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
Spiritual Leadership in Christian Ministry Contexts
Summer, 2011
Instructor, Rev. Dr. Mady Fraser

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

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Telephone: 918-493-5023, Home
  • Unless it is an emergency, please do not call my home before 10:00 am or after 10:00 pm.
  • I check e-mail regularly, which is my preferred form of communication.

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Purpose of the course: To critically examine, develop and experience styles and modes of communal leadership from a spiritual perspective. Being a spiritual leader presumes a strong personal spiritual discipline on the part of the leader.

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 spiritual perspective,
  • be familiar with a variety of spiritual practices, both personal and communal and how to lead them in their own ministry contexts,
  • have ideas and visions of how their own personal leadership style is spiritual and how they wish to enhance the spiritual nature of their leadership.

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

Texts:
Pre-Class Meeting Assignments

In light of the nature of this class

your assignment process

is more intertwined, than linear.

You will need 10 weeks to spread out two of the assignments.

It would be good to give yourself more than 10 weeks, so if you’re not able to get to something, you have space to complete these assignments.

One 10-week assignment: Mindfulness*--Being Prayer as you live your life.

*Mindfulness: “the energy of attention . . . investing yourself entirely in the here and now. . . The fruit of mindfulness practice is the realization that peace and joy are available within us and around us, right here and right now.” Thich Nhat Hanh in The Art of Power, 41-2

Using the book Beyond Words, practice the following ways of praying, one each week for 10 weeks:

Before you begin, read chapter 1.

Ch 2--Walking
Ch 5--Hearing
Ch 6--Music
Ch 7--Seeing
Ch 10--Planting
Ch 11--Cooking/housekeeping
Ch 12--Eating
Ch 13--Communion
Ch 14--Secret prayer
Ch15--Imagination

- Each week, read the chapter and mindfully practice the discipline in your everyday life during the week, in whatever way is yours to do. You may do your practice alone, with others, or both.

- At the end of your week, go to our Blackboard (Bb) page and post your reflections on the discussion board, on that practice’s forum, regarding your experience of that practice. The posts don’t need to be long, but do need to show some depth of reflection. Be sure to include how you went about your practice and whether it included other people.

- When you go to Bb, also read each others posts and comment.

- We will practice labyrinth walking and dance in class, but if you want to include them and/or icon gazing in your own practices before coming to class, please do. Making art is included in the next assignment.

**Another 10-week assignment:** Reflections on yourself as co-creator with God.

You will need your **sketchbook** for this. You may also need used magazines, writing and drawing/coloring implements, tape/glue stick/other adhesive, a digital camera, other art supplies.

- Each week read a chapter in *Seeing in the Dark*, then spend **at least 30 minutes** with creative journaling. Begin your reflective process either with something she offers at the end of the chapter or something that stuck with you from the chapter that isn’t addressed in the exercises at the end.

Creative journaling--this requires quiet, uninterrupted time

- You may want to begin with prayer, lighting a candle, deep breathing, relaxing music--and/or whatever helps you become internally still and open to the Spirit.
- In whatever way is yours, greet the question or idea that is your beginning point and invite it into your spirit. This creates a trinity of God, you and your beginning point.
- Using your sketchbook reflect on your question/idea by using one or more of these methods:
  - writing a poem or psalm or other creative piece
  - pasting pictures (which you might find in a magazine, on line, you take with a camera, etc.)
  - drawing pictures/designs
  - creating a collage of pictures and maybe a few words
  - other creative methods of reflection
- As time goes by use fewer and fewer words and more images
This is a creative process.
• Please do not feel you need to be able to explain anything in it to yourself or anyone else.
• This is not about good art. It is about you claiming yourself as a co-creator with God.

Also, there may be times that your journaling intertwines with a particular practice of 'doing' prayer in the previous assignment. That's great. Go with it.
We will use some of the activities in the appendices of this book in class.

Be sure to bring this journal to class for reference as we discuss the book.

Other Assignments

Begin your additional reading and reflection with A Celtic Model of Ministry and The Pastor as Spiritual Guide in preparation for working with the Spirituality Survey. The survey with directions is posted on the class web page.

Before coming to class, be sure you have also read and reflected on I Was a Stranger and Radical Optimism.

None of this reading is as dense as some of the things you've read for other classes in this program. They may seem simple, but there is a profoundness to what is offered. Rather than asking you to struggle with understanding what is being said, I am asking you to reflect deeply on what you read, in light of your own spiritual life and leadership, and in light of your ministry context.

For me, every book and activity assigned is connected to and intertwined with the others. I hope you will find this to be true, as well.

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” & conversation
10:30 15 minute break
10:45  Resume conversation
11:45  Lunch together/Hospitality practices
12:30  Day 1--Planning together for lunch times and other community practices
       i.e. tuning in & out, daily worship center, the schedule, etc.
       Day 2ff--Personal quiet time--this is time set aside to feed your spirit in
       whatever way is helpful to you, as individuals. The classroom space is
       designated quiet space during this time, unless we decide as a group to
       designate it otherwise. The instructor will be in a different space, but
       accessible if needed, during this hour.
1:30  Spiritual practices
By 4:00  “Tuning Out”

Tuesday, June 21

- Morning conversation relates to the books Beyond Words and Seeing in the Dark and
  to the experiences of spiritual practice related to them the 10 weeks prior to coming to
  class.
- Lunch will be provided by the instructor. Please provide your own drink.
- We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences
  together.

Wednesday, June 22

- Morning conversation relates to the books A Celtic Model of Ministry and The Pastor
  as Spiritual Guide and to the experience and results of your spiritual surveys.
- Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
- We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences
  together.

Thursday, June 23

- Morning conversation relates to the book I Was a Stranger and the issue of hospitality
  as an entry into all spiritual practice.
- Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
- We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences
  together.

Friday, June 24
• Morning conversation relates to the book *Radical Optimism*, what the author offers and how everything we have talked about and done so far ties together.
• Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
• We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences together.

**Monday, June 27**

• Morning conversation relates to a review of the previous week and how it all ties together regarding spiritual leadership.
• Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
• We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences together.

**Tuesday, June 28**

• Morning conversation to be determined by the group.
• Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
• We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences together.

**Wednesday, June 29**

• Morning conversation to be determined by the group.
• Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
• We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences together.

**Thursday, June 30**

• Morning conversation relates to the final project for the class, i.e. what each person will do and when the project is due (no later than Aug 5) related to creating a plan for guiding their ministry community through one or more specific spiritual practices.
• Lunch time activity will be decided by the group.
• We will participate in at least two spiritual practices and reflect on the experiences together.