The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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Syllabus
DMIN 898.11 Research in Spiritual Formation: Celtic Spirituality
Summer, 2012
Instructor, Rev. Dr. Mady Fraser

Availability of Instructor: Before or after class or other arranged time.

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• Unless it is an emergency, please do not call my home before 10:00 am or after 10:00 pm.
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Purpose of the course: To critically examine, develop and experience styles and modes of communal leadership based in Celtic spirituality.

Learning Outcomes:
At the close of the class term it is hoped students will
• have a clear understanding of what it means to lead a community of faith from a Celtic spiritual perspective,
• be familiar with the history, context, principles and practices of Celtic spirituality,
• show a competency for integrating the Celtic perspective into both personal and communal spiritual formation,
• have ideas and visions of how their own personal spirituality is particularly Celtic and how they wish to enhance the spiritual nature of their leadership from the the Celtic perspective.

Learning Strategies:
• reading of texts and other assigned materials
• writing
• personal/communal spiritual practice
• interactivity, i.e. discussion/reflection and participation in class activities
• analysis of spiritual practices within ministry context
• analysis of personal and communal spiritual journey
• video presentations
• final project design

Texts:
Books:

**Articles:**
• The following two articles are posted on the Blackboard page for our class
  • “Prehistoric Ireland,” Barney McLaughlin (unpublished)
  • “An Overview of Ancient Ireland,” Barney McLaughlin (unpublished)
  "The Spirituality of Everyday Life" p. 37
  "Money" p.67
  "Word and Flesh" p. 99
  "Epilogue from the Simple Life" p.144
  "Creation's Care and Keeping" p. 175
  “Healing ourselves and the Earth” p. 196

  This book is on reserve in the PTS library or may possibly be found in a local library. You are not required to purchase it.

**Review:**

**Pre-Class Meeting Assignments**

**One 9-week assignment:**
Reflection Exercises in Response to the Chapters in *Christ of the Celts,* J. Philip Newell
• Each week, for nine (9) weeks, read a chapter and do a reflection exercise.
• You may choose from the ideas offered, combine one or more of them or come up with an exercise of your own (as long as it relates to the chapter).
• Describe the exercise you practiced and your reflections on the experience, i.e. thoughts, feelings, ideas, etc. Along with the final postlude reflection, this will be due the first day of class. If you have created an artwork that is three-dimensional include a picture of it in the work you prepare to turn in and bring the piece to class.
During the first week of class, as we work through the book together, you will share your reflections, i.e. thoughts, feelings, ideas, experiences, etc. that resulted from doing the exercises related to each chapter and the postlude.

Chapter One: “The Memory of Song”
- With your non-dominant hand write a message from yourself in your mother’s womb to yourself today.
- Picture journal Eden--your home before birth.
- Write a poem using images from this chapter.
- Reflect on images of Christ taught to you as a child, teen and young adult in relationship to those offered by the author.
- Reflect on sin as taught to you as a child, teen and young adult in relationship to those offered by the author.
- Reflect on times of struggle and/or confusion during your life and how they have brought you closer to the Light--to your creation in love.

Chapter Two: “A Forgotten Tune”
- If an exercise from the previous chapter speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
- Using your denominational resources (worship book & hymnal) examine the prayers of confession and/or the words of hymns. Where do you see the doctrine of original sin? Where do you see affirmation of human beings as created good, in God’s image? (i.e. affirmation of our deep wisdom, creativity and longing for God)
- Observe and reflect on how the doctrine of original sin perpetuated in our culture (politics, media, etc.). How is the idea of the original goodness of humanity perpetuated in our culture (politics, media, etc.)?
- How do you see and experience Christ in the heart of the human soul?

Chapter Three: “The Rhythm of the Earth”
- If an exercise from the previous chapters speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
- Collect pictures of and pray for those in your spiritual community.
- Write a poem or psalm in response to this chapter.
- Create a collage of Celtic art
- Examine ways you feel disconnected from and connected with the Holy.
- Reflect on images of Christ in your past and those offered by the author.
- Reflect on goodness/being and evil/non-being.
- How do you remain connected with the Holy?

Chapter Four: “Empty Notes”
- If an exercise from the previous chapters speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
- How do you and your spiritual community listen both to the words of scripture and the song of creation?
- Using your creativity, make a symbol of a circle of unity/community.
• How do you see the oneness of creation in non-human creatures?
• How does Christ disclose God’s heart to you?
• Create a collage picturing the physical universe as sacred substance.
• How do you respond to the Celtic perspective of sexuality?
• Reflecting on God asking Adam and Eve, “Where are you?” respond to these questions found on page 60.
  • Are we in hiding from our true nature and from the deepest notes of life’s Garden? Are we cutting ourselves off from the Voice that still sounds from Eden, inviting us to respond to our name, our deepest identity, Adam “of the ground,” Eve “womb of life”?

Chapter Five: “The Sound of Love”
• If an exercise from the previous chapters speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
• Meditate to the sound of a Native American drum circle or using a heartbeat rhythm play a drum during meditation. Meditation is defined however it is meaningful to you.
• Attend to the smells around you—breathe deeply the smells of God. Name the grace.
• Swallow God every time you drink water or juice, and eat fresh food. Name the grace.
• Touch God as you touch people and natural objects. Name the grace.
• Reflect on metaphorical experiences of the cycle of desire, conception, joy and pain of birth and new life.
• Explore more fully the reality of humanity. What are the signs of it in Jesus and others you have experienced as humble? Can the strength of humility change the world? What would that look like?

Chapter Six: “Paying the Piper”
• If an exercise from the previous chapters speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
• Reflect on the perspective of the cross offered by the author and how it is similar and different from what you’ve been taught and/or sensed within yourself up to this point in your life.
• Picture journal forgiveness as a sacrifice of the heart.
• How do you look into the hearts of others in ways that help open the hidden well-springs of life and new beginnings.

Chapter Seven: “The Hymn of the Universe”
• If an exercise from the previous chapters speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
• In whatever way is yours (prose, poetry, art, etc), express as best you can, one or more of your experiences of Christ, the Unknown, Love, Presence.
• If you truly and deeply believed all creation to be God’s physical body, what behavior would you be compelled to change?
• If you truly and deeply believed all creation to be God’s physical body, what fear would you release?
• Create a symbol for “excentration” (p. 103).
• Write a poem or psalm using images from this chapter.
Chapter Eight: “Broken Cadences”

• If an exercise from the previous chapters speaks to you related to this chapter, feel free to use it.
• Reflect on one or more experiences of knowing yourself better/more deeply by knowing others better/more deeply.
• Write a communion meditation from the perspective that communion is sharing bread and wine of the earth (rather than the bread and wine of the church).
• Create visual art reflecting your experience of spirituality or the inter-woven-ness of spirit and matter.
• Make a list of the brokenness and fragmentation in your life that keeps you from the harmony of wholeness with all creation. What will bring healing? How are you willing to engage in a healing process?

Postlude: This is to pull together everything from the reading and weekly exercises.

• Reflect on particular insights and/or affirmations the author has offered you regarding Christ and in whatever way is yours (prose, poetry, art, etc), express your deepest longings for Presence and for connection with all creation.

Another 9-week assignment:
Communing with the Saints. Using the book *Holy Companions* by Mary C. Earle and Sylvia Maddox, every week for nine weeks, beginning the week of April 15, 2012, read and reflect on the assigned chapter.

Each week post a short reflection (thoughts, feelings, ideas for your life, personally & in ministry) on Blackboard in response to your communal experience with the saint-of-the-week and respond to what someone else has posted (which means you may have to go online more than once).

The following dates are the Sundays beginning the week when you read & reflect & post about the chapter.

April 15  Chapter 1, Saint Patrick
April 22  Chapter 2, Saint Brigid
April 29  Chapter 5, Saint Columba
May 6  Chapter 8, Saint Kevin
May 13  Chapter 9, Saint Ita
May 20  Chapter 13, Saint Aidan
May 27  Chapter 16, Saint Samthann
June 3  Chapter 17, Saint Ciaran
June 10  Chapter 18, Saint Columbanus

Other Assignments

Identify one or more scriptures you would like to use as the basis for planning a chapel service. Be ready to offer your ideas of how this scripture(s) supports the Celtic Christian perspective.
The Rynick article (Hospitality)
This will be relevant to the way we participate with others at lunch times and around the second week of classes when we lead worship.

*I Am of Irelaunde
*Absolution by Murder
*The 2 McLaughlin articles (History)
These three will be relevant to the first day of class, Tuesday, June 19

*The Celtic Way of Prayer
*Celtic Christian Spirituality
*“The Gospel of John” in *The Message
*A Celtic Model of Ministry
Assigned articles from *Simpler Living Compassionate Life
These four will be relevant to the rest of the first week--we'll touch on one or all of them each day.

Schedule for Class Meetings

Class meetings will be held in the retreat center, south of the main seminary building (officially known as the Tabernee Conference Center). The room will be set up with various spaces designated for different activities, including a “lounge.” There is a very small kitchen with coffee maker, microwave and regular sized refrigerator for our use.

This schedule is a place to begin. We as a group can move things around, may need more or less time for certain things, etc. This is about living in cooperative community.

8:30 Chapel
9:15 “Tuning In” & class conversation/activities
12:00 Lunch/Hospitality practices
    lunch will be available each day in the student commons
    other options can also be considered
12:45 Personal/communal quiet time.
1:30 Resume class conversation/activities
By 4:00 “Tuning Out”

Week One--June 19-22, 2012--conversations and activities will center on pre-class reading assignments and experiences.

Week Two--June 25-28, 2012--conversations and activities will center on planning and leading chapel services for the PTS community