

SPIRITUAL FORMATION 5203: REFLECTIONS ON INTEGRITY SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The mission of the Spiritual Formation Program at DTS is *helping servant-leaders pursue Christlikeness*. This course challenges students to examine the personal and corporate implications of sin and grace in their lives. The *Life Change Exercises* are the primary resource used in cultivating integrity in the lives of group members.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Cognitive

By the end of this course, the students will:

1. Examine their particular struggles with sin in light of their life story and future ministry,
2. Discern the underlying dynamics of their sin struggles,
3. Notice the effect of sin on relationships and community,
4. Understand the means of grace available to us through God's indwelling Spirit, spiritual practices, and the body of believers.

B. Affective

By the end of this course, the students will:

1. Value the practice of periodic Spirit-led self-examination (Psalm 139:23-24),
2. Appreciate the practice of confessing our sins one to another (James 5:16),
3. Appreciate authenticity, trust, grace, and accountability in spiritual friendships,
4. Increasingly desire the Spirit's scrutiny and transformation of their life.

C. Behavioral

By the end of this course, the students will:

1. Honestly consider and discuss the personal and corporate implications of sin and grace in their life,
2. Write an authentic and thoughtful reflection on both their *Letter From Your Tempter* and *Response To Your Tempter*,
3. Empathetically listen, and offer grace and support to others as they share their struggles,
4. Avail themselves of the means of grace available through God's Spirit, spiritual practices, and the body of believers.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

The selection of textbooks does not necessarily imply the professor's endorsement of the views of the authors. Textbooks are selected for their perceived value in helping meet the course goals and objectives. As graduate students you are expected to read and interact with texts critically and learn from both those with whom you agree and those with whom you do not.

A. Required

Pettit, Paul, ed. *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2008. (This book will be used in all SF5100 courses, SF5201, SF5202, and SF5204.)

Plantinga Jr., Cornelius. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Spiritual Formation: Identity, Community, Integrity, and Fidelity. This workbook is used for all four SF modules and was distributed to students in SF5100-1.

B. Suggested

Chapter 3 of Greenman, Jeffrey P. and George Kalantzis, eds. *Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in Theological Perspective*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Kenneson, Philip D. *Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit in Christian Community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Lewis, C.S. *The Screwtape Letters*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001.

Lundgaard, Kris. *The Enemy Within: Straight Talk About the Power and Defeat of Sin*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 1998.

Mangis, Michael. *Signature Sins: Taming Our Wayward Hearts*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2008.

Wells, David F. *Losing Our Virtue: Why the Church Must Recover Its Moral Vision*. Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1998.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading assignments (30%)

In addition to the course requirements for SF5100-3 (or SF5110-2), students are expected to read Cornelius Plantinga's *Not The Way It's Supposed to Be* in order to complete their Reading Response Paper assignment. Students will submit a **Reading Report** via DTS Online indicating the percentage of reading completed on time by the end of this course.

B. Written assignments (50%)

In addition to the course requirements for SF5100-3 (or SF5110-2), the following written assignments are to be completed.

1. **Letter From Your Tempter and Response Reflection (20%)**—According to the guidelines in the course curriculum, students are expected to write (1) a personal *Letter From Your Tempter* and (2) a well-considered biblical *Response to Your Tempter* to the specific issues and charges brought up in the *Letter From Your Tempter*. They will present both to their Spiritual Formation group/mentor. Students will write a **1 page** reflection paper on the experience of writing and sharing both letters and will submit this reflection via DTS Online as per the Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule (below). (Students do not need to submit their actual *Letter From Your Tempter* or *Response to Your Tempter* papers.)
2. **Reading Response Paper (15%)**—Students are expected to write a **4-5 page paper** in response to their reading of Plantinga’s *Not The Way It’s Supposed to Be*. The paper should include these sections: (1) a summary of the argument of the book (1 page), (2) a critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the book (1 page), (3) several important quotes that were meaningful and/or helpful to the student, (4) a discussion of the personal implications of the book for the student’s own life and ministry (1 page), and (5) a prayer, hymn of praise, poem, or artwork reflecting what the student has learned about God and themselves (1 page). Students will submit their paper via DTS Online as per the Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule (below).
3. **Biblical Theology Paper (15%)**—Students are expected to write a **4-5 page** biblical theology on the nature of post-fall, regenerated man demonstrating a synthetic understanding from multiple biblical sources. Students will submit their paper via DTS Online as per the Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule (below).

C. Attendance and Participation (20%)

1. **SF Staff/Faculty Meeting**—Students are encouraged to talk with an SF staff representative at the beginning of the course in order to provide an orientation to the course. (If a student feels comfortable with the requirements of the course this meeting can be optional.)
2. **Video Conference Meeting and Discussion Board**—Students are expected to contribute to the learning of one another through one video conference session and one discussion board on DTS Online. See the Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule (below).

If applicable, attendance at all scheduled Spiritual Formation events, including large group class sessions and group agreed-upon retreats and outings is expected. All Spiritual Formation groups will determine a group agreed-upon method of communicating absences with their leader. Please see Class Participation and Absences under Course Policies for additional information (below).

V. COURSE POLICIES

A. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+	99-100	B+	91-93	C+	83-85	D+	75-77	F	0-69
A	96-98	B	88-90	C	80-82	D	72-74		
A-	94-95	B-	86-87	C-	78-79	D-	70-71		

A+, A = Work of *distinctive* quality

A-, B+, B = Work of *superior* quality

B-, C+, C = Work of *acceptable* quality

C-, D = Work of *inadequate but passing* quality

F = Failure to do minimal work required for a passing grade

B. Late assignments

Students will attempt to complete course requirements according to the course schedule. Please contact the professor if you need an extension.

C. DTS Online Education: <http://online.dts.edu/>

Dallas Theological Seminary's Online Education website provides course content through videos, slides and transcripts. It is a custom learning environment where students and faculty engage in theological content, biblical assignments and limited interaction. To login to the DTS Online Education website go to: online.dts.edu. Courses are structured in units (usually 1 to 2 weeks in length) with activities that include readings, reflections and submissions.

D. Cheating and Plagiarism

All work submitted for this course should be your own. In accordance with the Student Handbook, cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an automatic zero on the assignment in question. Cheating involves presenting another person's work as though it were your own. Plagiarism is using words, ideas or information from a source without giving appropriate credit to that source (in the text, a parenthetical note or footnote). This does not refer only to specific words but also to ideas. Even when paraphrasing someone else's thoughts you must cite your source. When in doubt, use a footnote.

E. Language and Style

All written assignments should strive for gender-inclusive language. As a gospel-shaped, gospel-centered learning community, we have compelling reasons to think, write and speak in a way that is inclusive. Consider using “humans,” “persons,” “humanity,” or “humankind,” instead of “man” or “men” when referring to human beings in general. Consider alternating between the use of “he” and “she” as generic pronouns or substituting the use of the plural (“they,” “them,” or “their”) when appropriate.

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS Non-discrimination Policy – DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Date	SF Session Topic	Assignments Due
February 2022	Fear of the Lord	Submit <i>Reading Response Paper on Plantinga’s Not The Way It’s Supposed to Be</i> via DTS Online.
February 2022	The Fruit of the Spirit	Participate in Discussion Board via DTS Online.
March/April 2022	A Biblical Response	Submit Reflection Paper on both <i>Letter from Your Tempter</i> and <i>Response to Your Tempter</i> via DTS Online. Submit <i>Biblical Theology Paper</i> via DTS Online. Participate in Video Conference Meeting via Zoom. Submit <i>Reading Report</i> via DTS Online. Submit <i>Attendance & Participation Report</i> via DTS Online.

Revised 1/3/2022