PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

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.

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Phillips Theological Seminary
DPLS 741
Engaged Christian Leadership of Spiritual Practices: Ethics and the Spiritual Journey
January 3—12, 2012

Instructor: Joseph D. Driskill
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Chapel: 9:00 a.m.
Class location: Conference Center
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Course Description
This course will give students an opportunity to investigate various landscapes where spirituality and ethics intersect. A close reading of selected historical texts will allow students to discover diverse patterns of faithfulness, including their distinct spiritual goals, practices and embodied virtues. Case studies will be used to analyze ethical issues arising when providing spiritual guidance and pastoral care in diverse racial/ethnic and white ministry settings. The course will illuminate some ethical quandaries and identify quagmires common to pastoral leadership.

Learning Outcomes
Student will be able to:
1) identify a variety of patterns of faithfulness manifested in the lives of selected religious leaders
2) identify the connections between patterns of living and the spiritual practices and habits which shape them
3) identify the role of social location and its attendant ethical implications for providing religious leadership in a post-modern world characterized by various types of diversity and privilege
4) identify distinguishing characteristics of spiritual guidance and pastoral care, including the ethical guidelines associated with each

Required Texts


Course Requirements

Pre-meeting Assignments
Seven page paper analyzing the spiritual life and practices of Teresa of Avila as described in her book, *The Interior Castle*. Questions you might bring to the paper include: What are the spiritual practices she recommends? What metaphors shape her understanding of the spiritual life? What constitutes the moral life for Teresa? What is the aim or goal of the religious life? What world-view does she take for granted? These questions are intended to be suggestive; you are invited to focus the paper such that it will be useful for reflecting on your ministry setting. You are not required to do additional research beyond the use of the text on Teresa. The papers will be used as a focus for our discussion on January 3. (15%)

Seven page paper analyzing Countryman’s understanding of the holy and its implications for leadership. Questions you might bring to the text include: What is Countryman’s view of the moral life? What world-view shapes his understanding of the Holy? What role do spiritual practices play in his description of living on the border of the holy? What is the role of communal vs. individual spiritual practices? As with the paper described above the questions are intended to be suggestive; you can focus the paper such that it will be useful for reflecting on your ministerial leadership. You are not required to do research beyond the use of the text. The papers will be used to focus our discussion on January 10. (15%)

Classroom Assignments
Discussions and Focused Conversations (15%)

An oral presentation of a “case” from your ministry experience that lends itself to analyzing the ethical issues implicit in providing spiritual leadership, January 5 (15%)

Using Liebert’s Chapter 3 “focus an issue” for discernment. On five of our eight days (Wed-Fri; M-Tue) together, select practices recommended by Liebert and use them for decision making. As you are comfortable, please share with the class both the “issue” and your experience with using the practices (10%)

Post-Meeting Assignment
Eighteen page constructive paper identifying your understanding of the “pattern of faithfulness” that shapes your personal life and that of your faith community. How does your denominational community as well as your particular congregational community contribute to the pattern? How does this pattern influence your leadership style? What personal practices sustain this pattern of living? What practices are valued by your faith community? What is your growing edge? And the growing edge of your denomination and congregation? Due: March 15, 2012. (30%)

Class Structure
Our day begins with Morning Prayer in the chapel and incorporates periods of reflection at various times of the day. Teaching and learning formats include lecture, discussion, student presentations, case studies, the use of AV materials, engaging in spiritual practices and reflecting on the experience. We will seek to utilize the gifts of students in the class by providing opportunities for their leadership.
Course Schedule
Tuesday, January 3
9:30 am – Noon  Introduction to the Course
Definitions of Spirituality
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm  Teresa’s Understanding of the Spiritual Life
Student presentations

Wednesday, January 4
9:30 – Noon  Reformation understandings of the Spiritual Life
1:00 – 4:30  Spiritualities of Justification and Sanctification

Thursday, January 5
9:30 – Noon  The Pietists and the Wesley’s Approach to the Spiritual Life
1:00 – 4:30  Student case presentations

Friday, January 6
9:30 – Noon  Spiritual Practices and the Moral Life in the Post-Modern Context
1:00 – 4:30  Watch a Video of “Joan of Arcadia”

Monday, January 9
9:30 – Noon  Spohn’s Approach to Spiritual Practices and the Moral Life
1:00 – 4:30  Sharing experiences using Liebert’s discernment practices

Tuesday, January 10
9:30 – Noon  William Countryman’s Living on the Border of the Holy
Student presentations
1:00 – 4:30  Watch movie “Of Gods and Men”

Wednesday, January 11
9:30 – Noon  Trustworthy Connections, Anne Winchell Silver
1:00 – 4:30  Spiritual Guidance and Pastoral Care—Respecting Diversity

Thursday, January 12
1:00 – 4:30  Spiritual Guidance: Codes of Ethics and Boundary Issues