *Under the Unpredictable Plant*. Complete by 21 March.

Class #8 (7 Mar, 13)

The Small Matter of Character and Virtue

During the next three weeks watch "Of gods and men." Write a two to three page paper on how the monk's spiritual/prayer/worship life affected their ministry. **Due:** Thursday 28 March.

No Class (14 Mar, 13)

March Break!

Class #9 (21 Mar, 13)

Reflect "Of gods and men"

Class does not meet this week. If you have not done so, watch the film on your own or with classmates.

Reflection paper on film due next week.

Class #10 (28 Mar, 13)

Leadership Temptations

Be prepared to discuss Peterson

Begin reading Fryling, *The Leadership Ellipse*. Complete by 11 April.

Consider attending a Maundy Thursday service tonight, especially where footwashing is practised.

Class #11 (4 Apr, 13)

Cultivating Hope and Compassion

Complete Integration Paper. Due next week.

Class #12 (11 Apr, 13)

Measuring Success (or Fruitfulness?) in God's Reign

Be prepared to discuss Fryling

Integration Paper. **Due: 11 April 2013.**

Prayer of Commitment

(Adapted from *The Benedictine Handbook*, Collegeville MN: Liturgical Press, 2003)

Lord Jesus, you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless until they rest in you;
have mercy on us, and let your will be done.

Lord Jesus, you have brought us to this day,
to this place, and to the service of those around us;
have mercy on us, and let your will be done.

Lord Jesus, you have spared yourself nothing for our good,
even the very life which you poured out for us;
have mercy on us, and let your will be done.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be forever. Amen.