



TYNDALE

• SEMINARY •

Course Syllabus

Fall 2012

SPIRITUAL CLASSICS
SPIR 0544/HIST 0544

WEDNESDAYS, SEPTEMBER 12 – DECEMBER 5
1:00 – 3:50 PM

INSTRUCTOR: DR. JEFF LOACH
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To access your course material, please go to <http://mytyndale.ca>

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A seminar engaging great spiritual writings from the Church Fathers to the present, this course will have students read, for both devotional and critical purposes, selected works of classic believers from Augustine to Benedict, from Calvin to Wesley, from Nouwen to Peterson and beyond. Students will seek to glean wisdom for authentic Christian discipleship today, finding present-day application for what is read, and enhancing one's own devotional life.

PREREQUISITES

Introduction to Spiritual Formation (SPIR 0700) and History of Christianity I (HIST 0561) should be completed to make the most of this course.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this course, the student will:

- Deepen an understanding of Christian spiritual traditions across cultural and denominational lines;
- Develop critical tools for understanding, analyzing and appropriating spiritual wisdom from classic Christian literature;
- Develop a greater appreciation for the spiritual history and practices of Christians in a variety of traditions, including his/her own;
- Enrich his/her prayer and devotional life by gaining tools and practices appropriate to the individual; and
- Acquire skills to enable deeper discernment of contemporary movements and practices of spirituality.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

The Way of a Pilgrim. Trans. Helen Bacovcin. New York: Image, 1978.
ISBN 978-038546814-5

Foster, Richard J., and Emilie Griffin, eds. *Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines*. New York: HarperOne, 2000. ISBN 978-0060628727

Myers, Glenn E. *Seeking Spiritual Intimacy: Journeying Deeper with Medieval Women of Faith*. Downers Grove: IVP, 2011. ISBN 978-0830835515

In addition, selected readings, available online, will be required reading.

B. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. All students are expected to attend and participate in each class in order to gain the full benefit of the course. Each class will involve elements of both worship and study.
2. Write a three to four-page paper reflecting on *The Way of A Pilgrim*, answering the following questions:
 - a. What single chapter or aspect of the book spoke to you most profoundly, and why?
 - b. How did it affect you spiritually, overall?
 - c. If you were to give this book to a friend, under what circumstances and with what inscription or introduction would you give it?

Worth 10% of the final grade. **Due October 3, 2012.**

3. Write a paper that outlines key elements of your “personal response” at the end of each chapter of *Seeking Spiritual Intimacy*. A summary will suffice; the paper should not be longer than one page per chapter response. Worth 20% of the final grade. **Due November 21, 2012.**
4. Prepare a handout for, and facilitate a 45-minute discussion on, one author’s contributions to Christian spirituality. The choices and presentation dates and guidelines will be given out on the first day of class. Worth 30% of the final grade. (15 marks are given for research and presentation; 5 for the handout; 5 for communication; and 5 for contemporary application.)
5. Write a 7-10 page paper on one Christian writer of your own choosing (in consultation with the instructor) **not** studied in the course, and reflect on how his/her spiritual writing and practice could enrich spiritual life in your church tradition. Worth 30% of the final grade. **Due December 14, 2012.**
6. Write a three-page paper reflecting on how the readings and assignments have affected your walk with God. Worth 10% of the final grade. **Due December 14, 2012.**

Papers due on October 3 and November 21 will be submitted to the instructor by the end of the class on each day respectively. The papers due on December 14 will be submitted to the seminary office for pickup not later than 4:00 p.m. that day. In an effort to be good stewards of God’s world, papers will be submitted on either (a) paper that has already been used on one side, or (b) on new paper that uses both sides for the purpose of the paper (preferred). Emailing papers is discouraged, as it is helpful for the instructor to be able to make specific comments on papers.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

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 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://www.tyndale.ca/registrar/calendar/2012-2013>.

Please take note the following items:

Paper Format:

Written assignments must adhere to academic standards for style, format, citations and references as found in the most recent edition of a recognized style manual (e.g., the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#) [also [Chicago-Style Quick Guide](#)], the *Turabian Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertation*, *The SBL Handbook of Style*, *The Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*). The course instructor will advise students as to the preferred academic style format for the course.

Academic Grading System

The standards and definitions used by Tyndale Seminary in the assignment of letter grades and percentage grades are outlined in the Academic Calendar.

Policy on Late Papers and Extensions

All papers and course assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated by the instructor or in the course outline. Unless the instructor already has a policy on grading late papers in the course outline, grades for papers submitted late without advance permission will be lowered at the rate of 1/3 of a grade per week or part thereof (e.g., from A+ to A, from B to B-). Students who have not completed course requirements by the end of the semester (or Registrar approved extension date) will be assigned a grade of F.

Faculty may grant an extension only up until the last day of exams for the semester. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be addressed in writing to the Registrar and will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, medical emergency, hospitalization of oneself or immediate family member or prolonged illness requiring treatment by a physician. Factors such as assignments for other courses, holidays and technology related difficulties or malfunctions are all insufficient grounds for requesting an extension.

Application for an Extension Due to Extreme Circumstances

Requests for extensions will only be considered in the circumstances noted above and only upon submission of a completed application form to the Registrar. Application forms are available from the Registrar’s office or online at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/downloads

Student Medical Certificate

Applications for extensions for medical reasons must be accompanied by a Medical Certificate signed by a physician. The Student Medical Certificate form is available from the Registrar’s office or online at www.tyndale.ca/registrar/downloads

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments

<i>The Way of A Pilgrim</i> reflection paper (Oct. 3)	10%
<i>Seeking Spiritual Intimacy</i> paper (Nov. 21)	20%
Handout and discussion facilitation	30%
Paper on author of own choosing (Dec. 14)	30%
Reflection paper on walk with God (Dec. 14)	10%
Total Grade	100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

September 12

Introduction to spiritual classics and disciplines, course expectations, earliest Christian spiritual writers (Irenaeus, Origen, Antony, Gregory of Nyssa)

Online reading: [The Life of St. Antony](#); [Gregory of Nyssa on the Trinity](#)

September 19

Augustine, Patrick; discipline of meditation; presentations 1 & 2

Online reading: [Augustine's Confessions, Book II](#); [The conversion of Ireland, St. Patrick](#)

September 26

Cassian, Benedict; discipline of prayer; presentations 3 & 4

Online reading: [Conferences of John Cassian I](#); [The Rule of St. Benedict](#)

October 3 (*The Way of A Pilgrim* paper due)

Climacus, Bernard; discipline of fasting; presentations 5 & 6

Online reading: [Preface to John Climacus' The Ladder of Divine Ascent](#); [On Loving God by Bernard of Clairvaux](#)

October 10

Aquinas, Francis; discipline of study; presentations 7 & 8

Online reading: [Excerpt from Aquinas' Summa Theologica](#); [Chapters I-III of Francis' Little Flowers](#)

October 17

Julian, A Kempis; discipline of simplicity; presentations 9 & 10

Online reading: [Introduction and first revelation of Julian's Showings](#); [Thomas a Kempis, The Imitation of Christ](#) (Book 2, "The Interior Life", pages 41-58 only)

October 24 – Reading Week

October 31

Luther, Ignatius; discipline of solitude; presentations 11 & 12

Online reading: [Martin Luther's Treatise on Good Works](#); [Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises](#)

November 7

Calvin, Fox; discipline of submission; presentations 13 & 14

Online reading: [Calvin, Institutes III.6-10](#); [The Testimony of William Penn concerning George Fox](#)

November 14

John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Baxter; discipline of service; presentations 15 & 16

Online reading: [John of the Cross' Dark Night of the Soul](#); [The Life of Teresa, chapters I-VIII](#); [Chapter 1 of Baxter's The Reformed Pastor](#)

November 21 (*Spiritual Classics* paper due)

Herbert, Pascal, Bunyan; discipline of confession; presentations 17 & 18

Online reading: ["Easter Wings" by George Herbert](#); [Pascal's Pensées, II](#); [Bunyan, "Relation of the Holy War"](#)

November 28

Wesleys, deCaussade, Edwards; discipline of worship; presentations 19 & 20

Online reading: [John Wesley's Sermon, "On Sin In Believers"](#); [Jonathan Edwards, A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections](#)

December 5

Chambers, Thurman, Gutiérrez, Nouwen disciplines of guidance and celebration; presentations 21 & 22

Online reading: [Chambers, My Utmost for His Highest \(daily devotional - please read a week's worth\)](#); [Thurman, Jesus and the Disinherited, 11-21](#)

December 14

Papers on author of one's own choosing, and on one's walk with God, due to the seminary office.

V. SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

A Kempis, Thomas. [The Imitation of Christ](#). Tr. Aloysius Croft and Harold Bolton. Mineola: Dover Publications, Inc., 2003.

Antier, Jean-Jacques. *Teresa of Avila: God Alone Suffices*. Tr. Claire Quintal. Boston: Pauline Books & Media, 2007.

Armstrong, Chris R. [Patron Saints For Postmoderns](#). Downers Grove: IVP, 2009.

Baxter, Richard. [The Reformed Pastor](#). London: SCM, 1956.

Christensen, Bernhard. [The Inward Pilgrimage: An Introduction to Christian Spiritual Classics](#). Minneapolis: Augsburg, 1996.

Clendenin, Daniel B. [Eastern Orthodox Christianity: A Western Perspective](#). Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 1994, 2003.

Cunningham, Lawrence S. and Keith J. Egan. [Christian Spirituality: Themes From the Tradition](#). New York: Paulist Press, 1996.

Dark Night of the Soul: A Masterpiece in the Literature of Mysticism by St. John of the Cross. Tr. E. Allison Peers. New York: Image Books, 1959.

Devotional Classics: Selected Readings For Individuals and Groups. Ed. Richard J. Foster and James Bryan Smith. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1990.

deWaal, Esther. *Seeking God: The Way of St. Benedict*. Collegeville: Liturgical, 1984.

- deWaal, Esther. [*The Celtic Way of Prayer: The Recovery of the Religious Imagination.*](#) New York: Doubleday, 1997.
- Dubay, Thomas. [*Fire Within: St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, and the Gospel on Prayer.*](#) San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1989.
- Exploring Christian Spirituality: An Ecumenical Reader.* Ed. Kenneth J. Collins. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000.
- Foster, Richard J. and Gayle D. Beebe. *Longing For God: Seven Paths of Christian Devotion.* Downers Grove: IVP, 2009
- Guyon, Jeanne. *Experiencing the Depths of Jesus Christ.* Jacksonville, FL: SeedSowers, 1975.
- John of the Cross, Saint. [*Dark Night of the Soul.*](#) Tr. & Ed. E. Allison Peers. New York: Image Books, 2005.
- Litfin, Bryan M. [*Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction.*](#) Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2007.
- Miller, Calvin. *Walking With Saints: Through the Best and Worst Times of Our Lives.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson 1995.
- Modern Spiritual Masters*, ed. Robert Ellsberg. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis, 2008.
- Newell, J. Philip. [*Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation.*](#) San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
- Rice, Howard L. [*Reformed Spirituality: An Introduction For Believers.*](#) Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991.
- Saint Ignatius of Loyola: Personal Writings.* Tr. Joseph A. Munitiz & Philip Endean. London: Penguin, 1996.
- Schmidt, Richard H. *God Seekers: Twenty Centuries of Christian Spiritualities.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.
- [*Shapers of Christian Orthodoxy.*](#) Ed. Bradley G. Green. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2010.
- Sheldrake, Philip. *Spirituality & History.* Maryknoll: Orbis, 1995.
- The Cloud of Unknowing and Other Works.* Tr. A.C. Spearing. London: Penguin, 2001.
- Waaajman, Kees. [*Spirituality: Forms, Foundations, Methods.*](#) Leuven: Peeters, 2002.

and

Any and all volumes from Paulist Press' "The Classics of Western Spirituality" series

Any and all volumes from Harper Collins' "Spiritual Classics" series

Additional bibliographic references will be made in class.