

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL FORMATION, MS-201-M

Ministerial Studies [3 credits]

Summer 2019, Christian Life College - Madison

I. INSTRUCTORS

The recorded lecturer for this class is Eugen Peterson, former Professor Emeritus of Spiritual Theology at Regent College. He has written numerous books, authored a commentary on the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, and translated the Bible (The Message) into contemporary English. Although this is an independent study course with a recorded lecturer, the lead instructor for oversight and mentoring purposes will be Greg Pechacek (gpechacek@citychurchonline.org). Further information about this course is available through email at clcmadison@gmail.com, by phone at 608-221-1528, ext. 302 or by contacting the lead instructor. Complete information about CLCM is available at: <http://www.citychurchonline.org/christian-life-college>.

II. SCHEDULE

Although *Introduction to Spiritual Formation* is an independent study course, there is a course schedule that students must follow in order to better insure spiritual growth and academic success. Please see the course schedule at the end of this syllabus for complete details.

III. DESCRIPTION

This course has been designed to provide a biblical, theological and experiential foundation for the process of being conformed to the image of Christ. It will explore the meaning of biblical Christianity and its relation to faith and practice, giving special attention to spiritual formation through prayer, devotional reading, contemplation, and other spiritual disciplines. The lectures will help the student form a paradigm for spiritual growth and maturity that will affect both the individual and those to whom they minister.

IV. OBJECTIVES

- A. To assist students in developing a functional definition of spiritual formation.
- B. To give a broader understanding of how Christians grow spiritually.
- C. To foster a growing desire for knowing, serving and growing deep in God.
- D. To assist students in identifying and practicing key spiritual disciplines.
- E. To help students in developing a greater desire for spiritual growth in themselves and others.
- F. To support students in their own spiritual growth through course exercises and assignments.
- G. To convey methods, tools and understanding with which students can assist others in growing spiritually.

V. RESOURCES

A. Required:

1. *Sacred Pathways: Discovering your Soul's Path to God* by Gary Thomas (Zondervan, 2000)
2. *Revolution of Character: Discovering Christ's Pattern for Spiritual Transformation* by Dallas Willard (NavPress, 2005)
3. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth* by Richard Foster (Harper One, 1998)

4. *Celebration of Discipline Study Guide* (Cokesbury, 2003) A free downloadable copy may be available at:
http://www.cokesbury.worshipandsong.com/PDF/TeachableBooks/76_celebrationofdiscipline.pdf
5. *Renewal As a Way of Life: A Guidebook for Spiritual Growth* by Richard F. Lovelace (Wipf and Stock, 2002)
6. *Practicing the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence (a free downloadable copy may be available at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/5657>)
7. Recorded Lectures on *Biblical Spirituality* by Eugen Peterson (Regent College, 1992). A library copy of these lectures is available from the Lead Instructor.

B. Recommended:

1. *Four Views on Christian Spirituality* edited by Stanley N. Gundry (Zondervan, 2012)
2. *Spiritual Formation* by Henri Nouwen (HarperOne, 2015)
3. *The Way of the Heart* by Henri Nouwen (Ballantine Books, 2003)
4. *The Complete Green Letters* by Miles J. Stanford (Zondervan, 1984)
5. *True Spirituality* by Francis Schaeffer (Tyndale House, 1971)

VI. REQUIREMENTS

- A. Lectures and Notes. Students are required to take copious and cogent notes on all twelve lectures. Notes are to be submitted weekly according to the class schedule. Notes may *not* be handwritten. Notes be typed in Times New Roman, 12pt. font.
- B. Reading and Responses. Students will be expected to complete all required reading and the corresponding responses according to the class schedule. A statement of the amount of required reading completed thoughtfully and carefully (i.e. 80%, 90%, etc.) followed by the reading responses will fulfill this requirement. Most of the questions/statements for response can be found at the end of the corresponding chapter in each textbook. The questions/statements for Foster can be found in the Celebration of Discipline Study Guide. All questions/statements and corresponding responses must be typed in Times New Roman, 12pt. font.
- C. Schedule and Punctuality. Because spiritual growth is seldom achieved in a rush of activity, students will be required to submit assignments according to the weekly class schedule. Late assignments will *not* receive a reduced grade. However, students are encouraged to stay on schedule as credit will *not* be given to any assignment submitted more than fourteen days late.

VII. GRADING

	Percentage
Lecture Notes	50%
Reading	25%
Responses	25%

<i>Letter Grade</i>	<i>Scores</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>GPA</i>
A	93-100	Excellent	4.00
A-	90-92		3.67
B+	88-89	Very Good	3.33
B	83-87	Good	3.00
B-	80-82	Above Average	2.67

C+	78-79		2.33
C	73-77	Average	2.00
C-	70-72		1.67
D+	68-69	Below Average	1.33
D	63-67	Passing	1.00
D-	60-62		.67
F	0-59	Failure	.00
I		Incomplete	

VIII. EXTENSIONS: There will be no extensions in this class except for extenuating family emergencies or medical reasons. Incompletes occur when class work is not completed during the semester. Incompletes automatically become “F” thirty days after the semester ends.

IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Academic dishonesty constitutes a serious violation of scholarship standards at CLCM and can result in denial of credit and possible dismissal from school. Academic dishonesty includes cheating on assignments or exams, plagiarism, fabrication of research, the facilitation of academic dishonesty, and depriving others of necessary research materials.

X. CREDIT AND AUDIT

- A. Successful completion of this course will result in 3 credits towards an Associate of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Christian Life College, Mt. Prospect, Illinois. Successful completion will require a passing grade and the completion of all assignments.
- B. The current cost of 3 credits is \$375. Students who pay in full before receiving the recorded lectures will receive a \$50 discount. Those students who wish to pay half of their tuition on June 7, may pay the balance no later than July 5.
- C. This course is not available for audit.

XI. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date Due	Lecture Topic/Focus	Assignment Schedule
Week 1 June 7	N/A	Lovelace 9-80 Response Questions
Week 2 June 14	Peterson – Introduction	Lovelace 81-130 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 3 June 21	Peterson – The Fear of the Lord	Lovelace 131-194 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 4 June 28	Peterson – Jesus and Creation	Thomas 13-68 Response Questions Lecture Notes

Week 5 July 5	Peterson – God and Creation	Thomas 69-150 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 6 July 12	Peterson – Wasteland vs. Rose Garden	Thomas 151-224 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 7 July 19	Peterson – The Lord’s Prayer	Willard 7-82 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 8 July 26	Peterson – Christ and Salvation	Willard 83-130 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 9 August 2	Peterson – Creation and Passion	Willard 131-189 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 10 August 9	Peterson – The Saints	Brother Lawrence Lecture Notes
Week 11 August 16	Peterson – Holy Living	Foster 1-76 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 12 August 23	Peterson – Holy Living	Foster 77-140 Response Questions Lecture Notes
Week 13 August 30	Peterson - Conclusion	Foster 141-201 Response Questions Lecture Notes

*All dates and assignments are tentative and may be changed at the discretion of the lead instructor, according to the development of the course material. Be alert for any announcements of changes.

