

Updated 11/14/19

Syllabus: January 13-17, 2020

DM-744 Practicum in Spiritual Formation

Instructor: The Rev'd. Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt

Ruben Job Chair in Spiritual Formation

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Monday through Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

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Course Description

Focuses on the evolving challenges facing leaders engaged in spiritual formation, relying upon student projects as laboratories for defining and dealing with those challenges.

Direction Module Five: Practicum, including verbatims, in-class exercises, the integration of knowledge, and assessment of the student's direction skills.

Course Outcomes

Designed to assist students in the Doctor of Ministry degree who are in the Spiritual Direction track, this class will provide students with assistance in shaping the projects that will be the focus of their dissertations. It also includes the fifth and final direction module in which students are given experience with spiritual direction, using in-class exercises and the assessment of verbatims.

The students will refine the project that they will be executing.

The students will process the critical feedback that they receive on the theological underpinnings of the project that they will be executing.

The students will process the critical feedback that they receive on the methodological underpinnings of the project that they will be executing.

The students will offer their peers critical feedback on the theological underpinnings of the project that their peers will be executing.

The students will offer their peers critical feedback on the methodological underpinnings of the project that their peers will be executing.

The students will acquire the basic skills associated with spiritual direction including active listening and open-ended inquiry.

Texts

Benner, David G. *Care of Souls. Revisioning Christian Nature and Counsel*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998. ISBN-10: 0801090636; ISBN-13: 978-0801090639; Price: \$7.67 used; \$22.57, new

Louf, Andre. *Grace Can Do More. Spiritual Accompaniment and Spiritual Growth*. Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 2002. ISBN-10: 087907695X; ISBN-13: 978-0879076955; Price: \$24.49, used; \$28.16, new

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Calendar and Assignments

January 13	Practicum in Spiritual Direction Reading: Benner, <i>Care of Souls</i> , Introduction and Chapters 1-4 Louf, <i>Grace Can Do More</i> , Introduction, Chapter 1-3
January 14	Practicum in Spiritual Direction Reading: Benner, <i>Care of Souls</i> , Chapters 5-8 Louf, <i>Grace Can Do More</i> , Chapter 4-7
January 15	Practicum in Spiritual Direction Reading: Benner, <i>Care of Souls</i> , Chapters 9-11 Louf, <i>Grace Can Do More</i> , Chapter 8-9
January 16	Peer conversations and evaluation of proposed projects
January 17	Peer conversations and evaluation of proposed projects

Assessment

Attendance & Participation

Attendance, preparation for, and and participation in class discussions is essential. We will rely heavily on the reading, given the content of the course. We will be interacting with one another around the projects you are developing; and we will also be doing a great deal of experiential learning, focusing on the techniques and capacities associated with spiritual direction.

20% of the assessment is devoted to this dimension of the student's work and attendance is taken.

Reading Journal

Each student will be required to keep a reading journal. One entry for each day is required and each entry should be a minimum of one page (type-written). The entry should reflect on the student's critical engagement with the reading: places where the student agrees, disagrees, or is provoked to explore new issues.

40% of the assessment will focus here.

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Proposal and Presentation

Each student will be required to submit a written description of the DMin project that they are developing at the beginning of the second week. That description should be 7 to 10 typewritten pages in length. It should also include a theological and methodological rationale for the project; a detailed description of the project itself; and a bibliography of 25 to 30 sources. (The bibliography is *not* a part of the 7-10 page requirement.)

Each student will be expected to describe her / his project, outlining the content for the class, with a view to receiving and incorporating the critical in-put offered by the class. Then, in a second presentation later in the second week, the student will be required to describe how he / she will incorporate the criticism and suggestions that she has received.

40% of the assessment will focus here.

NOTE: Extensions will *not* be given on these assignments. In order to insure fairness to all of the students in the class students will be required to adhere to the deadlines set for the assignments.

Garrett-Evangelical is committed to providing a quality theological education and will provide reasonable accommodations for documented conditions. Students requiring specific assistance such as classroom changes, alternative ways of note-taking, different classroom procedures, or alternative testing formats are urged to request the appropriate accommodations from the director of academic studies/registrar. The director of academic studies/registrar can advise students on other support services and resources, for example, diagnostic testing. Students must complete a request for accommodations using the form available from the director of academic studies/registrar or through MyGETS documenting their condition(s) through appropriate verification methods.