

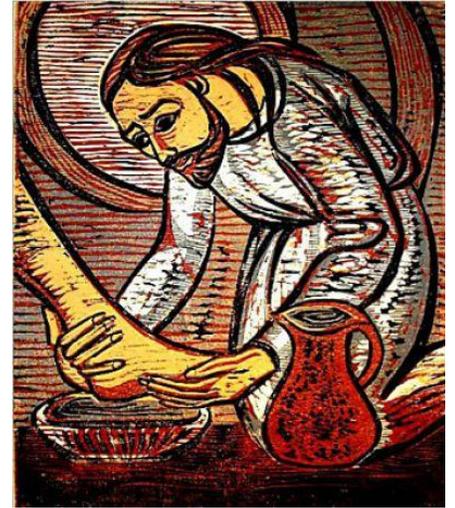
**MN 504 Young Adult Formation**  
**J-Term 2019 - 2 credits, grade only**  
**Dr. Susan Forshey**

**Meeting Time: Sunday, January 13, 2019 - Friday, January 18, 2019**

**Location: Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque**

**Course Description**

This course explores the challenges of young adult Christian formation in the Church today. Approaching this topic from a multigenerational perspective, students will reflect on their own generational and social locations with a goal of developing their gifts for leadership and ministry with and for young adults in multigenerational contexts.



The course will be taught “in retreat” at a local retreat center, where students will build a community of learning marked by large group learning, daily prayer, meals together, and reflective periods of silence, and small group discussion. Shalom Spirituality Center, Dubuque, is beautiful as well as accessible, and boasts delicious food, a lovely chapel (where the class will worship), and many quiet corners for study. Each student will have their own private room, with a shared bathroom. Course cost is tuition plus \$350 for 5 days of lodging and 15 meals.

**Course Objectives** By participating fully in this class, students will:

- Learn and practice a method of contemplative practical theological reflection in a variety of contexts;
- Articulate the characteristics and impact of cultural formation, with regards to formation as a disciple of Christ;
- Gain an introductory awareness of teaching and learning models, human development patterns, and brain research on learning so as to communicate Gospel truths in ways that meet young adults in their particular stage of developmental and learning needs;
- Be able to describe and assess the ways to approach the tasks of Christian formation with young adults;
- Explore models of young adult catechesis, worship, and incorporation into the Body of Christ.
- Explore best practices and develop personal skills relevant to leadership and ministry with young adults.

**MDiv Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course**

- 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.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.
- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

**Requirements**

1. Attendance, reading, and attentive participation in the class – 20%
2. Five book summaries (600 words each) – 5% each
3. Young adult ministry visit analysis (900 words) – 10%
4. Ministry with young adults context description (1000 words) – 15%
5. Final Project: Create a formation approach for your context - 30%

**Required Texts**

Root, Andrew. *Faith Formation in a Secular Age*.

James K. A. Smith. *Imagining the Kingdom: How Worship Works*.

Keith Anderson. *The Digital Cathedral*.

Vincent Miller. *Consuming Religion: Christian Faith and Practice in a Consumer Culture*

David Robinson. *Ancient Paths: Discover Christian Formation the Benedictine Way*