

SPIR 60003: Spiritual Life and Leadership
(3 Semester Hours)

Instructor: Timothy Robinson

Prerequisites: none

Description of Content: This course introduces the practice of the Christian spiritual life and the work of spiritual formation in Christian community. Attention will be given to both classical and contemporary expressions of Christian spirituality, the integration of spirituality, theology, and ethics, and to the role of spiritual discipline in the lives of seminarians and religious leaders. Significant class time will be devoted to experimentation with and practice of spiritual disciplines, and reflection on those experiences.

Course Procedures: lectures, discussion in small and large groups, contemplative exercises

Objectives:

1. To become familiar with the broad outlines of the diverse history of Christian spirituality and historic spiritual practices, and to articulate how figures and practices from history can inform contemporary spirituality and ministerial practice.
2. To develop the ability to interpret religious experience and reflect theologically upon it
3. To develop the capacity to reflect on one's own spiritual practice
4. To reflect on and articulate an understanding of the relationship between spirituality and ethics (or, classically framed, between "contemplation and action"), and how spiritual practices support ministries of justice and reconciliation.

Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation (including weekly reading responses)
2. Spiritual autobiography
3. Spiritual practice and reflection paper
4. Paper on a spiritual "classic"

Texts:

1. Philip Sheldrake, *Spirituality: A Brief History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2013). ISBN: 978-1118472354, \$35.95 (used copies begin at \$21.00)
2. Edwin David Aponte, *¡Santo! Varieties of Latino/a Spirituality* (Orbis, 2012). ISBN: 978-1570759642, \$28.00 (used copies begin at \$7.74)
3. Diana Hayes, *Forged in the Fiery Furnace: African American Spirituality* (Orbis, 2012) ISBN: 978-1570754722, \$20.00 (used copies begin at \$12.64)
4. David Benner, *Soulful Spirituality: Becoming Fully Alive and Deeply Human* (Brazos, 2011), ISBN: 978-1587432972, \$20.00 (used copies begin at \$8.45)
5. Elizabeth Liebert, *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision-Making* (Westminster / John Knox, 2008), ISBN: 0664228704, \$18.00 (used copies begin at \$6.00)
6. Raimon Panikkar, *The Experience of God: Icons of the Mystery* (Augsburg/Fortress, 2006). ISBN: 978-0800638252, \$19.00 (used copies begin at \$2.81)

7. Other readings as assigned

Grading procedures:

1. Attendance and participation (includes weekly responses to readings): 15%
2. Spiritual autobiography 15%
3. Spiritual practice paper: 35%
4. Paper on spiritual classic: 35%