

IN522 DISCIPLE FORMATION

Embracing God - Spring 2018

.5 credit; credit/no credit

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Severance 205



Course Description

Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. – Hebrews 10:19-25

This class will help prepare students for their seminary experience and ministry vocations by providing patterns and practices for nurturing a life of discipleship intimacy with Jesus Christ and attentive listening to the Holy Spirit. Students will gather online or on-campus for the purpose of prayer and practice in community, covenanting together to explore personal and corporate disciplines, combining academic reading with experiential practice.

Course Objectives

- Integrate theological learning, discipleship and formation.
- Provide a safe place for sharing spiritual concerns in a fellowship of accountability.
- Build a sense of spiritual community needed to sustain pastoral ministry for years.
- Develop the communal discipline of listening for God.
- Learn together how Christian spirituality moves from worship to service.
- Build Christian character by both:
 - Practicing mutual accountability and participation in community;
 - Exercising self-discipline and motivation in practices leading to growth in spirit and character.

MDiv Curricular Goals

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MAMD Curricular Goal

- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.

MACL Curricular Goals

- Identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures.
- Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.
- Integrate personal discipleship with leadership responsibilities.

Course Requirements

1. Three to four hours per week in active personal disciple formation practice (ie., daily quiet time; assignments for this course; attendance in this course (campus)/engagement with online materials (online). Leading worship or ministry groups are not included.
2. Designate an intentional and regular time and place for listening for and responding to God. The work of this course can be used as part of this set-aside time.
3. Fulfill the agreed-upon small group covenant, including the practices of presence and confidentiality, in order to develop character in community and contribute to the life of your group.
4. Regular attendance in a worshiping community; campus students - participation in UDTS Monday chapel.
5. Praying through one daily office (Morning, Noon, Evening, or Night) prayer regularly (you define what this means). The psalm assigned for this course could be the psalm used during the office.
6. Eleven (11) weekly journal entries (300 or less words) which place your life into dialogue with the readings.

Required Texts

J. Scott Duvall. *Experiencing God's Story of Life and Hope: A Workbook for Spiritual Formation*, ISBN: 0825425387 (continued from Fall Semester)

Harry Farra. *The Little Monk*. ISBN: 9780809133567

Gary Neal Hansen - *Kneeling with Giants*, ISBN: 978-0-8308-3562-1

Eugene Peterson – *Working the Angles*, ISBN: 978-0-8028-0265-1

Date	Psalm	Reading Due	Writing Due
5-Feb	51	The Little Monk; Duvall, chapter 7	Journal #1: Review your Rule of Life and make any adjustments for spring semester.
12-Feb	51	Hansen, chapter 1; Peterson, Introduction & chapter 1	Journal #2: What is one insight from <i>The Little Monk</i> you are taking into your own life?
19-Feb	51	Hansen, chapter 2; Duvall, chapter 8	Journal #3
26-Feb	23	Hansen, chapter 3; Peterson, chapter 2-3	Journal #4
5-Mar	23	Hansen, chapter 4; Peterson chapter 4-5	Journal #5
12-Mar		Spring Break	

19-Mar	23	Hansen, chapter 6; Duvall, chapter 9	
26-Mar	27	Hansen, chapter 7; Peterson, chapter 6-7	Journal #6
2-Apr		Easter Monday	
9-Apr	27	Hansen, chapter 8; Duvall, chapter 10	Journal #7
16-Apr	27	Peterson, chapter 8-9	Journal #8
23-Apr	121	Hansen, chapter 9-10;	Journal #9
30-Apr	121	Duvall, chapter 11	Journal #10
7-May	121	Duvall, chapter 12	Journal #11: Looking back at the past semester, where have you seen or experienced God? (600 words)