

GOLDEN GATE BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Northern California Campus

P3113-01 Spiritual Formation and the Arts (3 Hours)

Fall 2009

Monday 2:00 to 5:00

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This course is designed to explore the concepts of Christian spiritual formation as it may be understood through creativity and the arts. The course includes the study of spiritual formation, the viewing and analysis of the art from various contemporary and historical periods as it relates to spiritual formation, and the analysis of the spiritual impact of the arts. The course seeks to provide an arena for creative exercises between theology, the arts (visual as well as other art forms) and Christian spiritual formation as appraised within a biblical frame. The course includes the opportunity for learners to participate in applied art studies. Travel to local places of artistic interest is a part of the class. This course may fulfill the requirement for P1115 Spiritual Formation. P3113 is a 3 hour course.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES (*Essential Leadership Characteristics*¹ are indicated in italics following the course learning outcomes.)

1. Christian growth that has been attained through further work in the spiritual disciplines.
 - *More compellingly joined with God as co-laborers in His Kingdom purposes. (ELC F11)*
2. Ministry readiness achieved through research, dialogue and collaboration in the areas of Christian theology.
 - *Better prepared to participate in and minister among the broader faith community. (ELC C6)*
3. Leadership preparation as practiced in teaching, preaching, and leading in the areas specific to this course, i.e., spirituality and the arts.

¹ All degree-seeking students must reflect on the work completed as part of this course and the manner in which the course contributed to his/her growth in relation to five Essential Leadership Characteristics selected by the student and referenced in the *syllabus* under Course Learning Outcomes. These reflections must be recorded in the student's ePortfolio and a copy emailed to the professor *no later than the last class period [12/7/09]*.

- *A student focuses his or her life to live out a calling in accordance with God's Kingdom purposes (ELC F12)*
4. An ongoing desire to grow in Christ through daily work in the area of spiritual formation and the arts.
- *A student understands the biblical, theological, historical, personal, and experiential foundations of being a follower of Jesus. (ELC J1)*
 - *A student practices the spiritual disciplines of being a follower of Jesus. (ESL J2)*
 - *A student demonstrates commitment to living as a follower of Jesus through knowing God through Jesus and knowing self. (ELC J3)*
5. A worldview that includes an understanding of how the arts can be viewed, understood, & experienced within the context of God's working in human existence.
- *A student demonstrates wisdom, meaning that he or she follows God's Spirit to apply biblical principles to complex life situations. (ELC J5)*
6. An ability to utilize the arts in effective witness and Kingdom development.
- *A student demonstrates creativity in the communication and application of the Gospel in fresh and effective ways. (ELC C9)*
 - *A student understands the biblical, theological, historical, personal, and experiential foundations of communicating the gospel in a meaningful way in context. (ELC R18)*
 - *A student is capable of determining how to communicate the gospel effectively within different ministry contexts. (ELC R19)*

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course the student...

1. Will have gained a broader and a deeper knowledge of the biblical principles of spiritual formation and the establishment of spiritual disciplines that foster continuous growth and maturity.
2. Will have been exposed to some of the primary sources that are historically significant in understanding the wide range of diversity found in Christian spiritual formation.
3. Will have discovered a satisfactory working definition of Christian spirituality.
4. Will have developed an approach and a process for private devotional study on the major themes of spiritual formation as found in the arts.
5. Will have gained an understanding of the development of the arts in the life of the church from the time of the early church to the present.
6. Will have begun the process of developing a theology of the arts.
7. Will have learned ways to experience the arts for use in the current worship culture.
8. Will have determined personal tastes, styles, preferable mediums and genre in the arts with an attempt to broaden these through applied artistic experiences.
9. Will have further developed their understanding of God the Creator via a study of the arts.
10. Will have learned to tell their story through the arts.

GUIDELINES AND MINIMUM EXPECTATIONS

Students will adhere to Seminary policies and expectations regarding attendance and tardiness. Students are expected to attend all class sessions. Lack of attendance and habitual tardiness will result in a lower final grade for the course. All assignments will be turned in on time in accordance with the syllabus. Please discuss any questions related to these policies directly with the professor.

Since all students are expected to participate in discussion, responses and in small groups during each class session, if you need to be absent from a class, leave a message on the professor's voice mail with as much lead time as possible prior to the class for which you will be absent. (415) 380-1588.

BASIC PEDAGOGICAL/ANDROGOGICAL FORMATS

This is a fifteen-week course. The class procedures for the course will include:

Information sharing,
discussion sessions,
small group sharing,
reading, journaling,
art activities, demonstration,
viewing, listening, observation,
oral reporting and analysis
visual/video presentations,
spiritual exercises related to the arts
and written or creative projects.

GRADING SCALE

See the assignment page for percentages related to each assignment.

REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Gary W. McCoy, *Seeing as Believing: Growing Faith through the Visual Experience* (Given out in Class)
2. Christian George, *Sacred Travels: Recovering the Ancient Practice of Pilgrimage*
3. Jim Wilson, *Soul Shaping: Disciplines That Conform You to The Image of Christ*

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Harold Best, *Unceasing Worship: Biblical Perspectives on Worship and the Arts*
Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

ADDITIONAL FEE

There is a \$15.00 additional fee to cover the cost of art supplies for the class. Payable to David Robinson.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

All written assignments are to be brought to class on the due date as hard copies unless otherwise stipulated. Journaling assignments are to be turned in on the day they are discussed in class (see reading schedule), or the student will receive a zero for that

assignment. All course assignments must be attempted in order for the student to pass the class. [Assignments must have a title page, pages numbered, 12 point Times New Roman, double spaced, and annotated/footnoted as needed.]

Assignment No. 1

“My Artist Story” Each student will write a personal reflection paper on the influences of the arts in his or her life. The paper will reflect on the nature and power of communicating through art, the function of art in life, and how they found their way into art. If they have a particular artist skill (in the broad sense of the term) they can tell their story of how that happened and how it has been honed. The paper needs to include a section on how their spiritual formation has been influenced by the arts. The students will be asked to share their story within the class setting. Five double-spaced pages. **Due August 31. 15%**

Assignment No. 2

Seeing as Believing: Growing Faith Through the Visual Experience. This CD resource has fifteen lessons with visual and narrative illustrations related to topics that are a part of spiritual formation . The students are to do the *first five lessons* (Creation, *Imago Dei*, Temptation, Sin and Forgiveness) plus *one other lessons of their choice*. The lessons will be shared weekly in class as listed in the course calendar. Follow the "Guided Viewing" and "Guided Journaling" directions found within each lesson of the book. See the course schedule for due dates. A *maximum* of one hour should be given to each *Seeing as Believing* lesson unless the student chooses to do otherwise. **20%**

Assignment No. 3

[Group Project] The class members will be divided into six groups. Each group will work together to author or design a creative activity that will reinforce, teach or interpret the seminal idea of the lesson content for one of the six chapters in the book by Jim Wilson. The group will then lead the class in performing the creative activity—20-25 minutes). See the course reading schedule for the date when each chapter’s creative activity is due. **10%**

Assignment No. 4

Using the lessons in *Seeing as Believing* as a prototype, the students will create one topical lesson on a spiritual formation subject of their choice. The lesson will be prepared using visual and/or narrative medium (PowerPoint, art, photo exhibit, or whatever suitable methodology the student chooses.) The lesson will be presented in class. Further written directions will be given. **Due November 16. 15%**

Assignment No. 5

The students will create/produce a number of works related to the field of visual arts (painting, sculpture, photography, etc.) and/or narrative arts (poetry, stories, hymns, music, etc). Instructions will be provided in class. It is not necessary for the student to think of himself/herself as an artist. The focus is on increasing understanding of how art affects spiritual development, and how spiritual development can be impacted by the arts.

The projects will be done alone, in small groups and in collaboration with the entire class.
15%

Assignment No. 6: Weekly Journal and Cumulative Paper on Personal Assessment on Spiritual Formation

Following each class session the students will create a one-page journal entry that provides a reflection on the readings, discussions and activities of that week's class session. The reflection will include a personal response as to how that week's lesson has impacted them spiritually. At the end of the semester, in lieu of a final exam, the student will write a reflection paper that articulates how the semester's work in spiritual formation and the arts has contributed to his or her spiritual growth and change. **Due December 14 15%**

Assignment No. 7

A sizeable amount of the work of this class culminates in weekly class discussions and activities. 10% of the course grade will be based on the student's participation, engagement and interaction in the class setting. Absences and tardiness will affect this grade. This includes students posting their five Learning Insights to their ePortfolios as required of all M Div and MTS courses. A copy of the postings will be sent to the professor at garymccoy@ggbts.edu. The ePortfolio **Postings due December 14 10%**

**P3113 Spiritual Formation and the Arts
Course Schedule**

August 24, 2009

Course/Syllabus/Assignment Introduction
Assignment: Lesson 1: Creator God
Telling My Art Story: Gary McCoy

August 31, 2009

See reading schedule for the day
Small Group discussion on Lesson 1: Creator God (See Assignment No. 2)
Telling My Artist Story: Dave Robinson
Arts Activity and Reflection

September 7, 2009 - LABOR DAY: NO CLASS

Sept 14, 2009

See reading schedule for the day
Class Discussion on Lesson 2: Imago Dei--Being Creators (see Assignment No. 2)
Groups Meet to Share "My Artist Story" (see Assignment No. 1)
Wilson, Chapter 1: *From Doing to Living*-Creative Response Activity Led by Group 1A (See Assignment 3)

September 21, 2009

See reading schedule for the day
Discussion/Response to *SAB* Nos. 3 and 4: Temptation and Sin (See Assignment 2)
Groups Meet to Share "My Artist Story" (see Assignment No. 1)

September 28, 2009

See reading schedule for the day

Discussion/Response to *SAB* No. 5: Forgiveness (Assignment 2)

Wilson, Chapter 2 *From Consumerism to Intimacy* - Creative Response Activity Led by Group 2A (Assignment 3)

Arts Activity on topic of Forgiveness

October 5, 2009

See reading schedule for the day (Wilson: *From Busyness to Focus*; George: *Heavenly Hospitality/Benedictine*; *SAB: Solitude*)

Creative Activity: Benedictine Luncheon and Reflection

Creative Arts Activity

October 12, 2009

See reading schedule for the day—Topics are Transparency, and Transformation

Wilson, Chapt. 3: *From Business to Focus*-Creative Response Activity Led by Group 3A

Creative Arts Activity

October 19, 2009

See reading schedule for the day—Topics are Faith, Hope and the Word

Reflection and Arts Activity related to the readings for the day

October 26, 2009

See reading schedule for the day

Reflection and Arts Activity related to the readings for the day

Wilson, Chapt. 4: *From Despair to Hope* – Creative Response Activity Led by Group 1B

November 2, 2009

See reading schedule for the day—Topics include Isolation, the “Thin Places” and Work

Wilson, Chpt. 5 *From Isolation to Connection*—Creative Response Activity by Group 2B

November 9, 2009

Trip to the Legion of Honor or DeYoung Museum

November 16, 2009

See reading schedule for the day

Wilson, Chpt. 6: *From Entitlement to Ministry*-Creative Response Activity by Group 3B

Student Presentation and Sharing on their individual art project (Assignment 4)

November 23, 2009

Thanksgiving Reading Days

November 30, 2009

Student Presentation and Sharing on their individual art project (Assignment 4)

December 7, 2009

Student Presentation and Sharing on their individual art project (Assignment 4)

December 14, 2007 -- Final Exam Day—Assignment No. 6 is due.

**P3113 SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND THE ARTS
READING SCHEDULE**

DATE	WILSON	C. GEORGE	SEEING AS BELIEVING MCCOY
AUGUST 24	Class texts and readings introduced		
AUGUST 31	Chapter 1 <i>From Doing to Living</i>		Introduction & Lesson 1: <i>Creator God</i>
SEPT. 14	Chapter 1 Creative Response	Introduction and Chapter 1: <i>Preparing to Journey--Bunyan</i>	Lesson 2: <i>Imago Dei--Being Creators</i>
SEPT. 21	Chapter 2 <i>From Consumerism to Intimacy</i>	Chapter 3: <i>Finding Refuge in the Storm--Luther</i>	Lesson 3: <i>Temptation</i> Lesson 4: <i>Sin</i>
SEPT. 28	Chapter 2 Creative Response	Chapter 5: <i>A Pilgrim's Perspective--Spurgeon</i>	Lesson 5: <i>Forgiveness</i>
OCT. 5	Chapter 3 <i>From Busyness to Focus</i>	Chapter 11: <i>Heavenly Hospitality--Benedict</i>	Lesson 8: <i>Solitude</i>
OCT. 12	Chapter 3 Creative Response	Chapter 4: <i>Towards Transparency</i>	Lesson 7: <i>Transformation</i>
OCT. 19	Chapter 4 <i>From Despair to Hope</i>		Lesson 11: <i>The Word</i>
OCT. 26	Chapter 4 Creative Response	Chapter 7: <i>From Sunshine to Shadow--Bonhoffer</i>	Lesson 13: <i>The Struggle</i>
NOV. 2	Chapter 5 <i>From Isolation to Connection & Creative Response</i>	Chapter 8: <i>Thin Places--Columba</i>	Lesson 9: <i>Labor/Work</i>
NOV. 9	Museum or Art Studio Visit Assignment		
NOV. 16	Chapter 6 <i>From Entitlement to Ministry</i>	Chapter 10: <i>Sacred Songs--Taizé</i>	Lesson 12: <i>At Worship</i>
NOV. 30	Chapter 6 Creative Response		Create your own Lesson
DEC. 7			Create your own Lesson

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