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.

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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Availability of Instructor: Before or after class sessions or by appointment on campus or via email or telephone

E-Mail:  mady.fraser@ptstulsa.edu

Telephone:  918-493-5023, Home
            (if no answer, please leave a message, we screen calls)
            918-230-6585, Cell (not my primary phone--a text is best)
• Unless it is an emergency, please do not call me before 10:00 am or after 10:00 pm.
• I check e-mail and texts regularly.

Purpose of the course: To experience and reflect on the spiritual practice of praying for justice in the context of personal spiritual development and spiritual leadership in ministry. The primary goal is to become more aware of how injustice is perpetrated and to identify ways, small and large, that we can respond prayerfully.

Learning Outcomes:
At the close of the semester it is hoped students will . . .
• have a clear understanding of what it means to pray for justice in the world,
• be familiar with the theological and spiritual foundations of praying for justice,
• show a competency for integrating the practice of praying for justice into their personal spiritual lives and spiritual leadership in ministry.

Learning Strategies:
• reading of the text
• reflective writing and/or creating
• personal/communal spiritual practice
• interactivity, i.e. discussion/reflection and participation in class activities

Text:
Embracing the World, Praying for Justice and Peace, Jane E. Vennard

Context:
This one-credit-hour class meets two consecutive days, October 3 & 4, 2014
• 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
• Room 302, on campus
• All assignments will be completed and submitted via Moodle

The two class sessions are designed to be a spiritual retreat in which we will build community and engage in learning and teaching about and participation in the spiritual practice of praying for justice, individually and corporately.
• Lunches will be part of the class experience, though other short breaks will be taken each day.
• Personal reflection time will be provided for each day.
  **On Friday, October 3, come to class with a lunch in hand.** The brown student refrigerator in the student commons kitchen, as well as microwaves, utensils, etc are available for your use.
• On Saturday, October 4, lunch will be provided as part of the class activity.

Course Expectations:
• *Regular attendance.* If you miss more than 4 hours, you will not pass the course. (See PTS attendance policy under “syllabus” on class Moodle page.)
• *Be on time.* Please be courteous to your classmates and the instructor by being on time. Habitual tardiness will impact your grade.
• Notify the instructor if you are going to be absent. There is no way to make up missed time. If you are unable to attend a class session or to attend eight (8) or more hours of class, please contact the registrar and drop the class. No exceptions can be made.
• *Participate in class sessions* through listening to the instructor and your classmates, taking part in discussions and class activities and by attending to the values and practices of loving and respectful community.
• *Fulfill all assignments.* If you do not complete the assignments, it is impossible to fully participate in the process of the course.
• Assignments will only be accepted late if you have made arrangements with the professor. More than one late assignment during the semester will affect your grade.
• You are responsible for your education. You will receive from this class in proportion to what you invest in it.

Semester Grades
Fulfillment of the following expectations is required for a grade of A:
1. Regular attendance (physically and mentally) and participation with no more than one hour of absence, regardless of reason.
2. Through writing/creating and class participation, exhibit thoughtfulness and understanding for the subject.
3. Complete and turn in assignments at the time they are due.
4. Enthusiastically participate in carrying out the purpose and outcomes of the course.
7. Maintain academic honesty according to the policies and procedures set out in the professional behavior statement in the syllabus section of the class Moodle page.

Weekly Assignments (for specifics, see “Assignments” below)

The first seven weeks you are asked to read a chapter in the assigned text and submit a personal reflection (as defined below) in response to the reading. These reflections will not receive a grade because I will not grade your spirituality. I will give you feedback on them.
Personal Reflection
The papers:
• are not book reports
• are not research papers,
• are not assessments of an authors’ work or character. If you respond to what is
written with anger or joy, don’t give the credit or blame to the author. Search yourself
and discover what inside you is responding in this way.
• are designed to elicit personal responses and theological reflections on reading and
practice.
• are subjective, they are about your thoughts/feelings/experiences in your own words,
in reflection on the assignments and how this impacts your relationship with and/or
perceptions of God, humanity, creation and your concept of ministry.

I will make comments on your papers in order to affirm what you have said, as
well as to challenge and provoke you to further and possibly, expanded
thought/reflection. I am always open to discussion regarding comments I have made in
response to reflections, which are obviously subjective, because they are my response
to what you have said or done. Objectivity is not a goal of this class, though appropriate
boundaries are.

If I perceive a particular reflection to be other than a "personal reflection"
I will ask you to do the assignment again in a timely manner.
Redoing an assignment will constitute little to no penalty on your grade, but
failing to resubmit it will count as not having done the assignment at all.

A periodic, semi-regular option to reflection papers is a creative reflection, i.e. poem,
design, photograph, clay sculpture, painting, song, etc. Sometimes our reflections are
beyond words and only tapping into further creativity will express what is there. You will
need to include enough narration so that I understand where you are coming from.

It is also fine to combine written and creative reflections.

Consider the following questions when preparing to write a reflection paper or creating
something else:
• What kinds of feelings did you have while reading or participating in the
assignment? Angry, excited, disturbed, WOW! challenged, pleased,
affirmed, disgusted, etc. Where do those feelings originate within you?
• What one particular thing did the author say or happened in your own
reflection that really grabbed you? Reflect on that.
• How did something in the assignment affect the way you think/feel now
about a particular issue that is different than before you did the reading or
activity?
~The papers/creations are an opportunity for self-reflection for you and they tell me who you are and where you are in your spiritual journey—as if we are in conversation. You may even couch it in the form of a letter to me, if that is helpful.

~Please do not write a sermon, i.e. tell how things are or are supposed to be or give the ‘party line.’ The difference in reflection and preaching, in this case, is owning what you are saying and expressing as your own and couching it in “I language,” rather than “you language.”

~Reflections go into depth at soul level.

~Reflections have no right or wrong things to say but there is a right way to express what you are communicating, via personal thoughts/feelings/experiences and ownership of those.

Reflections are to be turned in through Moodle. Creations, if not printable, can be submitted via photograph and then brought to class when we meet. If you have questions, please ask. I am open to additional possibilities.

Late papers or creations will only be accepted with prior approval. Multiple assignments turned in late, even with permission, may affect your grade. It is possible to renegotiate due dates.

Assignments

The dates below are the dates by which the assignment is due to be uploaded on Moodle. You are welcome to upload the assignment before the date, but may only upload them late with prior permission.

- Written reflection papers should be a minimum of 2 pages, double spaced—if you need to write more, please feel free to do so.
- Creative reflections should contain enough explanation for me to be able to connect with what you have submitted in relation to the reading.

August 30
- Read chapter 1 “Grounding Ourselves in God” and upload your reflection to Moodle

September 6
- Read chapter 2 “Praying for Others and the World” and upload your reflection to Moodle

September 13
- Read chapter 3 “Praying with our Actions” and upload your reflection to Moodle

September 20
- Read chapter 4 “Praying for Renewal” and upload your reflection to Moodle
September 27
• Read chapter 5 “Praying to be Transformed” and upload your reflection to Moodle

October 4
• Read chapter 6 “Praying for Discernment” and upload your reflection to Moodle

**October 3 & 4 attend class on campus**

October 11
• Read chapter 7 “Trusting the Mercy of God” and upload your reflection to Moodle

October 18 & 25 No assignments due

**November 1 through November 21**
(we will go over this assignment during one of our class sessions)
• for these 21 days, practice a particular form of praying for justice that is suggested to you by the reading and reflecting you have done during the first seven weeks of the semester. You are to devote about 15 minutes per day or between 5 and 6 hours total during the 21 day period.
• you might want to keep a journal during this time to capture some of your reflections

**November 22** (we will go over this assignment during one of our class sessions)
• turn in a personal reflection, via Moodle, on the 21 day experience of praying for justice
• be sure your personal reflection includes the following:
  • a clear explanation of the form your praying for justice took--the way you begin may be transformed over time, so be sure to note that and explain
  • how you went about your practice
  • the thoughts and feelings that arose
  • reflections on yourself as one who is called to pray for justice and how this experience may affect your personal spiritual practices. If you do not feel called to pray for justice, go into detail about that.
  • how the experience of this practice may affect your ministry
  • surprises, challenges, affirmations, etc that came from the experience
  • any other reflections that seem pertinent

**December 13**
• turn in a one page document of commitment outlining how you will realistically integrate praying for justice into:
  • your personal spiritual life and
  • your practices as a spiritual leader

Think of this as a “provocative proposal”--it may not reflect what you are doing now, but lays out the possibilities for little-by-little integrating something new into your life or enhancing what you are already doing by provoking you to greater awareness and intention.