

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION 5202: REFLECTIONS ON COMMUNITY SYLLABUS**

**Please Note:** All SF courses will follow DTS' "Fall 2020 Semester Education Plan" (see [www.dts.edu](http://www.dts.edu) for more information). All plans for Fall 2020 are subject to change as the COVID-19 situation develops and in holding with all federal, state, and DTS guidelines at the time.

### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The mission of the Spiritual Formation Program at DTS is *helping servant-leaders pursue Christlikeness*. This course challenges students to pursue new depths of trust out of a common commitment to discovering God's authorship in their lives. *Life Story* is the primary resource used in guiding each Spiritual Formation group toward the development of authentic community.

### **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

#### **A. Cognitive**

By the end of this course, the students will:

1. Reflect on the various experiences and relationships in their life,
2. Notice God's presence and activity in their life,
3. Discern particularly formative experiences and relationships in their life story,
4. Identify themes in their life story.

#### **B. Affective**

By the end of this course, the students will:

1. Celebrate the unique and faithful way in which God has worked in their life,
2. Value the process of discerning God's unique formative work in our lives,
3. Appreciate the importance of presence, trust and authenticity in relationships,
4. Desire to increasingly respond to God's formative work in their life.

#### **C. Behavioral**

By the end of this course, the students will:

1. Honestly engage with and discuss the various *Life Story* topics,
2. Write a thoughtful and creative presentation of their *Life Story*,
3. Authentically share their *Life Story* with their Spiritual Formation group,
4. Empathetically listen to other members share their *Life Story*,
5. Continue to support and encourage others in their SF group.

### 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

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together*. New York: HarperCollins, 1954.

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, SF5202, SF5203, and SF5204.)

*Spiritual Formation: Identity, Community, Integrity, and Fidelity*. This workbook is used for all four SF modules and will be distributed to students.

#### B. Suggested

Chapter 2 of Greenman, Jeffrey P. and George Kalantzis, eds. *Life in the Spirit: Spiritual Formation in Theological Perspective*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2010.

Allender, Dan B. *To Be Told: God Invites You to Coauthor Your Future*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2005.

Bridges, Jerry. *True Community: The Biblical Practice of Koinonia*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2012.

Jordan, Merle R. *Reclaiming Your Story: Family History and Spiritual Growth*. 1st ed. Louisville, KY.: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999.

Mulholland, M. Robert. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

Wilhoit, James C. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ Through Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

### IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### A. Reading assignments (30%)

In addition to the course requirements for SF5100-2, students are required to read the following:

1. Paul Pettit's book, *Foundations of Spiritual Formation*:
  - Chapter 3: Old Testament and Community
  - Chapter 4: New Testament and Community
  - Chapter 10: Life Story and Spiritual Formation

2. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together* in order to complete their Reading Response Paper assignment.
3. One of Paul's letters (Romans thru Philemon) in order to complete their Christlikeness Paper assignment.

The student 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 SF5100-2, the following written assignments are to be completed:

1. **Reading Response Paper (25%)**—Students are expected to write a **4-5 page** paper in response to their reading of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's *Life Together*. The paper should include these sections: (1) a summary of the argument of the book, (2) a critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the book, (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 biblical community. Students will submit their paper via DTS Online as per the Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule (below).
2. **Christlikeness in Paul's Letter of \_\_\_\_\_ Paper (25%)**—Students are expected to read *one* of Paul's letters and write a **3-4 page paper** answering the question: What is Christlikeness? In other words, what does Paul reveal about how Jesus lived, served, and loved? How did he relate to God and others? The paper should include these sections: (1) a summary of Christlikeness from the letter (1 page), (2) a definition of Christlikeness based on the letter, (3) key passages from the letter that helped the student in their study, (4) a discussion of the personal implications 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 Jesus Christ and themselves. Students will submit their paper via DTS Online as per the Course Lectures and Assignment Schedule (below).

#### **C. Attendance and Participation (25%)**

1. **SF Staff/Faculty Meeting**—Students are expected to talk with an SF staff representative at the beginning of the course in order to provide an orientation to the course.
2. Attendance at all scheduled 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).

**Please Note:** Due to the nature of building community, please miss no more than two classes per semester. More than two absences in any particular semester will result in failure to receive credit on your transcript for that course and failure to progress with your SF group.

## 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 complete course requirements according to the course schedule. In cases of extreme personal emergency the student should contact Dr. Jones as soon as possible to make arrangement for completing the requirements in a timely manner.

### C. DTS Online Education (Canvas): <http://online.dts.edu/>

Students will use DTS Online to turn in periodic assignments for this course. To login to DTS Online go to: [online.dts.edu](http://online.dts.edu/).

### 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 parenthetic 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 be carefully proof-read and consistently follow Turabian style where appropriate.

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**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Group Session Topic</b>	<b>Assignments Due</b>
11/30/20—12/4/20	Group Session 6: Life Story Presentations	Submit <i>Reading Response Paper</i> on Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s <i>Life Together</i> via DTS Online.
12/7/20—12/11/20	Group Session 11: Knowing & Being Known	Submit <i>Christlikeness in Paul’s Letter of _____ Paper</i> via DTS Online.
12/7/20—12/11/20	Summary & Celebration	Submit <i>Reading Report</i> via DTS Online.  Submit <i>Attendance &amp; Participation Report</i> via DTS Online.

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