

SACRAMENTAL SPIRITUALITY
(SPGR 6720)

FALL 2014

Tuesday 5:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Credits: 3.0

Prerequisites: none

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Office hours: Tuesday, 2:00-4:00; Thursday 2:00-4:00; or by appointment.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Drawing upon Christian scripture and tradition, this course explores and develops present-day sacramental spiritualities. A variety of embodied practices and material realities will be considered in their sacramental aspects—i.e., insofar as they provide an opportunity to experience the divine in and through corporeality. This course will emphasize all of creation as sacramental; it will include a consideration of Christ and the Church as sacraments, the sacraments of initiation (RCIA), healing sacraments (reconciliation and anointing), marriage as a sacrament, and "sacramentals." The study and discussion will be ecumenical and interreligious, interdisciplinary and multicultural.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each student will:

1. demonstrate a well-rounded knowledge and critical appropriation of sacramental spirituality in the Christian theological tradition.
2. demonstrate the relationship between Christian sacramental spiritualities and one's own practice or spiritual development.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry. Faith & Order Paper 111. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1982. ISBN: 2-8254-0709-7.

Martinez, German. ***Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments.*** New York: Paulist Press, 2004. ISBN-10: 0809141604. ISBN-13: 978-0809141609.

Berger, Teresa. ***Women's Ways of Worship: Gender Analysis and Liturgical History.*** Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999. ISBN-10: 0814661734. ISBN-13: 978-0814661734.

Salzberg, Sharon. ***Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience.*** New York: Riverhead, 2002. ISBN-10: 1573223409. ISBN-13: 978-1573223409.

Bays, Jan C. ***Mindful Eating: A Guide to Rediscovering a Healthy and Joyful Relationship with Food.*** With a foreword by Jon Kabat-Zinn. Boston: Shambhala, 2009. ISBN-10: 1590305310. ISBN-13: 978-1590305317.

Beaudoin, Tom. ***Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are with What We Buy,*** 2nd edition. Lanham, Maryland: Sheed and Ward, 2007. ISBN-10: 1580512089. ISBN-13: 978-1580512084.

Holland, Joe. ***Creative Communion: Toward a Spirituality of Work.*** New York: Paulist, 1989. ISBN-10: 0809130467. ISBN-13: 978-0809130467.

Note of clarification: Within the context of viewing all of creation as sacramental, this course will study, among other things, the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, reconciliation, anointing, and marriage. If you wish to study the sacrament of ordination, please consider enrolling in *Theology of Ministry* (PMGR 6510).

COURSE SCHEDULE

Tuesdays, 5:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Excerpts from the School's Academic Calendar:

Sept. 3 Wed.	Classes Begin
Nov. 26-30 Wed.-Sun.	Thanksgiving recess –University Closed
Dec. 15 Mon.	Last day of Evening Classes
Dec. 16- 22 Tues.-Mon.	Final Examinations

READING ASSIGNMENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>REQUIRED READINGS</u>
Week 1	<p>A Brief History of Christian Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • German Martinez, <i>Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments</i> (New York: Paulist Press, 2004), 24-44 (Chapter 2). • Selections from Blessed John Henry Newman. Available on Blackboard.
Week 2	<p>Christ, the Church, and the World as Sacraments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from St. Thomas Aquinas, Julian of Norwich, Edward Schillebeeckx, and Louis-Marie Chauvet. Available on Reserve.
Week 3	<p>Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Baptism” and “Eucharist” in <i>Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry</i>, 39th printing, Faith & Order Paper 111 (Geneva: World Council of Churches, 2007), 1-17. • “Confirmation: Communion in the Spirit” in German Martinez, <i>Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments</i>, 122-136 (Chapter 6).
Week 4	<p>Sacramental Healing: Reconciliation and Anointing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The Healing Church” in German Martinez, <i>Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments</i>, 195-221 (Chapters 8 and 9).

<p>Week 5</p>	<p>Sexuality as Sacramental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Marriage: The Call to the Gift of Self” in German Martinez, <i>Signs of Freedom: Theology of the Christian Sacraments</i>, 267-298 (Chapter 11). • Selections on embodiment and sacred sexuality. Available on Reserve.
<p>Week 6</p>	<p>Liturgical Spirituality I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Edward Kilmartin and Karl Rahner. Available on Reserve.
<p>Week 7</p>	<p>Liturgical Spirituality II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teresa Berger, “Early Christian Women At Worship,” <i>Women’s Ways of Worship: Gender Analysis and Liturgical History</i> (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999), 27-67 (Chapter 2). • Teresa Berger, “Liturgical History in the Making: The Women’s Liturgical Movement,” <i>Women’s Ways of Worship: Gender Analysis and Liturgical History</i> (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 1999), 109-149 (Chapter 4).
<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Human Experience as Sacramental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharon Salzberg, <i>Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience</i> (New York: Riverhead, 2002).
<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Spirituality of Nature</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Bonaventure of Bagnoregio’s <i>Major Legend of St. Francis of Assisi</i>. Available on Reserve. • St. Francis of Assisi, <i>Canticle of the Creatures</i>. Available on Blackboard.
<p>Week 10</p>	<p>Spirituality of Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections on the spirituality of music in popular culture. Available on Blackboard.

<p>Week 11</p>	<p>Spirituality of Food</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan C. Bays, <i>Mindful Eating: A Guide to Rediscovering a Healthy and Joyful Relationship with Food</i>, with a foreword by Jon Kabat-Zinn (Boston: Shambhala, 2009), ix-xv, 1-62 (Foreword and Chapters 1-2). • Selections from John Cassian. Available on Blackboard.
<p>Week 12</p>	<p>Spirituality of the Present Moment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selections from Jean-Pierre de Caussade. Available on Blackboard. • Jan C. Bays, <i>Mindful Eating: A Guide to Rediscovering a Healthy and Joyful Relationship with Food</i>, with a foreword by Jon Kabat-Zinn (Boston: Shambhala, 2009), 63-155 (Chapters 3-6).
<p>Week 13</p>	<p>Spirituality of Work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Holland, <i>Creative Communion: Toward a Spirituality of Work</i> (New York: Paulist, 1989).
<p>Week 14</p>	<p>Economic Spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom Beaudoin, <i>Consuming Faith: Integrating Who We Are with What We Buy</i>, 2nd edition (Lanham, Maryland: Sheed and Ward, 2007).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Grading Rubric for the Course as a Whole:

50%-- Class Preparation & Participation

50%-- Research Paper / Final Review Exam

Alternatively, in order to tailor this course to your personal learning style, you (the student) may determine *by the date of our fourth class* whether the instructor is to give greater weight to one of these two course requirements. The instructor will then hold you strictly accountable to your own stated goal. *Each course requirement must compose at least 40% of your grade for the course.* By the date of our fourth class, please e-mail the instructor (at smcalister@fordham.edu) with your percentage preferences for each of the two components. *Your percentages cannot be altered after this date.*

Class absences and plagiarism can also affect course grade; see policies listed below.

1)

Quality Class Preparation & Participation

(Demonstrating Completion of Course Objectives #1 & 2):

Quality class preparation and participation includes:

1) Offering comments and questions that draw upon a careful and thorough study of the day's assigned reading;

2) When asked to do so: providing answers to the discussion questions (distributed by the professor in advance of each class) which draw upon a careful and thorough study of the day's assigned reading;

3) Listening attentively to the instructor and your classmates, speaking respectfully to your classmates and professor, and allowing everyone equal time to speak during discussions.

If you feel that you express yourself best in writing, please consult with the professor about the possibility of submitting a special weekly written assignment in lieu of requirement #1 above; requirements #2 and #3 are still mandatory for everyone.

Grading Rubric for Class Preparation & Participation:

A = consistently completing all **three** of the above criteria

B = consistently completing **two** of the above criteria

C = consistently completing **one** of the above criteria

F = consistently completing **none** of the above criteria

2)

Final Review Exam or Research Paper
(Relating to Course Objective #1):

You may choose to write *either* a Final Review Exam *or* a Research Paper. Each is due via e-mail on the Tuesday of Final Examination Week (see the School's Academic Calendar).

Format:

10 pages, double-spaced, in twelve-point Times New Roman font, with one-inch margins.

The Final Review Exam will be a take-home, cumulative, open-book examination.

The Research Paper will be on a topic of your own choice, relating to the practice or experience of spiritual direction; **your topic must be determined in consultation with the instructor, no later than the date of our ninth class.** The goal of this paper is to use library resources to investigate some aspect of spiritual direction in the Christian tradition which particularly interests you. The professor is available to discuss questions that arise for you as you carry out library research into your chosen topic.

Rubrics for the Research Paper and Final Review Exam will be distributed in advance.

Grading System:

- A 4.0: Excellent. Honors-level work
- A- 3.7: Still excellent
- B+ 3.3: Very good. High level of performance
- B 3.0: Good, solid and above average performance
- B- 2.7: Good. Still above average
- C+ 2.3: Average level of performance
- C 2.0: Satisfactory, acceptable performance
- C- 1.7: Minimally acceptable
- F 0.0: Failure. Inferior performance

Class Attendance Policy:

Classes meet only once a week, and therefore *attendance is required at every class.* 10 points (out of 100) will be deducted from the course grade for an unexcused absence (e.g., An "A" will become a "B"; a "B" will become a "C.")

Three unexcused absences will result in automatic failure for the course.

Absences will be excused only at the discretion of the instructor, and only if they result from serious emergencies such as a debilitating illness. *If you are experiencing a serious emergency of this sort that prevents you from attending a class, you must notify the instructor as soon as possible to explain your absence and to request that it be excused.* Extra “make-up” work will be required.

Plagiarism:

The following quotation is taken from GSRRE’s *Academic Policies & Procedures Guidebook Masters Degree and Certificate Programs*¹:

The following guidelines apply to all written work:

- 1) Using the ideas, thoughts, words, and statements of another, including those quoted from the Internet, without crediting the source constitutes plagiarism.
- 2) If exact words of another are used, they must be put in quotation marks or indented, and acknowledged through footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography.
- 3) If the thoughts or ideas, rather than the exact words of another are used, they must be acknowledged through footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography.
- 4) If source material is paraphrased or rephrased, it must be acknowledged through a footnote or endnote. If the paraphrased material includes exact words, phrases, and sentences, they must be put in quotation marks.
- 5) The underlying criterion for determining plagiarism is claiming as one’s own original work the ideas, thoughts, words, and statements of another without crediting the source.

The normal result of plagiarism is failure for the course, and it can also result in expulsion from the school.

Information on how to properly format your citations in accordance with the APA Style, the MLA Style, or the Chicago Manual of Style:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/>

¹

http://www.fordham.edu/images/academics/graduate_schools/gsrre/ma%20handbook%202013.pdf (August 30, 2012)

Writing Center Resources:

Good graduate work requires excellent writing skills. Make use of the Writing Center! See http://www.fordham.edu/student_affairs/Student_Services/Writing_Center/ for more information, or call the Writing Center at 718-817-4032.

Counseling Center Resources:

Everyone has ups and downs and things to process. Counseling can be a helpful component in spiritual, personal, and interpersonal growth. View the Counseling Center website at http://www.fordham.edu/campus_resources/student_services/counseling_and_psych/ to learn more about their free and confidential services, available to all students.

Disability Support Services:

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973, all students, with or without disabilities, are entitled to equal access to the programs and activities of Fordham University. If you believe that you have a disabling condition that may interfere with your ability to participate in the activities, coursework, or assessment of the object of this course, you may be entitled to accommodations. Please schedule an appointment to speak with someone at the Office of Disability Services (Rose Hill - O'Hare Hall, Lower Level, x0655 or Lincoln Center – Room 207, x6282).