

SPFM 5211 Intercultural Spirituality: Praying Together
North Park Theological Seminary
Spring 2024
1 credit hour, P/F

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prayer is part of every religious tradition. The Lord's Prayer, as a common and biblical Christian prayer, offers a unique framework for encountering biblical and spiritual elements of culture. This course will examine points where culture, Christian theology, and community intersect. Through lecture, readings, dialogue, experiential learning, and practice of various classic spiritual disciplines, students will examine their own and Other's spiritual formation.

This course will meet in person January 11th & 12th, 6:00pm – 9:00pm; January 13th, 9:00am – 5:00pm; Zoom Class: Saturday, January 20th, 10:30am-12:30pm (CST) & Saturday, February 3rd, 10:30am-12:30pm (CST)

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Articulate the biblical, historical, and cultural significance of the Lord's Prayer in its original setting.
- Define culture from theoretical and personal perspectives.
- Examine the role of prayer in the student's own spiritual formation process.
- Integrate contemplative spiritual practices and the arts.
- Analyze how the Lord's Prayer can *enable and constrain intercultural spirituality*.

READINGS

Have both books read prior to class.

The readings chosen represent authors from a variety of cultural and religious contexts and backgrounds.

- Gonzalez, Justo L., *Teach Us to Pray*
- Wright, N.T., *The Lord and His Pray*
- Other short readings as assigned and supplied.
- Each student should have a personal journal.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

1. Full participation in course activities and small group
2. Complete readings and assignments
3. Small Group Presentations via Zoom, Saturday, February 3, 2024

Presentation Guidelines

Each group will make a brief presentation of their work to the class on January 13, 2023.

- Should be 10-15 minutes in length.
 - Use the assigned verses of The Lord's Prayer.
 - Each student will be assigned to a small group which will meet throughout the course to explore the readings, activities, contemplative practices, and aspects of journal entries. Should be creative and interactive where each student of the group participates in the presentation.
4. **Due February 23rd, 6:00pm** - Five (5) page paper that answer the following questions:
- How did your experience of God and prayer grow during this course.
 - What cultural nuances of either self, others, or scripture was discovered because of this course?
 - Describe a new way (or ways) of praying and thinking about others that you encountered because of this class.
 - How do you intend to incorporate this practice into your life and your community.
 - What is your takeaway this course.
 - Book quotes and Scripture references must be cited properly.

GRADING

Successful completion of all above assignments and faithful attendance will result in a grade of PASS. In Spiritual Formation courses where grading is Pass/Fail, you are expected to be present and prompt for all class sessions. Absences are strongly discouraged. **Students must be present for all three class days and two Zoom course days.**

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.
5. Use of ChatGPT or other AI composition software to impersonate individual assignments.

For additional information, see the [Seminary Academic Catalog](#), pp. 25–26.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Your experience in this class is important to me. North Park is committed to creating inclusive and accessible learning environments consistent with federal and state law. If you have already

established your accommodations, please share your accommodation letter with me so we can discuss how your accommodations will be implemented in this course. If you have not yet established services and have a temporary health condition or permanent disability that requires accommodations, please email the Disability Access Specialist or contact by phone (773-244-5737). Student Engagement facilitates the interactive process that establishes reasonable accommodations.

TITLE IX

Students who believe they may have experienced sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, or stalking should contact the Title IX Coordinator (773) 244-5664 or TitleIX@northpark.edu to learn more about reporting options, resources, and support 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 members are private resources meaning we are legally obligated to share information about the behavior reported above with the University's Title IX coordinator. If you are unsure whether you want your concerns disclosed to the Title IX Coordinator, we encourage you to contact Counseling Support Services at (773) 244-4897 or counseling@northpark.edu.

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 they 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](#).

Confidentiality Agreement: NPTS must have a signed copy of the confidentiality agreement for every registered student in our spiritual formation courses. If you have not read and signed the document in another course, see the instructor. If you have signed the document, please be reminded of its standards of confidentiality.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, January 11th, 2024, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Welcome to Intercultural Spirituality: Praying together.

Introductions

Review syllabus.

Activity (I am...):

What is your primary cultural identity and how does this culture influence your spiritual life, including your prayer life? Can prayer and worship be cross cultural? Describe and analyze some personal experiences that illustrate your answers.

Large group lecture/discussion:

What does it mean to be human?

What is culture?

Who are you? Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit?

What is prayer?

What is the Lord's Prayer?

Small Groups:

- Recount an early memory of prayer.
- Is it difficult for you to pray? Why or why not?

Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 1&2), The Lord and His Prayer, (Chapter 1&2)

Large Group:

Our Father, who is in heaven.

- Biblical Understanding of Our Father and Heaven
- Cultural notions of Father and heaven

Personal reflection using your journal:

How do you experience your relationship with this heavenly Father? What Names do you ascribe to Him? What scripture best describes His parental role in your life right now?

Small Groups:

- Respond to reflection Question #3 in Chapter 2 on page 167 of TUTP.

Homework Assignment:

1. Review *Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 3, 4, 5),*
2. (Using your journal, respond to the following questions.)
 - a. Respond to question #4 of chapter 2 on page 166. If this question is difficult for you to respond to, feel free to reflect to any other questions for chapter 2.
 - b. How has your experience with your earthly father contributed to your experience with your earthly Father?

Friday, January 12, 2024, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 4)

Hallowed be thou Name,

Lecture on Baptism, Holiness and Sanctification

Individual Reflection:

- Identify OT and NT scriptures that substantiate and/or allude to the holiness of God. How has the scriptures influenced your spiritual sanctification and transformation?

Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 5&6), The Lord and His Prayer, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done (Chapter 2)

Large Group:

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Small Groups Activity:

- (1) Lectio Visio and meditation (Rev 7:9)
What is the kingdom of God? What does it look like?
What is the kingdom of God on earth?
- (2) The Kingdom of God: Multiple view
- (3) What is the will of God?
- (4) What is faith-based activism? How much does it cost?
- (5) What is intercessory prayer
- (6) MLK: Beloved community, I Have a Dream

Personal Reflection

(Using your journal, respond to the following questions.)

Respond to question #5, page 169 TUTP

Saturday, January 13th, 2024, 9:00am – 5:00pm

Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 7)

Give us this day our daily bread;

Matthew 4:1-4, Matthew 7: 25-24

- Food for thought
- Food for the soul
- Food for the body

Personal Reflection:

- Write a prayer of your “bread” need.

Small Groups:

- Reflection on #4 question of Chapter 7 on page 171
- Culture Check

Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 8), The Lord and His Prayer, (Chapter 4)

*Forgive us our sins/debts/trespasses: As we forgive those who trespass against us;
Matthew 18:15-17, 21-22;*

Large group lecture/discussion:

- What is grace?
- What is sin?
- What is forgiveness/unforgiveness?
- What is reconciliation?
- Forgiving self and others?
- Individual and corporate forgiveness.
- Repentance, Restitution, and reparations.

Individual Reflections/Spiritual Practices

- Spiritual Practice of Forgiveness
Forgiving self
- Spiritual Practice of Forgiveness
What would repentance, reconciliation, or reparations look like?

Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 9&10), The Lord and His Prayer, (Chapter 5)

Small Group Reflections:

- Question #1 in chapter 8 of TUTP (pg. 171)

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from (the) evil (one).

Matthew 26:41, Readings: Matthew 4:1-17

What is temptation?

What is evil?

What is repentance?

Lectio Divina: Read Psalms 1

Small Group:

- Reflect on #1 of Chapter 9 on page 172

Zoom Class: Saturday, January 20th, 2024, 10:30am – 12:30pm (Central Standard Time)

***Teach us to Pray, Gonzalez, (Chapter 11 & 12), The Lord and His Prayer, (Chapter 6)
The Kingdom & Glory. Amen!***

Small Group:

- Reflect on #3 of Chapter 11 & 12, on page 174

Activity:

- Where is the Justice?
- Culture Check

Zoom Class: Saturday, February 3rd, 2024, 10:30am – 12:30pm (Central Standard Time)

Group Presentations

Prayer Exchange

Takeaways

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹Give us this day our daily bread.

¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

King James Version

Our Father in heaven,

let Your name remain holy.

¹⁰ Bring about Your kingdom.

Manifest Your will here on earth,
as it is manifest in heaven.

¹¹ Give us each day that day's bread—*no more, no less*—

¹² And forgive us our debts
as we forgive those who owe us something.

¹³ Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

[But let Your kingdom be,
and let it be powerful
and glorious forever. Amen.]^[a]

The Voice Interpretation

Our Father in heaven,

Reveal who you are.

Set the world right;

Do what's best—

as above, so below.

Keep us alive with three square meals.

Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others.
Keep us safe from ourselves and the Devil.
You're in charge!
You can do anything you want!
You're ablaze in beauty!
Yes. Yes. Yes

The Message Interpretation (MSG)

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.
¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
¹³ And lead us not into temptation,^[a]
but deliver us from the evil one.^[b]”

The New International Version (NIV)

‘Our Father in heaven, we honor your holy name. ¹⁰ We ask that your kingdom will come now. May your will be done here on earth, just as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us our food again today, as usual, ¹² and forgive us our sins, just as we have forgiven those who have sinned against us. ¹³ Don’t bring us into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.^[a] Amen.’

The Living Bible (TLB)

‘Our Father in heaven!
May your Name be kept holy.
¹⁰ May your Kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
¹¹ Give us the food we need today.
¹² Forgive us what we have done wrong,
as we too have forgiven those who have wronged us.
¹³ And do not lead us into hard testing,
but keep us safe from the Evil One.
^[a]For kingship, power and glory are yours forever.
Amen.’

Complete Jewish Bible (CJB)

Our Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
¹⁰ May your Kingdom come soon.
May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
¹¹ Give us today the food we need,^[a]
¹² and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.
¹³ And don't let us yield to temptation,^[b]
but rescue us from the evil one.^[c]

The New Living Translation (NLT)