

C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction
 North Park Theological Seminary,
 Chicago, IL
 A seminary of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Listening and Discerning Practicum
SPFM 7502-Three Credits
Course #2 of the Certificate in Spiritual Direction
S1 20-2021 November 2, 2020 – May 31, 2021.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Contact Persons:

Mary Chase-Ziolek, Professor mchase-ziolek@northpark.edu, 773-244-6201
 Distributed Learning Support Services (Canvas) Michael Villanueva mvillanueva@northpark.edu;
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Course Description

Practicum I is designed for program participants who desire to continue to discern their call and giftedness into the ministry of Spiritual Direction as begun in SPFM 7501. Work will be done in the home location of the student with support from the course instructor. Students will journal on topic areas related to the movement of God in their lives. They will learn to articulate from their journal reflection as well as listen and respond to others. This discernment will be grounded in meetings with a spiritual director. Students will also read and experience a topic of personal interest in Christian spirituality. The course begins on the first day of the seminary's fall semester and ends on the last day of the spring semester. In 2020-21 the course dates are November 2, 2020 – May 31, 2021.

Course Objectives

1. Listen to the movement of God through journal practice and articulate the core understandings
2. Listen to others journal reflections and learn to respond in a way that deepens the movement of God in the other.
3. Study one area of contemporary Christian spirituality relevant to personal formation.
4. Reflect on growing ability to listen to self, others and God.

Required Texts

Au, Wilkie and Noreen, Cannon Au. *The Discerning Heart: Exploring the Christian Path*, Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2006. ISBN 978-0809143726
 Benner, David G. *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015. ISBN 0830846123
 Cepero, Helen. *Journaling as a Spiritual Practice: Encountering God through Attentive Writing*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008. ISBN 978-0830835195
 Jones, Kirk Byron. *Soul Talk: How to Have the Most Important Conversation of All*. Scotts Valley, CA: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2018. ISBN 978-1983574429

Recommended

Benner, David. *Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015 ISBN 978-0830846139

Benner, David. *Surrender to Love: Discovering the Heart of Christian Spirituality*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015. ISBN 978-0830846115

Pickering, Sue. *Spiritual Direction: A Practical Introduction*. London: Canterbury Press, 2008. ISBN 978-1853118852

Course Requirements

1. Will choose a spiritual director and complete 7 sessions (one hour each month November to May) of spiritual direction. The cost of spiritual direction (if any) is the responsibility of the course participant. Student maintains a journal of reflections after each session with the spiritual director.
2. Will complete the on-line journaling component shared in the discussion forum or simultaneous discussion. More than one unexcused absence from posting and responding will require a conversation with the instructor.
3. Will choose a topic of personal interest and challenge in Christian spirituality and develop a plan for personal study and experience in a workshop, class or seminar and read 300 pages in this area. Study project plan to be posted on Canvas site **due January 11**. Reflection on personal topic (4 pages, double spaced following guidelines that will be posted on Canvas) will be posted on instructor view only site and an optional class forum **due May 24**
4. Will write a 4 page, double-spaced reflection paper which includes personal discernment concerning the movement of God in your life during the course and discernment regarding your call and giftedness to continue in spiritual direction formation, following guidelines posted on Canvas, **due May 31**
5. Will verify completion of all requirements by **May 31**

Grading

Grading is Pass/Fail. All components of the course must be completed satisfactorily in order to earn a pass and verified on the class site quiz.

Class Schedule

Simultaneous Sessions: There are three simultaneous sessions in this class (all Saturdays): December 5; February 27 and May 15

Asynchronous Work: Most of your work will be asynchronous meaning you will be reading and responding in a particular timeframe but not simultaneously online together.

Module 1: Growing in Listening—Texts: *Journaling as a Spiritual Practice* and *The Gift of Being Yourself* and *Soul Talk* Note: The Journaling text has specific chapter requirements. The other two books are to be completed by January 25 and integrated in your reflections

November 2 Read: Listening Guidelines and Welcome Letter; Introduction and Chapter 1 (Starting Out: Discovering a Journaling Practice) in *Journaling as a Spiritual Practice*

- November 9** Post: Tue.-Wed./Respond: Thu-Sat
- November 16** Chapter 2 Beginning – Again and chapter 3 Looking Intently: Paying Attention to My Life
- November 23** Post: Tue.-Wed./Respond: Thu-Sat
- November 30** Chapter 4 Claiming Significance: Honoring My Own Story
Zoom, Saturday, December 5 10 AM CST
Note: We are having the response to the chapter earlier so your Christmas break will be longer. You will share your response to chapter 4 in your small group rather than post
- December 7** **Christmas Break**
- January 4** Chapter 5 Naming the Landscape: Mining Below the Surface
- January 11** Post: Tues.-Wed./Respond: Thu-Sat.
Due January 11 Plan for personal topic will include
- Topic of Interest *Possible suggestions for topic areas are posted on Canvas site
 - Book/s I will read (minimum 300 pp.)
 - Workshop/Seminar/Retreat/class I plan to attend
- January 18** Chapter 6 Listening Beyond Words: Blessing the Body
- January 25** Post: Tues.-Wed./Respond: Thu-Sat.
- Module Two: Growing in Discernment**—Texts: *Journaling as a Spiritual Practice* and *The Discerning Heart*
Note: The Journaling text has specific chapter requirements during the module. *The Discerning Heart* is to be completed by May 17 and integrated in your reflections
- February 1** Chapter 7 Looking Backward: Reflecting on the Past
- February 8** Tues.-Wed./Respond: Thu—Sat
- February 15** Chapter 8 Looking Forward: Where Does This Lead?
- February 22** **Zoom, Saturday, February 27 10 am CST**
Note: You will share your response to chapter 8 in your small group rather than post
- March 1** Chapter 9 Reorienting in the Present: Where Am I Now?
- March 8** Post: Tue.-Wed./Respond: Thu-Sat
- March 15** Chapter 11: Embracing the Cross: Finding My Way Through Suffering
Note: We are reading chapter 11 before chapter 10 due to its relevance to Holy Week
- March 22** Post: Tue-Wed/Respond: Thu-Sat.
- March 29** Holy Week
- April 5** Chapter 10 Talking Back: Dialogue Journaling

April 12 Post: Tues.-Wed./Respond: Thu-Sat.

April 19 Chapter 12: Discovering Life: Writing for Healing

April 26 Post: Tues-Wed//Respond: Thu-Sat.

May 3 Chapter 13 Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary

May 10 **Zoom, Saturday, May 15 11 am CST**

Note: You will share your response to chapter 13 in your small group rather than post. You will also briefly share about your personal topic

May 17 Chapter 14 – Facing Resistance; Celtic Blessings given and received

May 24 **Personal topic essay due**

May 31 **Personal discernment essay due**
Completion of all requirements documented

ACADEMIC HONESTY

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park University is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating will receive a failing grade on the assignment and are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another’s work as one’s own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another’s answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one’s answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–27.

ACCOMMODATIONS

North Park is committed to creating an inclusive learning environment. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this class related to a disability, contact the Center for Student Engagement by email ada@northpark.edu or phone at 773-244-5737 to schedule an appointment with the Learning Specialist. You can also stop by The Center for Student Engagement, located on the first floor of the Johnson Center.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773-244-6276 or TitleIX@northpark.edu) for information about reporting, campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As members of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University’s Title IX coordinator in certain situations to help ensure that the student’s safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

Please refer to North Park's [Safe Community](#) site for reporting, contact information and further details.

INCOMPLETE GRADES

If, due to extenuating circumstances (specifically, pregnancy, illness, personal and family issues, military assignment, etc.), a student anticipates she will be unable to complete course work within the allotted time, that student may request a grade of incomplete from the course instructor before the last week of class clearly stating the reason(s) for this request. Overscheduling and/or lack of self-discipline are not considered extenuating circumstances. If the request is timely and meets the criteria, student and instructor will submit the incomplete grade form and the grade for that class will be listed as "I" until the last day of the following semester. If coursework is not submitted by the last day of the following semester the listing of "I" will automatically be changed to "F." For the full policy, see page 15 of the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#).