GORDON-CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MC 501: SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR MINISTRY
Spring Term, 2010
Monday, 6:00-9:00pm

Lead Professor: Samuel R. Schutz
Office: Goddard Library, Room #123
Tel.: Office, 978-646-4096; Cell, 978-406-1321; E-mail, samschutz@gmail.com
Office Hours: Mon., 4:30-5:30pm; Tues., 11:45am-12:45pm; Wed., 10:45am-1:45pm
[except Reading Weeks]. Sign-up sheet is on office door. OR by appointment.
Byington Scholar: Graedon Zorzi, graedon.zorzi@gmail.com

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Description: The foundational course in the Division of Ministry and an introduction to theological seminary. A beginning working knowledge of personal worship and of corporate worship leading to a lifetime of continuing education. Spiritual exercise and small group practice for personal application and for leadership in the church and in the community.

A. The intention is that in this introductory course you will:

1. Articulate a practical theology of worship to guide both personal worship and corporate worship.
2. Develop an understanding and appreciation of personal and corporate worship from a variety of Christian traditions.
3. Exercise personal spiritual disciplines that become foundational practices for the remainder of your seminary experience, and beyond seminary for life and ministry.
4. Describe and formally evaluate a corporate worship service from a tradition different than your own, based upon your clearly articulated theology of worship.
5. Develop a rich treasure of resources for your future teaching /leadership in personal and corporate worship.

B. This course addresses the Seminary’s Mission Statement as follows:

Mission Statement #1: Examining God’s Word regarding the meaning and practice of worship.

Mission Statement #2: Constructively critiquing worship in the best tradition of Christian scholarship.

Mission Statements #3 & #5: Learning to become skilled in the practice of worship personally and to provide resources for the local church to be an effective worshiping presence in the larger community.

Mission Statements #4 & #6: Working toward growing maturity in worship and leading the church toward maturity in worship for redemptive influence in the world.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

All Written Work, including the Reading/Project Report, is Due No Later than Friday, May 3 [Graduating Seniors, April 23] 4:00pm in my office (Goddard Library, Room #123).

1. REQUIRED READING

Due dates are listed in the Class Schedule. It is important for you to stay current with your reading in order for you to experience the integration of the reading with the lectures/discussions/and your subsequent practice of the material. Record the extent and quality of your reading on the Reading/Project Report (end of the syllabus) to be handed in with your other written work. In order for the class to work for you it is critical that you not get behind in your readings.

REQUIRED:

- Hollinger, Dennis P. *Head, Heart & Hands: Bringing Together Thought, Passion & Action*. InterVarsity, 2005 (200pp.)
- Davis, John Jefferson. “Real Presence, the Ontology of Worship, & the Renewal of Evangelical Doxological Imagination” (distributed in class)
- Myers-Briggs Type Inventory (self-scoring – available at GCTS BookCenter)

REQUIRED READING FOR THE SMALL GROUP PRACTICE OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES (see below, p. 4):


ADVANCED READING (NOT REQUIRED):

**FURTHER BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**FOUNDATIONS:**


**PRAXIS:**


**REFERENCE:**

2. PERSONAL WORSHIP

Choice:

- Participate in a one day Spiritual Retreat, hosted by Gordon-Conwell’s Pierce Center, one day off campus, 9am to approximately 4:30pm. Details to be given in class. The retreat will be devoted to the disciplines of prayer, silence, biblical contemplation, worship, & group reflection. Retreatants will be given opportunity for one-on-one soul care conversations during the retreat with a trained leader. Cost, including lunch & all materials, is $20.00. Sign-up instructions will be given in class.

You will record your participation on the Reading/Project Report (end of the syllabus).

- Write a “Devotional Classics Personal Journal” which you will submit with all of your papers at the end of the term, following Foster and Smith’s book listed above under your Required Texts. [Note: All students will read Devotional Classics, but only those who choose this option will develop a Personal Journal based upon selected “Reflection Questions” from the book. Follow the instructions in the next paragraph.]

If you elect this option, for each of the weeks of Devotional Classics readings, choose one of the selected readings and type out your prayerful and thoughtful answers to all of the “Reflection Questions” for that one reading (e.g., all of the “Reflection Questions” for C.S. Lewis, “Giving All to Christ,” p. 11). TYPE THE “REFLECTION QUESTIONS” & PAGE ON WHICH THE QUESTIONS APPEAR FOLLOWED BY YOUR WRITTEN REFLECTIVE RESPONSES.

Submit your “Devotional Classics Personal Journal” at the end of the term.

- Complete both the Spiritual Retreat and the “Devotional Classics Personal Journal.” If you choose this option, you may receive up to 7 extra points (7% extra credit) toward your final grade.

3. SMALL GROUP PRACTICE

You will gather with a small group of classmates (as assigned) for sharing spiritual formation in community—eight weeks of approximately 90 minutes each. [Incidentally, it may be of interest to you that many small groups choose voluntarily to continue to meet after the class is completed.]

You will prepare carefully in advance of your small group meetings by carrying out assignments in (1) Foster’s Streams of Living Water and by (2) Smith’s complementary volume, A Spiritual Formation Workbook. The schedule of assignments for these books is given in the “Class Schedule” (see below, pp. 7-8).

You will follow Smith’s A Spiritual Formation Workbook to guide your small group meetings. Prior to your small group meeting, you will (1) read and prayerfully reflect upon all the exercises in this workbook and (2) carry out at least one exercise of your choice from that week’s reading WHEN CALLED UPON IN THE WORKBOOK TO DO SO. [You will not hand in written responses to the exercises]. My evaluation of your work for this part of the course will be based upon your responses in the Reading/Project Report, where you will record the extent to which you fulfilled this part of the course, along with a self-evaluation of the quality of your own involvement. [See pp. 9ff below]
4. CORPORATE WORSHIP – CHURCH SITE-VISIT PAPER

Visit a worship service in a church that is very different from your own background. For example, if you are an Orthodox Presbyterian you may want to visit a Pentecostal or Charismatic church, or vice versa; etc. Describe the worship service from beginning to end. Discuss and respectfully evaluate the worship by reference to your own theology of corporate worship. [Resources will be given in class for this assignment throughout the semester, and particularly in Dr. Parrett’s lecture on “A Beginning Foundation for Corporate Worship”.

Your final paper should be approximately 5 pages, single spaced, double spaced between paragraphs [one inch margins top and bottom, left and right, and 12-point type – Times New Roman or equivalent].

5. FINAL PAPER: PERSONAL SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

This paper is the culmination of the entire semester’s course. Write a self-reflection paper looking in the mirror, as it were, before and after your participation in this course. Include in the paper your before and after:

♦ understanding of the meaning and practice of personal worship (2+ pp.)
♦ understanding of the meaning and practice of corporate worship (2+ pp.)
♦ implications of your above understandings for your own relationship with God, self, and others (2+ pp.)
♦ your personal struggles and advancements in these regards (2+ pp.)
♦ how you plan to proceed from here in your spiritual growth and development (2+ pp.)

Write out the above headings and address each of them separately. If you wish you may write an optional final section to consolidate your reflections. Your grade on the self-reflection paper will be determined by your thoughtful observations and constructive analyses relating to your own spiritual development, regardless of where you determine you may be at the present time. The paper should be a minimum of 10 pages [single-spaced with double spacing between paragraphs].
1. Reading of Required Texts*  
2. Personal Worship [Personal Retreat or “Devotional Classics Personal Journal”]**  
3. Small Group Practice  
4. Corporate Worship – Church Site-Visit Paper  
5. Final Paper: Personal Spiritual Reflection  

*Your final grade will be weighted heavily by whether you completed your required reading/practice on time. [See Reading/Project Report, pp. 9-10 below.]

**Participation in both the Personal Retreat and the “Devotional Classics Personal Journal” can earn up to 7 additional extra credit points.

All grading, including final course grade, is based upon the grading scale given in the seminary Catalog: A+=4.0; A=4.0; A-=3.7; B+=3.3; B=3.0; B-=2.7; C+=2.3; C=2.0; C-=1.7; D+=1.3; D=1.0; D-=0.7; F=0.0.

A student’s grade may be raised for active participation, and lowered for nonattendance or lack of participation. Use the attached Reading/Project Report form to report on all the reading and projects that you did for this course.

All work submitted must be typed and single-spaced, double spaces between paragraphs, 1” margins, Times New Roman or similar print, minimum 10 pt. font, maximum 12 pt. font. Provide a cover sheet with – name of the course, and date; the title of the paper; your name, telephone number, E-mail address, and seminary post office number.

NOTE CAREFULLY: If you want your papers returned at the end of the term in your P.O. Box, it is necessary for you to submit your papers in an envelope with YOUR NAME on the outside [I can then return them to you in the same envelope]. DO NOT SEAL or CLASP THE ENVELOPE. If you do not have a campus post office, you must provide a self-addressed envelope of adequate size and postage if you want your materials to be returned.

Papers submitted after the due date will be graded down on the basis of 1 full grade point (i.e., A to B) for each day late, except by prior approval due to personal crisis or unusual life events.
# CLASS SCHEDULE

- subject to change if necessary -

Required readings, to be *completed prior to class*, are given below. *In order for you to benefit from the class it is critical that you not get behind in your readings.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Professor:</th>
<th>Required:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1-25       | Orientation to the Class, and A Beginning Foundation for Personal Worship | Schutz | Thielicke, *A Little Exercise for Young Theologians*. Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 1  
Smith, *Workbook*, Introduction & Session 1, pp. 9-31  
Foster & Smith, *Devotional Classics*, pp. 1-61  
Optional: “*Devotional Classics* Personal Journal” from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4). Complete *Myers-Briggs Type Inventory* & self-score |
| 2-1        | A Beginning Foundation For Corporate Worship | Parrett | Webber, *Worship Old and New*  
Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 2  
Smith, *Workbook*, Session 2, pp. 32-36  
Foster & Smith, *Devotional Classics*, pp. 63-120  
Optional: “*Devotional Classics* Personal Journal” from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4) |
| 2-8        | The Holy Spirit in Life & Ministry | Polischuk | Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 3  
Foster & Smith, *Devotional Classics*, pp. 121-169  
Optional: “*Devotional Classics* Personal Journal” from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4) |
| 3-1        | The Dynamics of Spiritual Life and Godly Self Awareness | Currie | Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 4  
Foster & Smith, *Devotional Classics*, pp. 171-219  
Hollinger, *Head, Heart & Hands*  
Optional: “*Devotional Classics* Personal Journal” from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4) |
| 3-8        | Biblical Framework for the Practice of Personal & Corporate Worship | McDonough | Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 5  
Foster & Smith, *Devotional Classics*, pp. 221-277  
Optional: “*Devotional Classics* Personal Journal” from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4) |
| 3-15       | Narrative Spirituality: Life from a Historical Perspective | Adams | Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 6  
Smith, *Workbook*, Session 5, pp. 59-66  
Foster & Smith, *Devotional Classics*, pp. 279-329  
Optional: “*Devotional Classics* Personal Journal” from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4) |

**NO CLASS NEXT WEEK—FEB. 15—READING WEEK**

**NO CLASS ON FEB. 22**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Required</th>
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</table>
| 3-29       | Theological Framework for the Practice of Personal & Corporate Worship | Davis     | Foster, *Streams*, Ch. 7  
              |                  |                        | Smith, Workbook, Session 7, pp. 67-80  
              |                  |                        | Foster & Smith, Devotional Classics, pp. 331-375  
              |                  |                        | Davis, “Real Presence, the Ontology of Worship, & the Renewal of Evangelical Doxological Imagination”  
              |                  |                        | Optional: **Devotional Classics Personal Journal**  
              |                  |                        | from this week’s readings (instructions above, p. 4) |
| 4-12       | Missions Framework for the Practice of Personal & Corporate Worship | TBA       | Foster, *Streams*, Afterword, Appendix A & B  
              |                  |                        | Smith, *Workbook*, Session 8, pp. 81-108 |
| 4-19       | Integrative Lecture & Discussion                             | Schutz    | Your Reading is Completed! 😊 |
### Reading/Project Report – MC 501

**[Detach These Pages, 9-12, & Submit With Your End-of-Term Work]**

#### MY WEEKLY RECORD OF COMPLETED READINGS

**Circle YES or NO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>PRIOR TO CLASS ON 2-1, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thielicke, <em>A Little Exercise for Young Theologians.</em></td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster, <em>Streams</em>, Ch. 1</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, <em>Workbook</em>, Introduction &amp; Session 1, pp. 9-31</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you write your “letter to God”? (p. 31)</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster &amp; Smith, <em>Devotional Classics</em>, pp. 1-61 [Required]</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myers-Briggs Type Inventory &amp; self-score</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>PRIOR TO CLASS ON 2-8, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Webber, <em>Worship Old and New</em></td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster, <em>Streams</em>, Ch. 2</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, <em>Workbook</em>, Session 2, pp. 32-36</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you PRACTICE at least 1 exercise from pp. 35-36?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster &amp; Smith, <em>Devotional Classics</em>, pp. 63-120 [Required]</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Signature</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>PRIOR TO CLASS ON 3-1, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster, <em>Streams</em>, Ch. 3</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, <em>Workbook</em>, Session 3, pp. 37-43</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you PRACTICE at least 1 exercise from pp. 41-42?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster &amp; Smith, <em>Devotional Classics</em>, pp. 121-169 [Required]</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>PRIOR TO CLASS ON 3-8, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster, <em>Streams</em>, Ch. 4</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, <em>Workbook</em>, Session 4, pp. 44-50</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you PRACTICE at least 1 exercise from pp. 49-50?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollinger, <em>Head, Heart &amp; Hands</em></td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster &amp; Smith, <em>Devotional Classics</em>, pp. 171-219 [Required]</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>PRIOR TO CLASS ON 3-15, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster, <em>Streams</em>, Ch. 5</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith, <em>Workbook</em>, Session 5, pp. 51-58</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you PRACTICE at least 1 exercise from pp. 57-58?</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foster &amp; Smith, <em>Devotional Classics</em>, pp. 221-277 [Required]</td>
<td>YES NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
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<th>Signature</th>
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MC 501 READING/PROJECT REPORT
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Week 6. PRIOR TO CLASS ON 3-29, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:
   Foster, Streams, Ch. 6               YES   NO   Date__________________________
   Smith, Workbook, Session 6, pp. 59-66  YES   NO
   Did you PRACTICE at least 1 exercise from pp. 64-65?  YES   NO
   Davis, “Real Presence, the Ontology of Worship…”  YES   NO
   Foster & Smith, Devotional Classics, pp. 279-329 [Required]  YES   NO

Week 7. PRIOR TO CLASS ON 4-12, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:
   Foster, Streams, Ch. 7               YES   NO   Date__________________________
   Smith, Workbook, Session 7, pp. 67-80  YES   NO
   Did you PRACTICE at least 1 exercise from pp. 72-73?  YES   NO
   Foster & Smith, Devotional Classics, pp. 331-375  YES   NO

Week 8. PRIOR TO CLASS ON 4-19, I COMPLETED 100% OF READING/PRACTICE:
   Foster, Streams, Afterword, Appendix A & B               YES   NO   Date__________________________
   Smith, Workbook, Session 8, pp. 81-108  YES   NO
   [Read these materials for your future reference & practice.]
   Foster & Smith, Devotional Classics, pp. 331-375  YES   NO

Week 9. READING IS COMPLETED ! 😊

SUMMARY OF GENERAL COURSE READINGS COMPLETED
BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER WORK DUE (May 3)

   # Pages Read:

1. A Little Exercise for Young Theologians (41 pp.)..........................  _____
2. Head, Heart & Hands… (200 pp.)..............................................  _____
3. Spiritual Friendship…….(147pp.)...............................................  _____
4. Devotional Classics  (388 pp.)...................................................  _____
5. Worship Old and New...(256 pp.)...............................................  _____
6. “Real Presence, the Ontology of Worship” (34 pp.).........................  _____

TOTAL PAGES REQUIRED ......................................................  919 pp.
TOTAL PAGES READ .......................................................  _____pp.
% REQUIRED READING......................................................  _____
**SUMMARY OF SMALL GROUP READINGS COMPLETED**
**BY THE END OF THE SEMESTER WORK DUE (May 3)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th align="center"># Pages Read:</th>
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<tbody>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. Foster, *Streams of Living Water* (378 pp.) ........................................... ______
2. Smith, *A Spiritual Formation Workbook* (108 pp.) ...................................... ______

TOTAL PAGES REQUIRED ................................................................. 486 pp.
TOTAL PAGES READ ........................................... ______ pp.
% REQUIRED READING ........................................... ______%

Check the most accurate description of the manner in which you generally completed these small-group reading assignments:

Foster, *Streams of Living Water* –
( ) Hurriedly.  ( ) Reflectively and Prayerfully.

Smith, *A Spiritual Formation Workbook* –
( ) Hurriedly.  ( ) Reflectively and Prayerfully.

Circle below whether you completed for each session below ALL the reading with prayerful reflection, including exercises, in *A Spiritual Formation Workbook* prior to your Small Group Meeting in your personal preparation for the Small Group Meeting.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. “Discovering a Balanced Vision...”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. “Contemplative”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. “Holiness”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. “Charismatic”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. “Social Justice”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. “Evangelical”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. “Incarnational”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. “Discovering a Practical Strategy...”</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of missed small group sessions: ______
[give an explanation of any missed sessions]

Your own level of participation during the meeting of your small group (check one):

( ) Very Active
( ) Active
( ) Fairly Active
( ) Not Too Active
( ) Inactive
1. Did you attend the one-day Spiritual Retreat? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, your own level of participation during the retreat (choose one):

( ) Very Active / Very Attentive. ( ) Not Too Active / Not Too Attentive
( ) Active / Attentive. ( ) Inactive / Generally Distracted
( ) Fairly Active / Fairly Attentive.

2. Are you submitting in writing a “Devotional Classics Personal Journal” with your other course papers? ( ) Yes ( ) No

If so, check the most accurate description of the manner in which you generally completed these journal assignments:

( ) Hurriedly ( ) Reflectively and Prayerfully

**REGULAR WEEKLY CLASS SESSIONS**

How many classes did you miss? _______
[give an explanation of any missed classes]

Your own level of participation during class sessions (choose one):

( ) Very Active / Very Attentive. ( ) Not Too Active / Not Too Attentive
( ) Active / Attentive. ( ) Inactive / Generally Distracted
( ) Fairly Active / Fairly Attentive.

**YOUR VERIFICATION SIGNATURE**

**FOR THE ENTIRE READING/PROJECT REPORT**

I testify that I have answered all of the questions in this Reading/Project Report accurately and honestly to the best of my ability.

__________________________________________  ____________________________
Your Signature                                    Date

You may comment here or attach an additional page if you wish to add anything bearing upon your Reading / Project Report: