

PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY SYLLABUS DISCLAIMER

The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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Syllabus, Spring, 2014
SP 640, Spirituality and Hospitality
Adjunct Professor: Rev. Dr. Mady Fraser

Availability of Instructor: Before or after class sessions, by appointment on campus or via email or telephone

E-Mail: mady.fraser@ptstulsa.edu

Telephone: 918-493-5023, Home (if no answer, please leave a message)
918-230-6585, Cell (not my primary phone--a text is best)

- Unless it is an emergency, please do not call me before 10:00 am or after 10:00 pm.
- I check e-mail and texts regularly.

Purpose of the course: To experience and reflect on the practice of hospitality as a spiritual discipline.

Learning Outcomes:

At the close of the semester it is hoped students will . . .

- have a clear understanding of hospitality as a spiritual discipline
- be familiar with the theological and spiritual foundations of hospitality as a spiritual discipline.
- show a competency for integrating the practice of hospitality into personal spiritual growth and spiritual leadership in ministry

Learning Strategies:

- reading of text
- reflective writing
- personal/communal spiritual practice
- interactivity, i.e. discussion/reflection and participation in class activities

Text:

Hospitality-the sacred art: Discovering the Hidden Spiritual Power of Invitation and Welcome, Rev Nanette Sawyer

Context:

This one-credit-hour class meets 13 Thursdays during the on-campus schedule

- 1:00 pm - 2:15 pm
- Spainhower Room, Tulsa campus

Class sessions are designed to be weekly mini spiritual retreats in which we will build community and engage in learning and teaching about and participation in practicing spirituality, individually and corporately.

Course Expectations:

- *Regular attendance.* If you miss more than 4 hours, you will not pass the course. (See PTS attendance policy under “syllabus” on class Moodle page.)
- *Be on time.* Please be courteous to your classmates and the instructor by being on time. Habitual tardiness will impact your grade.
- Notify the instructor if you are going to be absent. There is no way to make up missed time. If you are unable to attend a class session or to attend eight (8) or more hours of class, please contact the registrar and drop the class. No exceptions can be made.
- *Participate in class sessions* through listening to the instructor and your classmates, taking part in discussions and class activities and by attending to the values and practices of loving and respectful community.
- *Fulfill all assignments.* If you have not completed the assignments, it is impossible to fully participate in the process of the course.
- Assignments will only be accepted late if you have made arrangements with the professor. More than one late assignment during the semester will affect your grade.
- You are responsible for your education. You will receive from this class in proportion to what you invest in it.

Semester Grades

Fulfillment of the following expectations is required for a grade of A:

1. Regular attendance and participation with no more than one hour of absence, regardless of reason.
2. Through writing and class participation, exhibit thoughtfulness and understanding for the subject.
3. Exhibit evidence that reading and practice assignments have been completed at the time they are due.
4. Enthusiastically participate in carrying out the purpose and outcomes of the course.
7. Maintain academic honesty according to the policies and procedures set out in the professional behavior statement in the syllabus section of the class Moodle page.

Weekly Assignments (for specifics, see “Assignments” below)

Each week you will be asked to read a chapter in the assigned text **OR** to create and carry out a spiritual practice related to a previously read chapter.

- Each person has a different spiritual need and style and creating your own practice is a way of identifying and enhancing these. Your practice does not have to be original, all creativity is built on the creativity of God and others.
- Your reflections for the practice weeks are to begin with a very short description of your practice and to then follow the guidelines for personal reflection below.
- Each practice is to be carried out for 5 days.

Personal Reflection

The papers are:

- not book reports
- designed to elicit personal responses and theological reflections on reading and practice.
- not research papers, nor are they assessments of an authors' work or character. If you respond to what is written with anger or joy, don't give the credit to or blame the author. Search yourself and discover what inside you is responding in this way.
- subjective, are about your thoughts and feelings in your own words, in reflection on the assignments and how this impacts your relationship with and/or perceptions of God, humanity, creation and your concept of ministry.

I may make comments on your papers in order to affirm what you have said, as well as to challenge and provoke you to further and possibly, expanded thought. I am always open to discussion regarding comments I have made on papers, which are obviously subjective, because they are my response to what you have said. Objectivity is not a goal of this class, though appropriate boundaries are.

If I perceive a particular paper to be other than a "personal reflection" paper, I will ask you to do the assignment again in a timely manner. Rewriting a paper will constitute little to no penalty on your grade, but failing to resubmit it will count as not having done the assignment at all.

A periodic, semi-regular option to reflection papers is a **creative reflection**, i.e. poem, design, photograph, clay sculpture, painting, song, etc. Sometimes our feelings are beyond words and only tapping into further creativity will express what is there. You will need to include enough narration (written or oral) so that I understand where you are coming from.

It is also fine to combine written and creative reflections.

Consider the following questions when preparing to write a reflection paper or creating something else:

- What kinds of feelings did you have while reading or participating in the assignment? Angry, excited, disturbed, WOW! challenged, pleased, affirmed, disgusted, etc. Where do those feelings originate within you?
- What one particular thing did the author say or happened in your own reflection that really grabbed you?
- How did something in the assignment affect the way you think/feel now about a particular issue that is different than before you did the reading or activity?

~The papers/creations are an opportunity for self-reflection and they tell me who you are and where you are in your spiritual journey—as if we are in conversation. You may even couch it in the form of a letter to me, if that is helpful.

~Please do not write a sermon, i.e. tell how things are or are supposed to be or give the ‘party line.’ The difference in reflection and preaching, in this case, is owning what you are saying and expressing as your own and couching it in “I language,” rather than “you language.”

~Reflections go into depth at soul level.

~Reflections have no right or wrong things to say but there is a right way to express what you are communicating, via personal thoughts and feelings and ownership of those.

Papers are to be turned in printed on paper at each class session. Creations, if not printable, are to be brought to class, as well unless other arrangements have been made.

Late papers or creations will only be accepted with prior approval. Multiple assignments turned in late, even with permission, may affect your grade.

Assignments

- Each class session, following session 1, a reflection will be due (see syllabus, p 3, for details on reflections).
 - Each printed reflection paper is to be 1 1/2-2 pages long, focused on something in the chapter that triggered further personal reflection for you.
 - Periodically, creative reflections or a combination of written and creative, is good. (If this would create more angst than it’s worth for you, stick with the papers.)

Due January 30

- Review the Syllabus and Assignments and bring any question you have to class.
- Read the Introduction to the text--no writing assignment is required.
- Come prepared to get acquainted with your classmates, the instructor and the vision of the class.

Due February 6 Chapter 1, “Hospitality to God,” and a reflection

Due February 13 Engage in a spiritual practice related to chapter 1 and a reflection

Due February 20 Chapter 2, “Hospitality to Self,” and a reflection

Due February 27 Engage in a spiritual practice related to chapter 2 and a reflection

- Due March 6** Chapter 3, “Hospitality to Family,” and a reflection
- Due March 13** Chapter 4, “Hospitality to Neighbors,” and a reflection
- March 20 & 27** No class sessions
- Due April 3** Chapter 5, “Hospitality to Strangers,” and a reflection
- Due April 10** Engage in spiritual practice related to chapters 3, 4 and 5 and a reflection. (As opportunity arises or is created, show hospitality to your family, your neighbors and to strangers.)
- April 17** No class session
- Due April 24** Chapter 6, “Hospitality to Enemies,” and a reflection
- Due May 1** Engage in a spiritual practice related to chapter 6 and a reflection
- Due May 8** Chapter 7, “Hospitality to Creation,” and a reflection
- Due May 15** Engage in a spiritual practice related to chapter 7 and a reflection.

Add at least 1 extra page to the reflection (whether written or created), expressing how you have grown in awareness of the theology and of practice of hospitality over the course of the semester.