

SPF 701
Spiritual Formation for Ministry 1
McAfee School of Theology
Dr. David P. Gushee
Fall 2007
Tuesday 6:00-8:00
Theology 123

I. Faculty Information

Professor: Dr. David P. Gushee
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II. Course Description

This two-part course, which should be taken in sequence within one academic year, emphasizes the minister as a person. The first semester emphasizes learning to ask the right questions in order to integrate personal, academic, and professional foundations around a center of spiritual maturity. This course will help the student identify spiritual disciplines that can assist in the process of spiritual growth, taking into consideration stages of faith and personality traits. These will be related to personal spirituality, ministerial responsibility and ministerial effectiveness. Discussions of these issues will be pursued in a context of community-building small groups. The small group context provides the student an atmosphere of understanding, affirmation and acceptance in which personal spirituality and public ministry can be examined openly.

III. Course Objectives

1. Discern ways in which God works in human experience
2. Understand the dynamics of personality traits in relationship to spirituality
3. Develop a mature assessment of gifts for ministry
4. Identify disciplines through which spirituality can be nourished
5. Practice spiritual development in relationship

IV. Course Requirements

A. Assigned Readings

A timely and thorough reading of assigned materials is essential. Class activities will assist you as you process, supplement, and develop the learning you do outside of class. A calendar of assigned readings is found on the course schedule. Each will be discussed during class time.

Alan Jones, *Soul Making: The Desert Way of Spirituality* (San Francisco: Harper Collins, 1985).

Hak Joon Lee, *We Will Get To the Promised Land: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Communal-Political Spirituality* (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2006).

M. Robert Mullholland, Jr., *Invitation to a Journey* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity, 1993).

Roy M. Oswald and Otto Kroeger, *Personality Type and Religious Leadership* (Washington DC: Alban Institute, 1988).

Mark Laaser, *Sexual Misconduct Among Clergy: Update and Treatment Options. Review & Expositor*, Vol.98, No.2, Spring 2001.

Recommended Supplemental Reading (not required):

W. Loyd Allen, *Crossroads in Christian Growth* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1989).

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2004).

Joann Wolski Conn, ed., *Women's Spirituality* (New York: Paulist Press, 1986).

Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, rev. ed. (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988).

David P. Gushee and Walter L. Jackson, *Preparing for Christian Ministry* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1997).

Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God* (New York: Cosimo Classics, 2006).

Sallie McFague, *Super, Natural Christians* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1997).

Dallas Willard, *The Spirit of the Disciplines* (New York: Harper, 1991).

B. Journal (25% of grade)

Compile a journal for the purpose of writing down your thoughts about assigned readings, class discussions, and supplemental readings. Include such things as questions raised, answers found, quotations worth remembering, reflections, and any items important to your spiritual growth. Pages of the notebook should be numbered and dated. Journals will be checked every two weeks as noted in the class schedule. (Note: this journal can be handwritten or typed, whichever you prefer.)

Evaluation Criteria: thoroughness of coverage of course materials, depth and thoughtfulness of reflections, clear evidence of reading completion, basic writing quality.

C. Myers-Briggs Type Inventory

Take the MBTI to determine your personality type and how it affects your role and relationships as a minister. The tentative plan is for the Inventory to be administered on Oct. 9 with results to be interpreted on Oct. 23. The readings and class discussion will be coordinated with the MBTI at that time.

D. Spiritual Autobiography (25% of grade)

Prepare a spiritual autobiography of about 10 double-spaced typed pages as an overview of your spiritual development. Develop this work with distinct acts or stages (childhood, adolescence, college years, etc). During each stage, talk about significant events, important people, your relationship to your family, God's place or absence, your character and development, etc. In conclusion, summarize the main movements and overarching meanings you perceive, remembering this is a "spiritual" autobiography. This spiritual autobiography will be due at the 2nd class meeting. This paper will not be graded, but must be satisfactorily prepared at master's level work. You will present this paper in class in a maximum time frame of 30 minutes. Fellow students will be free to dialogue with you about your journey with questions of clarification and reflection.

Evaluation Criteria: writing quality (grammar, style, clarity), thoroughness and other evidence of sustained effort and investment, thoughtfulness and depth of reflection, transparency and authenticity.

E. Spiritual Reflections Paper (25% of grade)

Each student will turn in at the end of the semester a paper of approximately 10 double-spaced typed pages describing the main insights he/she gained during this semester. The paper should cite readings, class notes, discussions, reflections from community worship, etc. It should be a summary and integration of the insights gained during the semester.

The concluding summary should explain how you plan to use these insights, both in your personal life and in the life of the community of faith in which you serve or worship. Each student will share some elements of this paper with the class in the final sessions.

Evaluation Criteria: writing quality (grammar, style, clarity), thoroughness and other evidence of sustained effort and investment, thoughtfulness and depth of reflection, evidence of direct engagement with readings, class discussions, and other course materials.

F. Participation and Community Involvement (25% of grade)

You are expected to be at every class session. It is understood that perfect attendance is at times impossible. But be aware, however, that anyone who misses more than three class periods,

excused or unexcused, cannot receive credit for the course. If you know you must miss a class, please contact me in advance with an explanation. If you unexpectedly miss a class, please contact me as soon after the class as possible with an explanation.

Besides attendance, the participation grade will be determined based on the following criteria: thoughtful contributions to class discussions, maintenance of a healthy mix of listening and speaking, active listening and non-judgmental, empathetic engagement with classmates and their unique narratives, overall demeanor and level of engagement with the class experience, evidence of readiness to discuss reading on the day assigned, obvious effort to learn and grow through the course.

Overall class attendance, participation, and community involvement constitute 25% of the work of the course. Besides coming faithfully to class and participating thoughtfully while there, students have the following opportunities/expectations for participation and community involvement.

Community Worship

The McAfee School of Theology gathers for worship each Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. All SPF students are encouraged to attend. Please make every effort to attend at least 4 chapels. Perhaps those who come could join me for lunch afterwards for fellowship and discussion?

Class Devotions

Each class session will begin with a time of devotion and reflection. SPF students are required to lead in at least one devotional time. These devotional times may be times of reflection, silence, spoken prayers, music, Scripture readings, guided meditation, etc. These devotions should last no more than ten minutes.

Student/Faculty Retreat

There will be a retreat beginning in the afternoon on Friday September 14 and ending with Lunch on Saturday September 15. **All SPF students (and faculty) are required to attend.** Please clear your calendars now. For scheduling difficulties see Dr. Loyd Allen.

V. Policy Statements

Grading Policies

Overall grades will be assigned on the scale adopted by the McAfee School of Theology.

A	93-100
B+	89-92
B	82-88
C+	78-81
C	70-77

D 65-69
F 0-64

The grades for this class will be based on the requirements described above.

Late Papers

Due to the nature of this course, all papers must be received on the assigned deadlines to receive credit.

Lost Papers

Always keep a hard copy and a computer copy of all papers in the unfortunate event of a misplaced paper.

Confidentiality

By design, this class is quite personal and often deeply self-revelatory. Students should think carefully about how they will discuss their own stories; meanwhile, however, all personal information shared in this class shall be received in strict confidence. Classroom discussions are to be shared with *no one* outside the class. Learning to maintain this level of confidentiality is one of the key personal disciplines required of the Christian minister.

Special Needs

Please notify the professor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for any special needs you may have. Students with disabilities please make an appointment with Richard Stilley, Assistant Dean for Campus Life. Telephone 678-547-6823. Unless a formal request is received by Richard Stilley arrangements for special needs cannot be made.

Projected Class Schedule

August 21	Introduction : Course Description Get acquainted Professor's Spiritual Autobiography
August 28	Devotional _____ Sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies _____ Discuss Mulholland Ch. 1-2 _____ ** Journals due
September 4	Devotional _____ Sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies _____ Discuss Mulholland Ch. 3-4 _____
September 11	Devotional _____ Sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies _____ Discuss Mulholland Ch. 5-7 _____ ** Journals due
September 18	Devotional _____ Sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies _____ Discuss Mulholland, Ch. 8-9 _____
September 25	Devotional _____ Sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies _____ Discuss Hak Joon Lee Pg 1-48 ** Journals due
October 2	Devotional _____ Sharing our Spiritual Autobiographies _____ Discuss Hak Joon Lee Pg 49 – 120 _____
October 9	Devotional _____ Take MBTI **Journals due
October 16	<i>No Class</i>
October 23	Devotional _____ Reading, Oswald-Kroeger, chs. 3-6

Discuss MBTI
** Journals due

October 30 Devotional _____
Discuss Oswald-Kroeger, chs. 7-9

November 6 Devotional _____
Discuss *Review & Expositor*
** Journals due

November 13 Devotional _____
Discuss Jones Ch. 1-3

November 20 *No Class/ Fall Reading Days*

November 27 Devotional _____
Discuss Jones Ch.4-6
All Reflection Papers due
** Journals due

December 4 Last Class: Meet at Gushee homestead
Discuss Jones Ch. 7-9
Share Reflection Papers