

“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.”

Semester, Year	FALL, 2026
Course Title	PRAYER AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD
Course Code	SPIR 0609 1S
Date	SEPT 19, OCT 3, 17, NOV 7 & 21 5 SATURDAYS
Time	From 9AM to 4PM
Delivery Format	SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
Class information	The classes will be LIVESTREAMED on SEPT 19, OCT 3, 17, NOV 7 & 21 from 9am to 4pm.
Instructor Contact Information	CHRIS WALKER, DMIN Email: cwalker@tyndale.ca
Office Hours	By appointment only.
Course Materials	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.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is 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. Examine and practice many different expressions of individual and corporate prayer from Church history and from a variety of Christian traditions.
2. Explore the nature of God’s providence and the role that prayer plays in interacting with it.
3. Construct a biblically-based expression of the theology and practice of prayer.
4. Engage with their fellow students in theological reflection and the practice of prayer.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. [*Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us \(Revised and Expanded\)*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2015. [ISBN 978-0830846054]

Carson, D.A. (ed.). [*Teach Us to Pray: Prayer in the Bible and the World*](#). Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2002. [ISBN 978-1592440498]

Tiessen, Terrance. [*Providence and Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?*](#) Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. [ISBN 978-0830815784]

Willard, Dallas. [*Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*](#). Downers Grove, IL: IVP Formatio, 2024. [ISBN 978-1514011577]

- **Note: Previous versions of this book are also acceptable**

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends [STEPBible](#) – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other [online resources for Biblical Studies](#).

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Prayer Practice and Reflection: Due on Friday, Oct 9, 2026; 30% of final grade.

This assignment is related to Outcome 1.

Read Calhoun’s *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, paying special attention to “Part 7: Pray.” Choose 3 modes of prayer from this section that are new to you, or at least are **not** part of your Christian tradition and/or typical prayer life. Over a **3-week** continuous stretch from the beginning of the term, experiment with integrating these novel modes of prayer into your regular prayer time. Feel free to invite others into the experimentation if you like. Once completed, write a paper reflecting on the experience, critically evaluating both the theology and the practical experience of these modes of prayer, reflecting on the strengths and

challenges of each mode explored. The reflection should be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced.

2. Reflection Paper: Due on Friday, Nov 6, 2026; 30% of final grade.

This assignment is related to Outcome 2.

Read Tiessen's *Providence and Prayer*. After examining the 11 models that he explores, select 1 model that is **closest** to how you personally understand God, His will, His interaction with Creation, and the role that prayer plays. Do not worry about finding a model that matches your views perfectly; the purpose of this exercise is to use 1 model as a tool to help you reflect on your own views of Providence and prayer. Write a reflection paper in which you defend and critique the model you chose. This paper should include biblical and theological reflection, as well as explore the practical implications of how this model affects one's approach to prayer. The paper should be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced.

3. Theological Paper: Due on Friday, December 4 2026; 40% of final grade.

This assignment is related to Outcome 2.

Write a 15-20 page double-spaced paper that reflects your personal theology of prayer, and your thoughts on the best ways to practice it. It is a big question, so you will need to be concise. Imagine you were asked, "What is prayer to you?" How would you respond biblically, theologically, and practically to that question? How does your view of Providence fit in? How does your faith tradition affect your view? What are ways that prayer should be practiced, in your opinion? What modes of prayer are most important to your views? Although a big question, the answer to it is crucial for each of us, and it will be an important exercise to give some intentional thought and reflection to answering the question, both for your spiritual journey, and for your ministry context.

Grading Rubric – Please refer to the [Tyndale Seminary Grading System & Scale](#).

***LATE POLICY:** Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% of the final grade per week. Extensions will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, the hospitalization of yourself or a member of your immediate family, or an illness for which you require treatment by a physician. Reference to heavy workload, other assignments, professional or ministry obligations, or holidays do not constitute legitimate grounds for an extension.*

Requests for extensions must be submitted in writing to the instructor explaining the reason why the extension is needed. Such requests need to be submitted at least 72 hours prior to the due date.

All assignments must be handed in by Friday, December 18, 2026, the last day of exams. No assignments will be accepted after that date, unless the student has a valid reason for an extension. In that case, the student must apply for an extension to the Registrar and not to the professor.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	%
1. Prayer Practice and Reflection	Oct 9	30 %
2. Reflection Paper	Nov 6	30 %
3. Theological Paper	Dec 4	40 %
Total Grade		100 %

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT, AND REQUIRED READINGS

Saturday, Sept 19, 2026

- Readings: Carson chapter 1 “Learning to Pray”; Calhoun part 7 “Pray.”
 - Session 1. Exploring a Theology and Practice of Prayer
 - Session 2. Modes of Prayer Throughout the Church

Saturday, Oct 3, 2026

- Readings: Tiessen (entire book), Carson chapters 2-3
 - Session 3. Providence and Prayer
 - Session 4. Prayer in the Old Testament

Saturday, Oct 17, 2026

- Readings: Carson chapters 4-7
 - Session 5. Prayer in the Life and Teaching of Jesus
 - Session 6. Prayer in the New Testament

Saturday, Nov 7, 2026

- Readings: Willard (entire book)
 - Session 7. Praying Through the Scriptures
 - Session 8. The Art of Discernment

Saturday, Nov 21, 2026

- Readings: Carson chapters 19-20
 - Session 9. Praying with God’s People
 - Session 10. Prayer and God’s Presence

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Balentine, Samuel E. *Prayer in the Hebrew Bible: The Drama of Divine-Human Dialogue*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993.
- Barton, Ruth Haley. *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2010.
- Boa, Kenneth. *Face to Face, Volume Two: Praying the Scriptures for Spiritual Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Volume 5: Life Together / Prayerbook of the Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005.
- Bounds, E.M. *The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer: Experience the Wonders of God Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1990.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002.
- Foster, Richard. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 2002.
- Fryling, Alice. *Seeking God Together: An Introduction to Group Spiritual Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Jones, Tony. *The Sacred Way: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
- Keller, Tim. *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2014.
- Liebert, Elizabeth. *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.
- Longenecker, Richard N. (ed.) *Into God's Presence: Prayer in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.
- McKnight, Scot. *Praying with the Church: Following Jesus Daily, Hourly, Today*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2006.
- Merton, Thomas. *Contemplative Prayer*. New York, NY: 1969.

Nouwen, Henri (with Michael J. Christensen and Rebecca Laird). *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2013.

Smith, Gordon T. *Listening to God in Times of Choice: The Art of Discerning God's Will*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 1997.

Smith, Gordon T. *The Voice of Jesus: Discernment, Prayer, and the Witness of the Spirit*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.

Spangler, Ann and Lois Tverberg. *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.

Whitney, Donald S. *Praying the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.

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

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COURSES

A. 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.

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTREAM INTERACTION (SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE ONLY)

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

**exceptions with permission from professor*

C. 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.

D. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Grading Rubric

Please consult the rubric provided for each assignment on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

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 (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the [Academic Integrity website](#) for further details.

For proper citation style, consult [Citation Guides](#) for different styles. Students are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#).

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.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to Turnitin, a text-matching software that ensures the originality of academic writing and verifies the proper citation of all sources. The instructor for this course will use Turnitin for assignments submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. Upon submission, you will receive a summary that includes your submitted files along with a similarity report generated by Turnitin. Please be aware that Turnitin can also detect AI-generated content from tools like Grammarly, so students should be mindful of when using such software. It’s advisable to confirm with your instructor before using any AI tools into your assignments. Below are some useful resources:

- [Student](#) Guides for Turnitin via classes.tyndale.ca course resource page
- Interpreting Similarity ([Guide](#), [Video](#), [Spectrum](#))

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 (seminaryoffice@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

Late Papers and Extensions Policy

All papers and course assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated in the course syllabus. Unless the instructor already has a policy on grading late papers in the course syllabus, grades for papers submitted late without an approved extension will be lowered at the rate of two-thirds of a grade per week or part thereof (e.g., from "A+" to "A-," from "B" to "C+"). Please note that some programs, such as cohort-based or intensive courses, may follow a different policy due to the nature of the program.

Faculty may not grant an extension beyond the last day of exams for the semester. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be addressed in writing to the Registrar by filling out the [Extension Request Form](#). The application 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 are insufficient grounds for requesting an extension.

A temporary grade of incomplete ("I") may be granted by the Registrar. Once an extension is granted, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and make satisfactory arrangements to complete the outstanding work. A grade of "F" will be recorded for students who do not complete the outstanding work by the deadline.

E. 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.

F. LIBRARY RESOURCES

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

G. GRADING SYSTEM & SCALE

For each course's grading rubric, please refer to your course syllabus or classes.tyndale.ca. For general grading guidelines, refer to Seminary [Grading System & Scale](#).