

University of Dubuque Theological Seminary
IN721 DISCIPLE FORMATION 3
Fall 2018

.5 credit

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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, the first in a two-course series with IN722 and required for all MDiv and MAMD students, will help students reflect on and continue to integrate their seminary experience as they look ahead to God's next step in life and ministry. Students will meet for the purpose of prayer and practice in community online or residentially, and engage in practices for nurturing a life of intimacy with Jesus Christ and attentive listening to the Holy Spirit. This course takes the discussion of spiritual disciplines to a deeper level and explores the call to vocational holiness, gratitude, and the challenges of dealing with addictions in the light of grace. Additional readings and discussions will focus on topics important for ministry leaders.

Course Objectives

- Integrate theological learning and spiritual 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 practicing mutual accountability and participation in community; Exercising self-discipline and motivation in practices leading to growth in character.

M. Div. 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.

M.A.M.D. Curricular Goal

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

Course Requirements

- Attendance and active participation in all required formats: August formation retreat; all online forums and materials; class meetings for residential students.
- Fulfill the agreed-upon small group covenant, including the practices of presence and confidentiality.
- Designate an intentional, regular time, place, and practice(s) for listening for and responding to God.
- Six 600-word journal entries which place your life into dialogue with the readings. Topics and questions for the journals are on the syllabus schedule.
- Regular attendance at Monday chapel for residential students.
- One day-long retreat during the semester.

Required Texts

Adam Alter. *Irresistible: The Rise of Addictive Technology and the Business of Keeping Us Hooked*, ISBN: 978-0735222847

Gerald G. May, *Addiction and Grace: Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addictions*, 0060655372

Tish Harrison Warren. *Liturgy of Ordinary Days*, ISBN: 978-0-8308-4623-8