

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
2. Journal of reading reflections
3. Spiritual practice and reflection paper (6-8 pages)
4. Paper on a spiritual "classic" (5-7 pages)

Texts:

1. Philip Sheldrake, *The Spiritual Way: Classic Traditions and Contemporary Practice* (Liturgical Press, 2019): ISBN: 978-0814644584, \$24.95
2. Wendy Farley, *Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion* (Westminster/John Knox, 2020): ISBN: 978-0664266813, \$30.00
3. Edwin David Aponte, *¡Santo! Varieties of Latino/a Spirituality* (Orbis, 2012). ISBN: 978-1570759642, \$28.00
4. Diana Hayes, *Forged in the Fiery Furnace: African American Spirituality* (Orbis, 2012) ISBN: 978-1570754722, \$20.00
5. Elizabeth Liebert, *The Soul of Discernment: A Spiritual Practice for Communities and Institutions* (Westminster / John Knox, 2015), ISBN: 78-0664239671, \$20.00
6. Other readings as assigned

Grading procedures:

1. Attendance and participation: 15%
2. Reading journals: 15%
3. Spiritual practice paper: 35%
4. Paper on spiritual classic: 35%