

## **SFS 501N LEARNING TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS (In-Ministry)**

Summer 2010

Western Seminary -- Portland Campus

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*SPECIAL NOTE:* In preparation for your intensive residency, please have completed your reading of Gerald Sittser's *Water from a Deep Well*.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The theological and practical dynamics of evangelical spirituality will be examined to provide a solid foundation for rich fellowship with the Triune God and for living out the Great Commandment. The nature of spiritual maturity will be examined (including a biblically-balanced model of priorities) and practical experiences for nurturing that maturity will be provided. 2 hours.

### **COURSE GOALS**

Recognizing the importance of godliness for both life and ministry, this course is designed to introduce you to the dynamics of spiritual growth and to encourage your thoughtful cooperation with God's transforming grace. Upon completion of this course, therefore, you should be able to:

- A. articulate (and live out to a greater extent) a biblical model of maturity which reflects appropriate love to God, others, and self;
- B. practice a devotional plan designed to facilitate your ongoing spiritual maturation;
- C. cooperate more effectively with God's Spirit in the process of forming new habits;
- D. practice healthy interpersonal relationships, including the ability to listen and speak with respect for the feelings and opinions of others;
- E. appreciate the resource of fellowship by participating in a small group designed to promote the spiritual maturing of each of its members.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING**

Note: All assignments for this class can be submitted via e-mail.

#### **READINGS (28 hours)**

The following books are to be read in their entirety:

Gerald Sittser, *Water from a Deep Well*

William Farley, *Outrageous Mercy*

Gary Thomas, *Pure Pleasure*

Timothy George and John Woodbridge, *The Mark of Jesus*

At 45 pages an hour, this reading should take approximately 28 hours. Completion of these readings is to be reported on the form provided by Sept. 3. See the note above concerning the pre-residential reading of the Sittser text.

#### SMALL GROUP (14 hours)

Identify at least 1-3 other people with whom you will meet weekly for a minimum of one hour to promote mutual spiritual growth. Normally the other member(s) of the group will be fellow students of the same gender, but exceptions to this are possible. A roster of each group (along with time and place of meeting) should be submitted to me in writing by June 18. Groups should begin meeting the week of June 21 and continue through the week of Sept. 3.

Track your attendance for both small group meetings and regular class sessions on the accompanying form.

Each handout will contain suggested discussion and application questions to help provide some guidance for these meetings; however, discussing these questions is **not** required. Time should also be set aside for prayer and the sharing of other concerns or personal goals related to spiritual development. More information on this will be provided at the first class session.

You will twice submit to me brief evaluations of the effectiveness of these meetings; forms will be provided. Due dates: July 30 and Sept. 3.

#### DEVOTIONS (time varies)

You are expected to maintain a devotional life in which regular and significant time is set aside for Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. A copy of your devotional plans for this term (i.e., what strategy or methods you will seek to use for your devotions) should be submitted to me by June 18. If you're looking for some fresh ideas for your devotions, you may want to read first Timothy Jones' *21 Days to a Better Quiet Time* (this text is recommended, but not required, for purchase).

#### "LOVE IN ACTION" PROJECT (8 + 2 = 10 hours)

Spend at least eight hours during the term demonstrating Christ's love for others by "good deeds" as a volunteer. This can take a wide variety of forms, and can either be done individually or with a group. After these hours are completed, write a two-page (double-spaced) reflection paper briefly describing what you did, what feelings/attitudes you experienced both during and following these deeds, and what reaction (if any) was generated in the recipient(s). Paper due date: Aug. 27

#### "FORMING NEW HABITS" PAPERS (3 hours)

PART 1: Write a one-page paper applying a biblical model of re-habitation to a particular habit that you are seeking to build or break to promote greater godliness in your life. Due: June 25

PART 2: In addition to periodically reporting your progress to your small group, at the end of the term submit to the instructor a one-half page evaluation of your progress. Due: Sept. 3

## READING REVIEW PAPER (5 hours)

In a two-page (single-spaced) paper, review each of the required texts; the review of each book should thus run approximately a half-page. Don't merely repeat the book's content; instead focus on your overall impressions of each book, where you agreed/disagreed with each author's approach, the most important lessons learned, etc. Due: Sept. 3

## INTEGRATIVE PAPER (10 hours)

Based upon class discussion, readings and whatever other resources you wish to consult, write a three-page paper (double-spaced) that addresses the following issues: (1) What does spiritual maturity look like, and how is it best nurtured in believers?; (2) In light of your understanding of spiritual maturity, identify 2-3 areas of your life that would be most important for you to grow spiritually and establish a specific growth goal for each of these areas. Due: Sept. 3

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Course grades will be awarded on a points system

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible</i>
Class attendance	20
Small group attendance	11
Small group evaluations	6
Reading	28
Habits papers	6 (3 + 3)
Reading Review Paper	10
“Love in Action”	9 (6 + 3)
Integrative Paper	10

Basic Point Allocation:

A+=100-99, A=98-95, A-=94-93; B+=92-91, B=90-88, B-=87-86; C+=85-84, C=83-81, C-=80-79; D+=78-77, D=76-74, D-=73-70; F=69-0

All assignments are due by midnight Pacific time on the date indicated. Due date extensions will be granted only on the basis of extenuating circumstances, and must be requested in advance of the pertinent due date. Unexcused late (or poor quality) work will result in an appropriate reduction in points earned for that assignment.

Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of

students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ken Epp, at 503-517-1815/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1815. His office is at the Portland campus. Students at the Northern California campuses may contact Carrie Priest (Student Services Coordinator – San José) or PJ Oswald (Director of Student Development – Sacramento), or they may contact Dr. Epp directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

## **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE**

- 5/30            begin pre-residency prep (read Sittser text)
- 6/14            COURSE INTRODUCTION  
CONSTRUCTING A MODEL OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY  
OPPOSITION TO SPIRITUALITY  
DYNAMICS OF FORMING NEW HABITS  
ADVERSITY AS A SPIRITUAL RESOURCE
- 6/15            STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR BODY  
TAMING YOUR TONGUE  
PRACTICING THE "ONE ANOTHERS"  
RELATING TO OTHERS: AS A WORKER  
RELATING TO OTHERS: AS A WITNESS  
RELATING TO OTHERS: AS A CITIZEN  
RELATING TO OTHERS: MAINTAINING SEXUAL PURITY  
HISTORICAL MODELS OF SPIRITUALITY
- 6/16            HISTORICAL MODELS OF SPIRITUALITY (cont.)  
PREPARING FOR ETERNITY
- 6/18            small group roster, devotional plans due
- 6/21            begin small group meetings this week
- 6/25            habits paper part 1 due
- 7/30            small group eval #1 due
- 8/27            "love in action" paper due
- 7/21            integrative paper, habits paper part 2, small group eval #2, reading review  
and reading/attendance reports due

SFS 501 ABSENCE & READING REPORT

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Box Number \_\_\_\_\_

I completed the following readings on time (give % for each):

\_\_\_\_% Sittser      \_\_\_\_% Thomas      \_\_\_\_% Farley      \_\_\_\_% George/Woodbridge

Please place an "x" for each class and small group session attended.

	CLASS	SMALL GROUP
6/14	_____	NA
6/15	_____	NA
6/16	_____	NA
6/20	NA	_____
6/27	NA	_____
7/4	NA	_____
7/11	NA	_____
7/18	NA	_____
7/25	NA	_____
8/1	NA	_____
8/8	NA	_____
8/15	NA	_____
8/22	NA	_____
8/29	NA	_____

Please detach (or xerox) and return this form to Dr. Roberts by Sept. 3. Thank you!