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SF 502 The Spiritual Life Of The Minister

Stephen L. Martyn

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Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part... (Luke 10.41-42).

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE MINISTER
3 Hours Credit
SF 502 XL Summer 2004
Stephen L. Martyn, Ph.D.  Steve_Martyn@asburyseminary.edu
Enrollment Limited to 25 Students

WELCOME

Welcome to SF 502 XL Summer 2004, “The Spiritual Life of the Minister.” I am looking forward to journeying together with you this summer as we look at some of the great challenges and huge opportunities of ministry in the early part of the twenty-first century. This course is based on the presupposition that the Lord is calling ministers of the gospel to be grounded in the historic Christian faith and competent in the everyday living of that faith. It is designed to give both foundational principles and application of those principles for a lifetime of faithful and fruitful ministry.

I very much want us to move through this online experience as a Christian community linked together through prayer, Christian conferencing, and small group sharing. Our semester holds the promise of providing an arena for transformation of heart and ministry as we seek to place God first in all areas of our lives.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This XL course proposes to help students delve into and apply Christian spirituality to their everyday lives and ministries. Over a span of three months, we will swim in seven major spiritual streams:

1. Holy Leisure (the conditions necessary for a God-centered life);
2. Ministry From The Overflow (service that does not deplete);
3. The Well Ordered Life (balance in all things);
4. The Big Rocks (first things first on a daily basis);
5. Turning From Pride (humility);
6. Speaking The Truth In Love (spiritual direction);
7. Leading From Within A Family (team).
All of these areas are essential to a joyful life in Christ and are necessary for vocational faithfulness. Through reading, reflection, interaction, and integration, we will seek to hear and obey the whisperings of the Holy Spirit who is ever wooing us into increasing Christ-likeness.

COMPETENCIES TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE STUDENT

Students taking this course should first come to a place of knowing that they not only have permission from the Lord, but, indeed, a command from the Lord to orient their entire lives in such a way as to have time and space on a daily basis to hear God speaking to their hearts. The primary competency here is the development of dispositions that facilitate devotional living.

A second category of competencies to be developed center around spiritual discernment. Students should be able to appraise why they feel driven to “busyness” and “hyper-performance.” More importantly, they should be able to appraise what a life of balance will mean for their individual situations. Discernment should then result in at least a beginning sense of vocational fidelity within the context of ministry. The competency here is a clear sense of vocational direction in the midst of numerous demands.

Thirdly, students should understand the necessity of a foundational posture of repentance and dependence. Humility is the greatest competency necessary to move toward maturity (holiness) in Christ.

Fourthly, students should make progress in developing the heart dispositions of praise and thanksgiving. These dispositions are critical for appreciative living (a foundational attitude of the heart that correctly apprehends and values the grace of God at work in one’s life-situation).

Finally, this course should help equip students to firmly step away from isolationist tendencies by moving them toward covenant community and team ministry with fellow pilgrims on the journey in Christ.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS


Harper, Steve. *Devotional Life in the Wesleyan Tradition (A Workbook).*

Mulholland, M. Robert Jr., *Invitation To A Journey: A Road Map For Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993


**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The course requirements for SF502 XL revolve around completion of the assignments embedded within each of the seven modules. These assignments include:

1. Watching the assigned videos and reading the assigned components within each of the seven modules.
2. Reading the six assigned textbooks.
3. Posting assigned responses to your Small Group in a timely fashion and interacting with your Small Group in a timely way.
4. Posting assigned responses to the Class Discussion Center in a timely manner.
5. Completing the One Month Time Chart (see example within).
6. Completing six 3 to 4 page integration papers that both highlight and apply major insights from each module to your personal life. These six papers are due at the end of the first six modules (see dates below).
7. Completing a final integration paper of 4 to 5 pages in which a Rule of Life is mapped out and in which the most significant insights from the course are applied to your life and ministry. This paper is due on the final day of the course.

**Writing An Integrative Reflection Paper**

An integrative reflection paper can be thought of in terms of a woven tapestry. The “warp” or lengthwise threads can be compared to your given
life-situation. What are your immediate circumstances saying to you? All of us are “situated” in the world, which means that it is in and through our particular life-situation that the Lord will speak to us. Remember, however, that this thread of our experience is but half of the tapestry. Caution should be exercised to keep the thread of experience in balance and never allowed to become the whole of a paper.

The “woof” or the crosswise threads can represent our interaction with God’s Word and with the course materials (including texts, readings, videos, and group interactions). The basic question to ask here is, “What truth is God seeking to speak forth into your life (especially in and through the course materials)?”

Mere reporting of class material or summary of assigned texts would completely miss the point of an integration paper. For God’s Word and for kingdom insights to truly be transformational they must be applied to our personal lives. When we take these insights and allow them to touch our actual lives then the Lord can use the material of this class to transform us.

In your integration papers I want you to interact with all of the assignments of the module and reflect on the major implications of the course material for you life.

All papers must be typed, double-spaced, 1” margin all around, using a 12-point font. Papers must adhere to MLA format according to Slade (available in the ATS bookstore).

ASSIGNMENT DUE DATES

Module 1 Integrative Paper: June 11
Module 2 Integrative Paper: June 25
Module 3 Integrative Paper: July 9
Module 4 Integrative Paper: July 23
Module 5 Integrative Paper: August 6
Module 6 Integrative Paper: August 20

One Month Time Chart: July 6.
Final Integration paper: August 27
Final Integration Project

In this reflection project please articulate the “Rule of Life” that you believe the Lord is calling you to incarnate in your everyday living. Your “Rule” should, in large sense, be the application of this course for your life. You can then support your “Rule” by highlighting the major implications of the course for your life and ministry.

A “Rule of Life” is simply a covenant agreement with the Lord in which you spell out the major components of your everyday walk. One way to approach this assignment is to ask this simple question, “In light of the impact of all of the course material, how is God calling me to walk as a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ on an everyday basis?”

A “Rule” does not have to be long. In fact, a long list of items is normally counterproductive and self-defeating. Let me encourage you to pick out only a few “big rocks” and concentrate on them. Spell them out, and then explicate how they can be implemented in your life.

This “Rule of Life” paper can be far more than a mere course wrap up project. It holds the potential of allowing God to strengthen the spiritual foundation of your life.

GRADES

Grades for SF502 XL will be determined as follows:

Six 2-page reflective integration papers........................................... 50 points
One Month Time Chart.....................................................................10 points
Small Group discussion & Discussion Center questions.................10 points
Reading texts, modules, and listening to videos.............................10 points
Final integration paper.................................................................20 points
100 total

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A 93 – 100; A- 90 – 92; B+ 87 – 89; B 83 – 86; B- 80 – 82;
C+ 77 – 79; C 73 –76; C- 70 –72; below 70 will be considered failing.
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RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY


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THE SEVEN MODULES

Module 1 **Holy Leisure**
Weeks 1 & 2
June 1-11

+ Begin charting your 1 Month Devotional Patterns
+ Read *Devotional Life In The Wesleyan Tradition: A Workbook*
+ Respond to all questions embedded within the assigned on-line texts
+ View Psalm 16 (47 minute video)
+ Read “Faith, Hope, Love and Formative Abandonment”
+ Read “The Holy Devise: From the Lips to the Mind to the Heart”
+ View Luke 10.38-42 Mary and Martha (39 minute video)
+ Read “Understanding Ego-Projects and the Need to be Needed”
+ Read “The Myth of Omni-Availability”
+ Read “Why are pastors experts on the truth and dropouts on the way?” Peterson, *The Contemplative Pastor*, p. 35
+ Read “First Things First: Unhurried Time With God On A Daily Basis”
+ View Psalm 70.1 (30 minute video)
+ By June 11 turn in to **The Office** your 3 page Integrative Reflection Paper for Module 1

Module 2 **Ministry From The Overflow**
Weeks 2 & 3
June 14-25

+ Continue charting your 1 Month Devotional Patterns
+ Read *Invitation To A Journey*
+ Respond to all questions embedded within the assigned on-line texts
+ View What’s Fueling The Engine? (40-minute video)
+ Read Allowing Ministry To Flow From Relationship
+ Read Your Call And The Vision That Follows
+ Read The Power House Of Methodism
+ Read We Should Have One Goal In Mind: Acts 13.36
+ View Psalm 136.1 (24 Minutes)
+ Read The Crisis: Every “Yes” Is Tested
+ Read Deformative Abandonment
+ Read Can I Trust The Mystery? (Psalm 100.5 and Psalm 23)
+ View Ministry From The Overflow (53 minutes)
+Read Form Reception And Form Donation
+Read The Reservoir And Streams Of Mercy
+Read The Transcendence Dynamic (Our Hunger For “The More Than”)
+By June 25 turn in to The Office your 3 page Integrative Reflection Paper for Module 2

Module 3 The Big Rocks
Weeks 4 & 5
June 28-July 9

+By July 6 hand in to The Office your 1 Month Devotional Patterns
+Read Conferences
+Respond to all questions embedded within the assigned on-line texts
+View The Well Ordered Life (28 minute video)
+Read Form Reception/Form Donation Exercise
+Read Five Primary Issues Of Balance
+View Form Donation And Vision (50 minute video)
+Read The Second Reformation: Putting The Ministry Back In The Hands Of The Laity
+View Balancing All Of The Demands (30 minute video)
+Read Daily, Weekly, Annual Sabbath
+By July 9 turn in to The Office your 3 page Integrative Reflection Paper for Module 3

Module 4 The Big Rocks
Weeks 6 & 7
July 12-23

+Read Divine Guidance
+Respond to all questions embedded within the assigned on-line texts
+View Psalm 42 When In The Far North (34 minutes)
+Read Some Of The Fires Of Ministry
+Read Courage
+View The Big Rocks (60 minutes)
+Read If It’s A Truly “Big Rock” Then You Give It Attention On A Daily Basis
+Read With Balance You Are Able To Meet The Heavy Demands Of Ministry
+Read Erosion And Depletion
+By July 23 turn in to The Office your 3 page Integrative Reflection Paper
for Module 4

Module 5 Turning From Pride
Weeks 9 & 10
July 26-August 6

+Read Rebuilding Your Broken World
+Respond to all questions embedded within the assigned on-line texts
+View Turning From Pride (65 minutes)
+Read Those Terrible “Short-Circuits”
+Read The Apparent Form
+Read Protos!
+View Psalm 51 (19 minutes)
+View Repentance #2 (49 minutes)
+Read Penthos
+Read The Wilderness State (Sins Of Commission And Omission)
+Read Peterson: Ministry As A Short Cut To Hell!
+By August 6 turn in to The Office your 3 page Integrative Reflection Paper for Module 5

Module 6 Speaking The Truth In Love
Weeks 11 & 12
August 9-20

+Read The Contemplative Pastor
+Respond to all questions embedded within the assigned on-line texts
+View Colossians 1.9-16 Difficult Situations/People (44 minutes)
+Read Maintaining A Buoyant Spirit
+Read Performance Based Feedback
+View When You Have To Confront Others (57 minutes)
+Read Banks On The River
+Read Movements Of The Heart
+Read The False Equations We Live By
+By August 20 turn in to The Office your 3 page Integrative Reflection Paper for Module 6
Module 7 Leading From Within A Family
Week 13
August 23-27

+View It Takes A Family (78 minutes)
+Read How To Give The Ministry Away: A Discussion Of Lay Pastors
+Read Your Paul, Barnabas, and Timothy
+Read Your Worship, Fellowship, And Accountability Families
+By August 27 turn in your final project, The Rule Of Living, to The Office

ACCESSING ON-LINE SUPPORT

For general questions regarding the ExL program, contact Kevin Osborn at: ExL_Director@asburyseminary.edu
Or Extended_Learning@asburyseminary.edu

For technical support, contact Jared Porter at: ExL_Support@asburyseminary.edu

For library research support, contact Information Commons at: Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu

For interlibrary loans, contact Dot James at: Dot_James@asburyseminary.edu

Library/Information Commons Resources
Link: http://www.asburyseminary.edu/library
Email: Information_Commons@asburyseminary.edu
Toll-Free: 1-866-454-2733

ExL students are encouraged to make use of local libraries, if possible. However, library services are always available to students through the Asbury Seminary Library. All requests for books and journal articles should be made online by going to the following link: http://asbury.hosts.atlas-sys.com/illiad/logon.html.
Advanced research assistance is available by contacting Hannah Kirsch at: Hannah_Kirsch@asburyseminary.edu which includes using various online databases, or doing research on a specific topic.

To request material from the Asbury Seminary Library, please follow the instructions on the library loan page: http://asbury.hosts.atlas-sys.com/illiad/logon.html. Students who live within a 50-mile radius of either the Florida or the Wilmore campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

Please allow 5-10 business days for all requests to be filled. ExL students are billed for the cost of photocopies (5 cents per page) if the materials are not available in electronic format; however, shipping via media rate is free. (Media rate normally takes 5 business days for shipping, but it can take two weeks to addresses in the West). Express mail services (prices vary according to weight) and scanning (5 cents per page in pdf format) are also available. Requests generally require 1-2 business days to be processed. Plan ahead and make your requests early enough to allow for shipping and processing!