



HARDING SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

BMIN 5802, THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS OF MINISTRY II, Spring 2024
Thursdays, 1:00-2:00pm, HST Live Only
Dr. Steve Cloer

Course description

This course helps students explore and clarify their call and desire to serve in ministry as a part of God's church. Key theological topics are discussed such as the gospel, the church, God's work in the world. Students engage in developing spiritual disciplines and participating with the Holy Spirit as he conforms us to Christlikeness. Reflection is done on spiritual gifts, passions, and burdens that might be strengths for ministry in the church. Students conclude this year by writing a philosophy of ministry. BMIN 5801, BMIN 5802, and BMIN 5803 are offered in three consecutive semesters during the first year of the program.

The course contributes to the following degree outcomes:

- Demonstrate a commitment to personal spiritual formation (MACM and M.Div.)
- Demonstrate the skills associated with leadership in their ministry specialization. (MACM)
- Demonstrate the skills associated with providing ministerial leadership for churches and communities. (M.Div.)

Additional course objectives

- Cultivate a solid theological foundation for the practice of ministry upon prayer, Scripture, and spiritual direction.
- Develop simple personal and communal rhythms of spiritual disciplines for personal transformation and spiritual awareness.
- Reflect on the spirituality within the totality of one's life by developing a rule of life.

Required Textbooks

Eugene Peterson. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1987.

Adele Ahlberg Calhoun. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us*. Rev. ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2015.

Recommended:

Mark Scandrette. *Practicing the Way of Jesus: Life Together in the Kingdom of Love*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Textbooks can now be ordered through a link on the [HST website](#). The Textbooks tab can be viewed on the navigation bar on any page of the website. Check the book list provided under the Textbooks tab (<http://hst.edu/students/textbook-services/>) for correct ISBN's and editions to

insure correct ordering. A link provided there will take you to Amazon where you will only need to enter the ISBN to order your books.

Additional required readings

Peter Scazzero, *Emotional Healthy Spirituality*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2006, pp. 195-210.

Additional readings, course notes, a place to submit assignments, and grades are available on Canvas. To access the Canvas course page, go to <http://elearning.harding.edu>.

Accessibility

HST professors are accessible to local and distance students. Please use the following to arrange appointments with me (in person or by phone):

Email: secloer@harding.edu

Office Phone Number: 901-432-7724

Office: Ijams Administration Building 209

Requirements and grading

1. Reading of assigned texts and class participation (10%)
2. Journal/Spiritual Formation Exercises (20%)
3. Prayer Psalm Assignment (20%)
4. Rule of Life Assignment (30%)
6. Final Exam (20%)

Grading scale: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-75 (C), 74-70 (D), 69 and below (F)

Students should complete all readings before the session for which they are assigned and should be prepared to contribute to the discussion of the readings in class.

If a student is absent from a class session (or unable to be fully present), the student must communicate with the professor ahead of time. The student must watch the recording of the class session and write a 500 word summary of the class lecture and discussion. This is due no later than one week after the absence. Failure to do so will result in a deduction of the class participation grade.

Students who are absent more than two class sessions (without approval by the dean) will be penalized ten points off the final grade.

Late assignments will immediately be deducted one letter grade. Each day after that in which the Prayer Psalm Assignment and Rule of Life Assignment is late, the grade will be deducted three more points per day.

Late journal entries receive an 80% grade, if received within one week. After one week late, these entries receive a 50% grade.

Academic integrity

Academic dishonesty in all its forms is inconsistent with Christian faith and practice, and will result in penalties which could include a failing grade for the assignment, a failing grade for the course, dismissal from the course, and even dismissal from the school.

Credit hour workload

For every course credit hour, the typical student should expect to spend at least three clock hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work, including but not limited to time attending class, as well as out-of-class time spent reading, reviewing, organizing notes, preparing for upcoming quizzes/exams, problem solving, developing and completing projects, and other activities that enhance learning. Thus, for a three-hour course, a typical student should expect to spend at least nine hours per week dedicated to the course.

Students with disabilities

It is the policy of Harding University to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal and state law. Any student with a disability who needs accommodation should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Students with disabilities are also encouraged to contact Steve McLeod, the Associate Dean, at 901-761-1353.

Library resources

If you have not taken 5990 (Advanced Theological Research) or took it more than a year ago, go to the HST Web site (www.hst.edu) for information concerning library services to students. Under the “library” tab you will find a link to and instructions for searching the HST online catalog. There are also instructions for using the following databases available through the library: OCLC FirstSearch, EBSCOhost, Infotrac, and Religious and Theological Abstracts. Contact the library for passwords to these databases. Also available are the research guides distributed in 5990. These annotated bibliographies list basic tools you will find helpful in your research.

Course schedule

January 11

- (1) Review Syllabus
- (2) Peterson 1-18

January 18

- (1) Gen. 18:22-33
- (2) Rule of Life
- (3) Calhoun 37-41
- (4) First Rule of Life Due**

January 25

- (1) Num. 14:13-23
- (2) Prayer
- (3) Peterson 19-42
- (4) Calhoun 231-244

February 1

- (1) 1 Sam. 2:1-10
- (2) Prayer
- (3) Peterson 43-62
- (4) Calhoun 245-257

February 8

- (1) 2 Sam. 7:18-29
- (2) Prayer
- (3) Peterson 63-83
- (4) Calhoun 258-271

February 15

- (1) 1 Kings 3:5-15
- (2) Prayer
- (3) Calhoun 272-290

February 22 **Prayer Psalm Due**

Feb. 29 **STUDY BREAK**

March 7 **SPRING BREAK**

March 14

- (1) Jonah 2:2-9
- (2) Scripture Reading
- (3) Peterson 84-105
- (4) Calhoun 183-186

March 21

- (1) Jer. 32:16-25
- (2) Scripture Reading
- (3) Peterson 106-126
- (4) Calhoun 187-190

March 28

- (1) 2 Kings 19:15-19
- (2) Scripture Reading
- (3) Peterson 127-145
- (4) Calhoun 191-196

April 4

- (1) Ezra 9:6-15
- (2) Rule of Life
- (3) Scazzero chapter

April 9 (notice date change because of HST Reunion/D.Min. Weekend)

- (1) Neh. 1:4-11
- (2) Spiritual Direction
- (3) Peterson 146-163
- (4) Calhoun 99-113

April 18

- (1) Dan. 9:3-19
- (2) Spiritual Direction
- (3) Peterson 164-177
- (4) Calhoun 114-127

April 25

- (1) Job 42:1-6
- (2) Spiritual Direction
- (3) Peterson 178-192
- (4) Calhoun 128-140

April 29

Final Rule of Life Due

May 4

Final Exam

Spiritual Formation Assignment

Each student is required to keep a weekly spiritual formation journal and an alternating habit of two spiritual exercises: discipleship cohort and individual prayer. The student will make a 250 word entry on Canvas after their spiritual exercise of key thoughts or insights that came to their attention (*due on Fridays*). There should be 14 entries at the end of the semester (one per week – except breaks and final exam week). Students will alternate the spiritual exercises each week (one per week).

- (1) Discipleship cohort – Students will be subdivided into cohorts that will meet every other week for prayer and encouragement (seven times). The convener of the cohort will alternate each meeting. Students are encouraged to use Scandrette’s book as their curriculum. Cohorts should meet for at least 30 minutes.
 - a. Students are encouraged to use Scandrette’s book as a guide for discussion on spiritual habits and then commit to a habit that the group collectively will do until the next meeting.
- (2) Prayer - Students will spend 30 minutes in prayer with God. This devoted time of prayer can be used for exploring different practices of prayer, specifically practices that are described in Calhoun’s book. When the student journals about this experience, the student is encouraged to reflect on these questions...
 - a. What did you do?
 - b. What did you notice?
 - c. How did you sense God’s presence during this practice?
 - d. How did you grow through this?

Prayer Psalm Assignment

Each student is to write a prayer psalm to the Lord. The psalm can be modeled after the psalms in the Old Testament, but it should be personal and contextual to your experience. The psalm should be between 500-1000 words long (although it can be longer). Special care should be taken in writing each phrase, creating the flow of the psalm, and utilizing special vocabulary. The psalm should be a reflection of your current spiritual walk with God – describing where you are in your relationship with God, God’s people, and God’s world currently. The assignment is due **February 22**.

Rule of Life Assignment

Each student is to craft a rule of life, or a set of spiritual rhythms that the student plans to commit to in their ministry. This rule of life should be holistic in nature, including their relationship to God, work in the church, engagement with family, and rest/Sabbath.

This rule of life will be developed in two phases. First, each student will submit a current rule of life at the beginning of the semester (due January 19). This rule of life should completely capture all of the student’s current spiritual practices in the areas of personal life, family, ministry work, and rest. This submission should be 2-3 pages in length and be a running narrative of one’s spiritual rhythms. Second, each student will conclude the semester with a revised rule of life that offers an updated version. Particular attention will be paid to changes made by the student throughout the semester. In this revised version, the submission should include a map diagramming one’s rule of life, a running narrative describing each rhythm in further detail, and reflections on the student’s growth throughout the previous two semesters. The length should be 4-6 pages. The revised draft is due **April 29**.

Recommended resources

- Barton, Ruth Haley. *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Brother Lawrence, *The Practice of the Presence of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1967.
- Brueggemann, Walter. *Great Prayers of the Old Testament*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2008.
- De Waal, Esther. *Living with Contradiction: An Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 1989.
- Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: Harper-Collins, 1988.
- Guenther, Margaret. *Holy Listening: The Art of Spiritual Direction*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley Publications, 1992.
- Harris, Randy. *Soul Work: Confessions of a Part-time Monk*. Abilene, TX: ACU Press, 2011.
- Halstead, Jackie. *Leaning into God’s Embrace: A Guidebook for Contemplative Prayer*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers, 2021.
- Heflin, Houston. *Pray Like You Breathe: Exploring the Practice of Breath Prayer*. Abilene, TX: Creek Bend Press, 2017.
- Holloway, Gary and Earl Lavender. *Living God’s Love: An Invitation to Christian Spirituality*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers, 2004.

- Howard, Evan. *The Brazos Introduction to Christian Spirituality*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2008.
- Macchia, Stephen. *Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to the Well-Ordered Way*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2012.
- McHugh, Adam. *The Listening Life: Embracing Attentiveness in a World of Distraction*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Press, 2015.
- Mulholland, M. Robert and Ruth Haley Barton. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Revised and Expanded. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.
- Peterson, Eugene. *Eat this Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans, 2006.
- Scazzero, Peter. *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality: Unleash a Revolution in Your Life for Christ*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2006.
- Shigematsu, Ken. *God in My Everything: How an Ancient Rhythm Helps Busy People Enjoy God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.
- Thompson, Marjorie. *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life*, rev. ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2014.
- Tippens, Darryl. *Pilgrim Heart: The Way of Jesus in Everyday Life*. Abilene, TX: Leafwood Publishers, 2006.
- Willard, Dallas. *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2012.

Use of technology

Canvas Online Learning System

In addition to the live video platform Zoom.us (see below), this course uses Harding's *Canvas Online Learning System*, which is accessed at <http://elearning.harding.edu>. If you have problems gaining access to Canvas, contact HU technical support (501) 279-4545. You will need your HST username and your password to log into Harding Pipeline. These are the same credentials you use to register for classes via Pipeline.

When you need to contact your professor via email, you may use the email system contained in the Canvas learning management system or email your professor directly at secloer@harding.edu.

Harding University gives each student an email address that also utilizes your user name. Many students use other email addresses as their preferred address. You can set your Harding G-mail account to forward messages to an alternative email address if you want; however, it is your responsibility to check your Harding email account regularly because this is the official Harding email address to which all Harding-related email will be sent.

HST Live Interactive Video Education (HST LIVE) via ZOOM

In addition to Canvas (see above), this HST-Live course is supported with the video platform Zoom.us. For new Zoom platform users, go to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started> for helpful video tutorials about using this platform.

The HST LIVE/Zoom Meeting ID for this course can be found on Canvas.

Students new to HST LIVE should watch the HST LIVE orientation video before the first day of class. The video can be found at <https://hst.edu/students/canvas-online-learning/>.

Equipment Requirements for LIVE Sections:

- Internet access using a latest version of a web browser such as Firefox (preferred).
- Latest version of Zoom software. This changes periodically without notification. If you already have Zoom, use that account. Basic Zoom.us is available free.
- Laptop or tablet with camera or desktop computer with camera.
- Ear buds with microphone - Apple MD827LL/A EarPods with Remote and Mic work well. Order on Amazon.com, <https://goo.gl/jLYfBG>.
- Additional monitor – Live video conferencing is best facilitated with two monitors.

LIVE Etiquette:

- HST Live is a convenience for distance broadcast and attendance. In terms of responsibilities, it is no different than on-campus participation. Attendance at all class sessions is required just as if in residence on the Memphis campus.
- “Making up” a missed session by watching the recording will be granted only in extreme cases such as illness or family emergency (the same policy for those on the Memphis campus). Please make arrangements in your ministry context or employment to be in attendance for all scheduled sessions (e.g. a staff meeting is not an excused absence). The same applies to arriving late or leaving early.
- Be seated in an environment that approximates a classroom setting (for example, a chair at a desk in your office). Create a distraction free environment. It is not acceptable to sit or lie down on your bed or in a recliner, lounge on your deck or on the beach, or sit in a coffee shop, etc.
- Remain stationary at your computer during the class session except during breaks. If you must go to the restroom & mute your audio/video, Then return to your screen, un-mute, and resume the class.
- Arrange for your HST Live environment to be distraction free (for example, no family noise, TV, etc.).
- Failure to observe these and related etiquette matters will result in grade reductions at the professor’s sole discretion.