

Oakwood University Department of Religion and Theology
SYLLABUS FOR RP131: SPIRITUAL FORMATION – SPRING SEMESTER 2012
Mondays and Wednesdays
Section 1/9:00-9:50 a.m. – Moseley Complex, Room 104
Section 2/10:00-10:50 a.m. – Moseley Complex, Room 104

Prerequisites: RG101 or two years of academy Bible
Instructor: Professor Ifeoma I. Kwesi
Course Credit: Two hours
Office Hours: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays
Office Location: Moseley Complex, Office 2
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a biblical, theological, historical and practical study of spiritual formation for Christian ministry. Students examine and engage in the spiritual disciplines foundational to a strong devotional life and Christian service. Emphasis is given to the relationship between personal, corporate and social spirituality, particularly the role of the spiritual guide in the development of spiritual formation in others. Laboratory work is required.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Describe the biblical, theological, and historical foundations of spiritual formation.
2. Discuss the Christological basis for spiritual formation.
3. Describe the spiritual disciplines of the Christian devotional life.
4. Recognize Sabbath and Sabbathkeeping as spiritual disciplines
5. Recognize the relationships between personal, corporate and social spirituality.
6. Practice the spiritual disciplines and Christian service.
7. Accept the formative role of the Word in developing personal, corporate, and social spirituality.
8. Critique the role of the spiritual guide.
9. Identify resources for continuing spiritual formation.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE AND INTERACTION

1. Regular attendance. *Failure due to absence applies.*
 - a. *Attendance (Roll Call) is taken at the start of class.*
 - b. *Persistent walking in and out of class will result in an unexcused absence.*
2. Punctuality
 - a. *Three instances of tardiness = 1 unexcused absence.*
 - b. *Tardiness over ten minutes after the start of class = 1 unexcused absence.*
3. Electronic devices may only be used for work related to this class. *Each violation = 1 unexcused absence*
4. No sleeping during class. *Each violation = 1 unexcused absence.*
5. Completion of all assignments; preparation for and participation in classroom discussions and activities
6. **No late assignments will be accepted except as explained in Part B.** (Late=Once Roll Call Begins)
7. Adherence to Oakwood University Dress Code (See Student Handbook)

B. ATTENDANCE ADDENDUM: "If for any reason the total hours of absence are double the number of credit hours of the course per semester, credit may, at the discretion of the instructor, be forfeited and a grade of FA be

recorded." (Oakwood University Bulletin, page 53) THIS POLICY WILL BE ENFORCED. Regarding absences, excuses for absences and assignments missed due to being absent, the following policies apply: (1) no excuse eliminates an absence; (2) **documented** valid reasons [excuses *in writing* from resident hall deans, health services, court officers, residential parents and funeral directors (obituaries) for services of family members] for being absent will allow students to make up only in-class work missed during the absence; and (3) such work must be made up **within one week of return to class**.

C. **SPIRITUAL RETREAT:** In order to introduce students to the value of spiritual retreat, discipleship, small groups and bonding to like-minded pilgrims, all students are required to take part in a weekend spiritual retreat – **March 23-25, 2012**. This class cannot be passed unless there is full participation in the retreat.

D. **SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY:** Students are to submit a six-page, double-spaced, typewritten autobiography reflecting on the question "How did I arrive at this juncture?" It must include a narrative summary of their lives, an examination of two people, two places and two events that have impacted their spiritual journeys along with an assessment of this assignment's value in their spiritual formation. It is due on **February 29, 2012**.

E. WEEKLY REPORTS

1. Report for Practice of the Spiritual Disciplines.

a. **Beginning January 23** and on every Monday thereafter with the exception of March 5, each student is expected submit the weekly report for her/his practice of the spiritual disciplines, **using the form provided on D2L**. Each student should make sure each week that s/he indicates her/his **weekly "rule" or plan** and records each instance of devotional time (ALONE TIME WITH GOD), including date, time (duration) and a paragraph, summarizing your experience of following your "rule" (sticking to your "plan").

b. The student will spend **three hours each week** in the practice of spiritual disciplines. Factors that should be kept in mind are as follows:

(1.) At the beginning of each week, the student should decided what your specific daily "rule" or plan is for each time you have devotions and write it down on the **required** form.

(2.) The student is free to complete the three hours doing whatever devotional things that you find valuable (i.e., Bible reading, prayer, fasting, etc.) Your class lectures and readings will give you some new ideas. This is a wonderful opportunity to experiment with new ways of meeting God. Since prayer is so crucial for the Christian, try to spend 1-1 ½ hours weekly in prayer.

(3.) Unless there is some special reason for change, the three-hour time period should be spread out over at least four days during the week.

2. "Steps to Christ" Worksheets

Each week the worksheets for the appropriate chapter from "Steps to Christ" will be provided for the class. **Beginning January 25** and on every Wednesday thereafter with the exception of March 7, each student is expected to submit the completed assigned worksheet prior to the start of class. These sheets are not intended for collaboration with others although students are encouraged to answer many of the worksheet questions using direct quotations from the assigned chapter. Legibility is key so if typewritten work is necessary, please include the question along with the answer.

F. **WEEKLY TESTS:** To cover prior week's assigned reading according to "Course Calendar" below. Tests will be administered every Wednesday during class time.

G. RESOURCE FILE

Your Spiritual Formation Resource File is due at the start of class on **April 11, 2012**.

1. The purpose of the resource file is to identify five (5) of resources for continuing spiritual formation. An accordion file with a minimum of five (5) divisions is required
2. Suggested categories of resources for continuing spiritual formation include but are not limited to the following topics and must be labeled: Books, Music, Nature, Family, Friends, Sabbath and Sabbathkeeping, Prayer, Meditation, Fasting, Study, Simplicity, Solitude/Silence, Submission, Service, Celebration, Confession, Guidance, and Worship.
3. In each category, the student must identify two (2) resources for continuing spiritual formation that relate to that category and a tangible expression of **each** resource. Each resource for continuing spiritual formation for all five (5) categories will be accompanied by a typewritten sheet to **explain the history** (*How long has it been a resource? How did it become a resource?*), **substance** (*Why is it a resource?*), and **application** (*How is it a resource?*) of each resource.

H. **TEXTBOOKS:** [1] Handouts; [2] The Celebration of Discipline (COD) by Richard Foster; [3] Invitation to a Journey (ITJ) by M. Robert Mulholland, Jr.; [4] Steps to Christ (STC) by Ellen G. White.

I. **SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT:** The student will choose one aspect of the agenda of Jesus as articulated in Luke 4:14-21 to be offered as **true service** in a local context and then prepare a double-spaced, typewritten summary of that service learning project to be submitted on the assigned date at the start of class. The summary must include the following components: (a) what aspect of the agenda of Jesus was chosen to be offered as **true service**; (b) why that aspect of the agenda of Jesus was chosen to be offered as **true service**; (c) who was chosen as the recipient of **true service**; (d) how/why was the recipient chosen to receive **true service**; (e) what was the **true service** rendered; (f) what was the outcome of the **true service**; and (g) what characteristic of **true service** was most difficult to offer (see rubric on D2L). Project reports are due at the start of class on **January 30, 2012**.

COURSE EVALUATION

Grading Scale

A = 95-100	A- = 90-94	B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76	C- = 70-72	D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66	D- = 60-62	F = 59 and below

Grading System

Weekly Practice of the Spiritual Disciplines	15%
Weekly "Steps to Christ" Worksheets and Pod Presentations	15%
Weekly Tests/"The Promise"	15%
Retreat (March 23-25)	15%
Service Learning Project (January 30)	10%
Spiritual Autobiography (February 29)	15%
Resource File (April 11)	<u>15%</u>
	100%

COURSE CALENDAR

Week 1	W: 1/11	Overview of Syllabus and COD (1)
Week 2	M: 1/16	N O C L A S S - - Martin Luther King's Birthday Observed
Week 2	W: 1/18	Review of COD (1) - <i>STC1: "God's Love for Man" - Pod Formation</i>
Week 3	M: 1/23	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (1-4)
Week 3	W: 1/25	<i>Pod Presentation-STC2: "The Sinner's Need of Christ"</i> and TEST
Week 4	M: 1/30	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (5-7)
Week 4	W: 2/1	<i>Pod Presentation-STC3: "Repentance"</i> and TEST
Week 5	M: 2/6	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (8)
Week 5	W: 2/8	<i>Pod Presentation-STC4: "Confession"</i> and TEST
Week 6	M: 2/13	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (9)
Week 6	W: 2/15	<i>Pod Presentation-STC5: "Consecration"</i> and TEST
Week 7	M: 2/20	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (10) & COD (2)
Week 7	W: 2/22	<i>Pod Presentation-STC6: "Faith & Acceptance"</i> and TEST
Week 8	M: 2/27	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (11) and COD (3)
Week 8	W: 2/29	<i>Pod Presentation-STC7: "The Test of Discipleship"</i> and TEST
Week 9	M: 3/5	N O C L A S S - - S P R I N G B R E A K
Week 9	W: 3/7	N O C L A S S - - S P R I N G B R E A K
Week 10	M: 3/12	Lecture/Discussion on COD (4-5)
Week 10	W: 3/14	<i>Pod Presentation-STC8: "Growing Up Into Christ"</i> and TEST
Week 11	M: 3/19	Lecture/Discussion on SABBATH and SABBATHKEEPING Handouts
Week 11	W: 3/21	<i>Pod Presentation of STC9: "The Work and the Life"</i> and TEST
Week 12	M: 3/26	Lecture/Discussion on COD (6-7)
Week 12	W: 3/28	<i>Pod Presentation of STC10: "A Knowledge of God"</i> and TEST
Week 13	M: 4/2	Lecture/Discussion on COD (8-9)
Week 13	W: 4/4	<i>Pod Presentation of STC11: "The Privilege of Prayer"</i> and TEST
Week 14	M: 4/9	Lecture/Discussion on COD (10-11)
Week 14	W: 4/11	<i>Pod Presentation on STC 12: "What to Do With Doubt"</i> and TEST
Week 15	M: 4/16	Lecture/Discussion on COD (12-13)
Week 15	W: 4/18	<i>Pod Presentation on STC 13: "Rejoicing in the Lord,"</i> and TEST
Week 16	M: 4/23	Lecture/Discussion on ITJ (12-13)
Week 16	W: 4/25	"The Promise" and TEST