Spiritual Formation for Ministry (MC/SF501)  
Web-Enhanced Format  

Dr. Steven Klipowicz, Professor

Online Modules begin on January 20, 2015 with a course end date of May 2, 2015.

Charlotte Residency Dates

March 23 -25, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Contact Information

Professor of Record
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Course Description:

Spiritual Formation for Ministry (MC/SF501) is a foundational course in the Division of Practical Theology that explores the processes and goals of spiritual formation in the life of the Christian minister, counselor or leader from a multi-disciplinary viewpoint including personal, biblical, theological, psychological, and historical perspectives. The student is introduced to the historic disciplines and practices of the Christian faith that promote intimacy with God and Christ-likeness in character with the goal of fostering ongoing personal vitality essential to ministry and the ability to facilitate spiritual renewal and consistent discipleship in others.
Relationship to Curriculum:

Spiritual Formation for Ministry (MC/SF 501) is a required concentration course in the Master of Divinity, the Master of Arts in Christian Ministries, and the MAR-Hybrid program. It is a required course in all other degree programs except the Master of Arts in Christian Leadership and the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling. This course can also serve as a ministry option in the Master of Arts in Christian Counseling program. Students in the counseling program should arrange with the professor to develop a bibliography and projects that will correspond with the counseling degree.

Web-Enhanced Features

This course will utilize paced learning modules on the SAKAI throughout the course integrating online learning with a three-day residency at the Charlotte campus on March 23-25, 2015. This online work will include lectures, assignments, student blogs, discussion boards, forums, online office hours, and other elements of educational support. It will be expected that all students have Internet access and fully participate in the online segments.

Course Objectives:

The goal of this course is to develop a foundation for personal spiritual development in the student as a Christian leader in pastoral ministry or other callings. In addition, the course seeks to prepare students to teach and facilitate others in the process of spiritual growth. Adequate completion of assignments, projects, readings, and class activities should enable the student to demonstrate the following as objectives:

- Students will develop a personal philosophy of Christian spirituality and faith development that provides a solid biblical and theological rationale for the nature of spiritual life and growth and explains required factors for the cultivation of an intimate relationship with God and Christ-like character in community. This philosophy will aptly be anchored within the context of each student’s own faith tradition and community.

- The student will be able to recount major streams and spiritualities fostered within the Christian tradition, comparing and contrasting key theological features.

- Students will articulate how their personalities influence spiritual orientation and the process of spiritual and character formation.

- Students will learn to review and “exegete” their life narratives reflectively as a journey of faith and interpret life events in light of God’s sovereign purposes for spiritual formation and calling.

- Students will be able to identify, articulate, and personally incorporate key Christian practices and disciplines of the spiritual life in a personal “rule of life.”
• Students will be able to identify both the primary and secondary elements of spiritual renewal and apply these factors to personal and congregational formation.

• Students will be able to provide a framework for the understanding and practice of spiritual mentoring and friendship.

• Students will comprehend the diverse workings of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian and how to facilitate the Spirit’s power and presence in the work of ministry.

Attendance:

Students are required to complete all online modules and attend all residency sessions of the course. Unexcused absenteeism or lack of completing online modules will result in a loss of grade points. If for reason of illness or family death or emergency, please contact Dr. Klipowicz regarding these events to determine appropriate make-up activities. For additional information concerning attendance, consult the Student Handbook requirements and the Syllabus Addenda (end of document).

Required Personality Testing

As a part of this course, all students should complete the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI). Students who have not recently taken this inventory should follow the instructions posted in the course Resources posted in SAKAI for directions on how to take the test online. Students who have completed the MBTI in other contexts should familiarize themselves with their type profiles before the fourth online lesson.

MC 501 Required Readings:

The following books are required reading for the class. They should be read in their entirety unless otherwise noted in the Online Modules:


A signed statement indicating the amount of reading completed in terms of pages or hours (see below) must be submitted at the conclusion of the course. Students reading less than 35 hours should identify whether they completed all the readings during that time.

**Course Requirements**

Achievements of this course objectives will be measured through a variety of assignments and activities as described below. The successful completion of these activities will require student will spend approximately 135 hours (required Federal government guidelines) devoted to coursework, both in and out of class. The following chart indicates how these hours are distributed across the various course requirements. Descriptions of the assignments are listed below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Assignments</th>
<th>Expected Time Commitment (hrs.)</th>
<th>Student’s Actual Time on Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Readings</td>
<td>35 hrs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residency Class Time</td>
<td>20 hrs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Journey Narrative</td>
<td>5 hrs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal Assessment and Formation</td>
<td>15 hrs.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative Spirituality</td>
<td>15 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Credo</td>
<td>5 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online Modules*</td>
<td>35 hrs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule of Life</td>
<td>5 hrs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>135 hrs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Online modules incorporate some reading and project work time.
Students should keep a record of time spent on each course-related task, and will submit a final report, as above, with their actual hours spent on each task listed in the last column of the table.

Class Assignments:

Grading for this course will be based upon the following assignments. Students will complete the following projects and exercises and submit them by the identified due date. Grades will be determined by the extent and quality of the work completed. Additional explanations of each project will be provided during the first class session.

Study Groups

Interaction with other students is one of the three primary ways students will learn in this course. Students will be asked to work in study groups of 4-5 students throughout the course. These groups will be created on a random basis and will be the basis for collaborative work, group discussions, and faculty conferences.

Weekly SAKAI Modules:

During the first nine weeks of the course, there will be weekly study modules on SAKAI for students to complete. These modules will involve didactic, reflective, and collaborative aspects. Weekly modules will be worth 10 points each for a total of 90 points. Aspects of these modules will be used in the development of the following major course assignments.

Assignment #1: My Spiritual Journey Narrative

A person’s current sense of personal, spiritual, and ministerial identity is a product of one’s journey or story. To truly understand yourself, you need to tell your story and tell it often! Moreover, your story helps you understand and more deeply appreciate how God has in a sovereign manner demonstrated his grace, mercy, providence and provision for you. It also reveals how God used events to develop specific spiritual capacities in you such as an increased ability to pray, care for others, or patiently trust God. This assignment provides the opportunity for you to review your life history in terms of creating a spiritual narrative or autobiography. Your story should provide a view of your relationship to God and His people from your earliest memories to the present.

Your narrative text should be at least 8 pages long (double spaced). Your narrative should be chronological and sequential but it should identify the following points of your life:

- Heritage: What geographical, ethnic, family features, or history influenced your journey with God?
- Acts and Scenes: How can you divide your life in turns of phases and seasons with God?
• Cast of Characters: What relationships played a key role in influencing you for or against God?
• Mountain Tops: What times or experiences made you feel closest to God and why?
• Turning Points: What incidences were pivotal in your story with God?
• Crucibles: At which points of your story did you find yourself suffering? How did this suffering influence your relationship with God? Your understanding of yourself?

The paper should be completed and posted during the sixth module in the Assignment section in SAKAI. This assignment will be worth a maximum of 50 points and will be assessed according to the following criteria:

• Quality and clarity of writing
• Ability to analyze events of life from a spiritual and theological perspective identifying key formative influences in personal formation

Assignment #2: Personal Spiritual Assessment/ Rule of Life: Using the format suggested by Adele Calhoun (p. 256-263), conduct a personal Spiritual Growth assessment on the 7 areas of your spiritual life. Meet three times with someone you spiritually respect to serve as a spiritual advisor for this project (not a classmate). During your first meeting with the advisor discuss your assessment. Based upon your conversation, choose three specific spiritual exercises or disciplines from Calhoun’s book to further your growth in each area. Over a six week period during the semester, practice these exercises. Focus on one discipline every two weeks.

Create a personal blog on the SAKAI website to act as a spiritual growth journal in which you daily reflect upon your spiritual experiences with the three practices. You should explain why you chose each discipline and provide a regular reflection on your experience with the chosen discipline. You should submit at a minimum 20 blog entries.

A final written report of 5-6 pages should be submitted by May 2, 2015. The report will include the following:

• A summary of your spiritual assessment on the Seven Areas in Calhoun (1 page)
• A summary of your discussions with your spiritual mentor or advisor (1 page)
• An evaluation of the spiritual disciplines/practices you chose in terms of their influence upon your life (2 pages) in light of your personality preferences (Mulholland, Invitation to a Journey)
• A 1-2 page “Rule of Life” for the next 12 months developed as a result of your spiritual practices and spiritual conversations (1-2 pages). Guidelines for the Rule of Life will be discussed in Module 9 and during the residency week.

The assignment will be worth up to 100 points based upon your ability to complete all elements of the assignment, the extent and depth of your Blog reflections on your
spiritual journey this summer using specific disciplines, and the ability to develop a sustainable Rule of Life for the next year. Project is due on **May 2, 2015**.

**Assignment #3: Comparative Spirituality Paper:** For this assignment, you will work in teams of 4-5 students. Choose from the following list, one approach, tradition or school of Christian Spirituality for each member in the group to research. Each group member will be responsible to research a type of spirituality and develop a 3-4 page summary. The summary should include the following:

- A short historical sketch of the tradition of spirituality
- A description of the approach using Simon Chan’s theological principles (p. 24 – 122)

Every member will share the outcomes of their research with the rest of the work group during the Charlotte residency week (see schedule below). This joint session will be held on the final day of the residency. The joint session will include the following:

1. A verbal report from each member of his or her research findings and analysis using Chan.
2. A discussion between team members analyzing these traditions by comparing and contrasting the various schools or approaches to spirituality in light of Chan’s theological framework.
3. An evaluation of each approach in terms of its ability to sustain primary and secondary aspects of spiritual renewal (Richard Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life*) in contemporary North American church culture.

As an outcome of this group research and deliberation, the following will be required from each group:

1. An 18 -24 page report summarizing your group’s research, analysis, and evaluation. This should include a brief survey of the traditions, their unique practices and evaluative perspectives from Chan and Lovelace. This will be due on **May 2, 2015**. One report per group should be uploaded to the Assignment box on SAKAI.

This project will be worth up to **100 points** per group member. It will be awarded based upon the quality of the group’s research, its ability to critically analyze and evaluate each tradition or approach according to the frameworks required, and the ability to present the results in cogent writing.

**Schools or Approaches to Spirituality**

- Desert Fathers (required)
- Benedictine Monastic Spirituality
- Jesuit Spirituality (Ignatian)
- Classic Pentecostalism
• African American Spirituality
• Deeper Life (Keswick and Miles Stanford’s Green Letters)
• Word of Faith teachings (Kenyon, Hagin, and Copeland)
• Wesleyan Formation
• Para-church (Campus Crusade or Navigators)
• Greek Orthodox Spirituality
• Quakerism
• English Spirituality (Anglican)
• Puritanism
• Reformed (American) Spirituality
• Emerging Contemplative Movement
• Others (Please have approval from Dr. Klipowicz)

Assignment #4: Credo: A Philosophy of Spiritual Formation: Using Lovelace, Chan, Calhoun, Benner and the other readings and lectures of the class, develop a Spiritual Formation Credo. This statement should summarize in a concise form your philosophy of spiritual vitality and formation in terms of what is spiritual intimacy and vitality, how is it fostered or diminished, the role of God and the believer in the process, and how can it be discerned or evaluated. This statement should be 4-5 pages long and should include both individual and corporate dimensions of spiritual formation. This is a statement of your theological and philosophical perspectives on spiritual formation and is “not” a statement of your doctrines or general beliefs.

This project will be worth up to **50 points** depending upon the quality of your Credo and the insightfulness and sustainability of the suggestions for personal and congregational formation and renewal. **The Credo is due May 2, 2015.**

All work for this course will be due no later than May 2, 2015. Any extensions beyond this date must be determined and approved by the Registrar who will consult with the professor.

Grading:

Grades for the course will be determined by performance on the above exercises and projects. Students can achieve a total of 400 points from courses assignments with the following grade scale and assignment weighting:

**Scoring Scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>360 – 400</td>
<td>A-/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>319 – 359</td>
<td>B-/B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>278 – 318</td>
<td>C-/C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>237 – 277</td>
<td>D-/D+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparative Spirituality Project 100 pts.
Personal Assessment/Rule of Life 100 pts.
Spiritual Narrative 60 pts.
Credo: Philosophy of Spiritual Formation 50 pts.
Weekly Module Assignments 90 pts.

Completion of all course readings is worth 20 points. This has already been factored into the grade. For example, completion of 50% of the reading will result in a loss of 10 points.

All assignments are expected to be written on the level of graduate education. Incorrect grammar, spelling mistakes, and other indications of poor writing will result in the loss of grade points. Make sure you proof read your work before submitting it.

Course Schedule:

January 20 - 25  Module 1: What is Spiritual Formation?
January 26 – February 1 Module 2: Foundations for a Spiritual Theology
February 2 – 8 Module 3: Personal Contours of the Spiritual Journey I
February 9 - 15 Module 4: Personal Contours of the Spiritual Journey II
February 16 – 22 Module 5: Models of Change and Formation I
February 23 – March 1 Module 6: Models of Change and Formation II
March 2 – March 8 Module 7: Patterns and Processes of Formation I
March 9 - 15 Module 8: Patterns and Processes of Formation II
March 16 – 22 Module 9: Rule of Life

March 23 -25, 2015 Charlotte Residency

- Spirituality and Ministry
- Dynamics of Formation and Transformation
- Spiritual Friendships
- The Holy Spirit and Praxis
- Collaborative Project Workshop

March 26 – May 2 Post Residency Work
General Bibliography


**Historical**


**Word**


**Prayer**


**Reflection**


Reflection: Spiritual Direction and Disciple-Building


**Community**


**Ministerial Formation and Development**


Boa, Kenneth, *Conformed to His Image.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001).


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


**Ministerial Identity**

Syllabus Addendum

Academic Standards
Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person’s distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one’s own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one’s writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures. For more information, please consult the Student Handbook.

ADA Policy
The seminary complies with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. A student with a qualifying and authenticated disability who is in need of accommodations, should petition the seminary in accordance with the stated guidelines in the Student Handbook.

Cancellation of Class
In the event the seminary has to cancel a class meeting (impending storm, professor illness, etc.), the Registration Office will send out an email (via the GCTS email account) notification to all students registered in the respective course. If the cancelation occurs the day of the scheduled meeting, the Registration Office will also attempt to contact
students via their primary phone contact on record. The professor will contact the students (via GCTS account) regarding make-up. If a weekend class is cancelled, the class will be made up during the scheduled Make-Up weekend (see the academic calendar for the designated dates). For more info, consult your Student Handbook.

**Extension Policy**
Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the “last day to submit written work,” as noted on the seminary’s Academic Calendar, are made between the student and professor. Formal petition to the Registration Office is not required at this time. This includes arrangements for the rescheduling of final exams.

However, course work (reading and written) to be submitted after the publicized calendar due date, must be approved by the Registration Office. An extension form, available online, must be submitted to the Registration Office prior to the “last day to submit written work.” Requests received after this date will either be denied or incur additional penalty. For a full discussion of this policy, please consult the Student Handbook.

**Grades**
Faculty have six weeks from the course work due date to submit a final grade. Grades are posted on-line within twenty-four hours of receipt from the professor. Students are expected to check their CAMS student portal in order to access posted grades (unless instructed otherwise). Those individuals who need an official grade report issued to a third party should put their request in writing to the Registration Office.

**Returned Work**
Submitted hard-copy course work will be returned to the students if they provide a self addressed and postage-paid envelope with their final work. Work submitted without the appropriate envelope will be destroyed after the grade has been assessed and issued.