

“The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel.”

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| Course | PRAYER AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD SPIR 0609 |
| Date and Time | SEPTEMBER 13 – DECEMBER 10, 2021 WEB-BASED ONLINE |
| Instructor | TOM SWEENEY, DMin Email: tsweeney@tyndale.ca |
| Class Information | Optional live sessions are scheduled each week on Wednesdays from 7-8 PM, starting September 15 th and with the last session on December 8 th . Students are also encouraged to connect with the professor individually by appointment. |
| Course Material | Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only. Learn how to access and forward emails to your personal account. |

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An interdisciplinary course about biblical, theological and historical models of individual and corporate prayer. The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the theology and practice of prayer in the Judaeo-Christian tradition. This course will help us to discover the richness of our heritage in the understanding and practice of prayer. This will happen through the exploration of the experience of prayer in both the Old and New Testaments, as well as history of the Church. It will also examine the place of prayer in both the life of the individual and the community.

Prerequisite: SPIR 0700

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Construct a Scripturally based theology of prayer
2. Practice several personal and corporate practices of prayer from different ages and theological traditions
3. Guide others in these practices

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002.

Fryling, Alice. [*Seeking God Together: An Introduction to Group Spiritual Direction*](#). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.

Hallesby, Ole. *Prayer*. Translated by Clarence J. Carlsen. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1994.

Tiessen, Terrance. [*Providence and Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?*](#) Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

B. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to “Guidelines for Interactions” on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Reading Assignments (10% x 4 = 40% of Final Grade)

This assignment is related to Outcomes 1 and 3.

There are four books to read in this course, and each one has an associated written assignment. These assignments help to apply the reading and provide you with a practical tool you can use later in your personal life and/or ministry. These assignments are due on a Saturday at midnight ET (no extensions).

- Read Brueggemann's *Spirituality of the Psalms* and create a teaching plan to explain his three categories of Psalms and how to pray them. (8 pages, due September 25th)
- Read Tiessen's *Providence and Prayer* and write a paper summarizing each of the eleven models he describes and then conclude by explaining which model appeals to you and why. (12 pages, due October 16th)
- Read Hallesby's *Prayer* and write a personal letter as if you were Hallesby explaining to a new Christian how to pray. Be sure to avoid church jargon! (8 pages, due November 6th)
- Read Fryling's *Seeking God Together* and prepare a handout and plan to introduce a group of people to group spiritual direction. (4 pages, due November 20th)

2. Prayer Practice Reflections (5% x 4 = 20% of Final Grade)

This assignment is related to Outcomes 2 and 3.

You will practice four prayer exercises during this course. Details about each practice will be provided in the course material. Reflect on your practice in a 2-3 page paper where you answer three questions:

- What was stirring, impactful and energizing about the prayer exercise?
- What was difficult, awkward or off-putting about the prayer exercise?
- Now that you've tried it out, what questions do you have about the exercise?

These reflection papers are due on a Tuesday at midnight ET (no extensions).

- From September 29th to October 5th, pray the Psalms using the four different ways described in the course material (reflection paper due October 5th).
- From October 6th to 19th, meditate on Scripture using each of the three approaches described in the course material 3-4 times (reflection paper due October 19th).
- From November 3rd to 16th, play Laubach's Game with Minutes or practice fixed-hour prayer (reflection paper due November 16th).
- Sometime between November 21st and 30th, lead a group spiritual direction session (reflection paper due November 30th).

3. Weekly Discussion Forums: 4% x 10 = 40% of final grade

This assignment is related to Outcomes 1-3.

There will be 10 forums in total and each forum will have a discussion question. Students will post their responses by midnight on Wednesday, and comment on at least two posts of other students by midnight on Saturday. Your post for each question should be about 200-250 words. Each post should be concise, addressing the issues in the question with reference to class readings/lectures, and demonstrate critical thinking (e.g. further questions or issues raised, application to your context). Your comments to fellow students

would be briefer (about 100-125 words), with an affirmation (perhaps from your experience or readings) and a thoughtful question for that student's further reflection.

D. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must [contact](#) the [Accessibility Services](#) at the [Centre for Academic Excellence](#) to [register](#) and discuss their specific needs. *New students* must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. *Current students* must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

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| Reading Assignments | 40 % |
| Prayer Practice Reflections | 20 % |
| Weekly Discussion Forums | 40 % |
| Total Grade | 100 % |

F. 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 [10.44 to 10.48](#) and [14.238 to 14.241](#).

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 takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty.

Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also 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.

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the [Tyndale Research Ethics Board \(REB\)](#). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (aa@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

G. 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 link can also be found in the left column on the course page. 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

- **Session 1 (September 13-18):** Welcome
- **Session 2 (September 20-25):** What is Prayer?
 - Read Bruggeman and write a teaching plan on the categories of Psalms (due Sep 25)
- **Session 3 (September 27 – October 2):** Prayer in the Old Testament
 - Pray the psalms 4 ways (Sep 29 to Oct 5)
- **Session 4 (October 4-9):** Scriptural Meditation
 - Meditate on Scripture 3 ways (Oct 6-19)
- **Session 5 (October 11-16):** Prayer in the New Testament
 - Read Teissen and summarize the models and identify which you agree with (due Oct 16)
- **Session 6 (October 18-23):** Petition and Intercession

Reading Days (October 26-29):

- No live meeting Oct 27
- **Session 7 (November 1-6):** Praying without Ceasing
 - Read Hallesby and write a letter explaining how to pray (due Nov 6)

- Play Laubach’s Game with Minutes or practice fixed-hour prayer (Nov 3-16)
- **Session 8 (November 8-13):** Listening to God Alone
- **Session 9 (November 15-20):** Listening to God with Others
 - Read Fryling and develop a plan to lead a group spiritual direction session (due Nov 20)
 - Lead a group spiritual direction session (sometime between Nov 21 and 30)
- **Session 10 (November 22-27):** Other Forms of Prayer
- **Session 11 (November 29 – December 4):** Helping Others to Pray
- **Session 12 (December 6-10):** Conclusion

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Bryant-Johnson, Sherry, Rosalie Norman-McNaney and Therese Taylor-Stinson, editors. [Embodied Spirits: Stories of Spiritual Directors of Color](#). New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2014.

Chan, Simon. [Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study of the Christian Life](#). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Du Bois, W.E.B. [Prayers for Dark People](#). Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Press, 1980.

Foster, Richard. *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 2002.

Laird, Martin. [Into the Silent Land: A Guide to the Christian Practice of Contemplation](#). New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Liebert, Elizabeth. *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

McKnight, Scot. *Praying with the Church: Following Jesus Daily, Hourly, Today*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2006.

Tan, Siang-Yang. *The Holy Spirit and Counselling*. Lecture Series ID RGDL3316S. Vancouver, BC: Regent Audio, 2003.

Tutu, Desmond. *An African Prayer Book*. New York: Doubleday, 2006.

von Balthasar, Hans Urs. *Prayer*. Translated by Graham Harrison. San Francisco, CA: Ignatius Press, 1986.

Wallis, Arthur. *God's Chosen Fast: A Spiritual and Practical Guide to Fasting*. Fort Washington, PA: Christian Literature Crusade.

Wilhoit, James C. and Evan B. Howard. [*Discovering Lectio Divina: Bringing Scripture into Ordinary Life*](#). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Willard, Dallas. [*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*](#). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Williamson, Samuel C. *Hearing God in Conversation: How to Recognize His Voice Everywhere*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2016.