He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Psalm 1:3, NIV [Photo © D. Kevin Adams]

If then you are wise, you will show yourself rather as a reservoir than as a canal. For a canal spreads abroad water as it receives it, but a reservoir waits until it is filled before overflowing, and thus communicates, without loss to itself, its superabundant water...In the Church at the present day, we have many canals, few reservoirs.

Bernard of Clairvaux, c. 1120

I offer my heart to thee, Lord, promptly and sincerely.

John Calvin's motto
CH/MC 591: Dynamics of Spiritual Life

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary—Jacksonville campus
June 23-28, 2014

Course Instructor: Dr. Gwenfair Walters Adams
Class Meeting Time: Monday-Friday, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30-5:30 p.m., Optional Saturday evening workshop, 6:00-9:00 p.m.
Contact Information: TBA in class

Course Description and Objectives:

Drawing on the biblical Creation-Redemption narrative, the course trains students in Life Narrative Exegesis, a model of Christian spirituality that can be used in personal renewal, spiritual formation, direction, discipleship, mentoring, and counseling. Combining theological reflection, historical analysis, literary theory, and practical application, it explores key spiritual dynamics, equipping persons for ministry to those seeking a deeper life with Christ. Issues of discovering one’s design and calling, equipping for spiritual warfare, pursuit of intimacy with God, worship and obedience, and growing into Christ-likeness by the power of the Holy Spirit, will be dealt with in an integrated model.

In addition, the course will explore twelve influential models/texts of spiritual growth from the history of Christian Spirituality: Life of Antony, Augustine’s Confessions, Benedictine Monasticism, Medieval Mysticism, Ignatius’s Spiritual Exercises, Catechesis, Bunyan’s Pilgrim’s Progress, the Welsh Revival, Spiritual Direction; George Mueller, prayer and faith; Global Worship; and C. S. Lewis’ Voyage of the Dawntreader. Students will learn to identify the key spiritual dynamics at play in models of Christian formation and explore biblical principles for assessing the various approaches to Christian spirituality.

Class Sessions (subject to change if necessary and/or salutary):

Session #1 (Monday): A Theology of Spirituality
Session #2 (Tuesday): Story Spirituality and Life Narrative Exegesis
Session #3a (Wednesday): Life of Antony and Spiritual Warfare
Session #3b (Wednesday): Augustine’s Confessions and the Spirituality of Evangelism
Session #4a (Thursday): Benedictine Monasticism and the Structure of Life
Session #4b (Thursday): Margery Kempe’s Book, Medieval Mysticism, Spiritual Discernment, and the Pursuit of Intimacy with Christ
Session #5a (Friday): Ignatius’ Spiritual Exercises and Meditation on the Life of Christ
Session #5b (Friday): Luther’s Small Catechism and the Formational Nature of Catechesis
Session #5c (Friday): Bunyan’s *Pilgrim’s Progress*: Best-selling Narrative of Spiritual Formation

Session #6a (Saturday morning): The Welsh Revival, the Holy Spirit, and the Transformation of Community

Session #6b (Saturday morning): Spiritual Direction, Attentiveness, and Professional Ethics

Session #7a (Saturday afternoon): George Müller, Intercessory Prayer, and the Deepening of Faith

Session #7b (Saturday afternoon): Global Worship, Culture, and Christian Formation

Session #7c (Saturday afternoon): C. S. Lewis’ *Voyage of the Dawntreader*: Literature, Imagination, and Sacramental Spirituality

**Required Texts:**

1. Gerald L. Sittser, *Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Missionaries.* (IVP Books, 2010). 978-0830837458 – $14.49 on gcts.christianbook.com (or $5.69 for pdf download at gcts.christianbook.com) - 285 pages. – Read in total. If you have not taken CH 500 or 501/502 yet, it may be helpful to read this book before the course so that you have a chronological framework that will help you absorb the course lectures more fully.

2. Henry Chadwick, trans., *Saint Augustine: Confessions* (Oxford University Press, 1998, reprint ed.) (Please read at least 150 out of the 225 pages; read it in time for the session on Augustine) Books I-IX only. 0192833723 – Please bring to class on Augustine. - $6.29 on gcts.christianbook.com


5. *Worship and Mission for the Global Church* (William Carey Library, 2013) – 9780878084937 – $33.74 on gcts.christianbook.com - read at least 150 pages for the course; please read at least 100 pages before the session on Global Worship


Please bring the following pdf’s to the relevant classes. Links to the pdf’s are provided for you on CAMS. You do not need to read them before the class or for the page count. But you will need them for class.

1. Rule of St. Benedict
2. Life of Antony
3. Luther’s Small Catechism
4. Ignatius Loyola, Spiritual Exercises

Recommended for reference purposes:

Course Requirements: Students who are taking the course for credit are expected to attend all the class sessions, to complete at least 1300 pages from the required texts, to participate in and write an analysis of the Spiritual Life Log OR Zone exercise; to spend a 7-hour retreat alone with God and write an analysis paper about it; write a Mallon history research paper (historical analysis of your own autobiography); and write a Design & Mission paper. (If you are doing the course for only CH credit and would prefer to substitute a 12-15 page church history research paper on some aspect of spirituality for the Mallon paper, please contact the professor).

You will need to read from Augustine, Margery Kempe, John Bunyan, the Worship book, and C. S. Lewis before the class. The written assignments will require knowledge that you will gain during the class sessions, so please wait until the week of lectures before embarking on them.

1. Reading Report: Students need to submit a bibliography with brief annotations, listing all reading done for the class. Please total the pages and write the total at the end of the list. 1300 pages minimum from the required texts.

Building on the work you have done for and during the class sessions, describe and analyze your design, purpose, vision, and mission, etc. Detailed instructions will be given during the course.

3. Mallon history research paper (Life Narrative Analysis). Building on the work you have done for and during class sessions, write a history paper analyzing the key themes or core spiritual dynamics of your life up to the present. Analyze major themes, defining moments, lessons learned, etc. The paper should be 15-20 pages long, double-spaced, 12 pt. font. It will be graded on the basis of the quality of thought, insight, analysis, excellence of writing, and clarity of structure and expression. Include as an appendix your Life Narrative Analysis Diagram. More instructions will be given during the course. [If you would prefer not to write about your own life, please speak to the professor about a possible alternative.]

4. Retreat: Spend a full day (at least 7 hours) alone with the Lord, putting into practice what you are learning in the course that fits with your theological framework and conscience. The assignment will be assessed on the percentage of hours completed and the attainment of a
satisfactory level of thoughtfulness in the analysis involved in the written report. Please indicate the number of hours completed. (2-3 pages). More instructions will be given in class.

5. **21-Scenes chart or Spiritual Disciplines Log:** For at least four consecutive weeks, each student will be required to do one of the following:

a. Each week, fill in (or review) a 21-Scenes chart that organizes the week to come. More directions will be given during the class.

OR

b. Keep a log recording elements of his/her spiritual life. One intention of the exercise is to help provide accountability in order to assist students in developing healthy habits in maintaining spiritual disciplines. More directions will be given in class.

With either assignment, at the end of the time, students will write an analysis of their experience. The 2-3 page analysis should be submitted on the Final Due Date. The log and/or zone charts do not need to be submitted.

6. **Class attendance** - may be taken into account, with one point per unexcused missed two-hour block being taken off of the final grade for the course. More than three unexcused missed blocks may result in failure of the course.

**Final Due Dates for all assignments:**
All written work (except for retreat and reading) will be due on August 15, 2014. If, due to an emergency, you need an extension beyond August 15, contact the professor. The retreat analysis and reading report are due August 25, 2013. If you need an extension beyond August 25, please contact the Registrars' office before the deadline.

**Please mail work (postmarked on or before the due dates above) to:**
Dr. Gwenfair Walters Adams
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
130 Essex St.
S. Hamilton, MA 01982.
Please enclose a large self-addressed stamped envelope so that your papers may be returned to you.

**Grading Percentages:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Mission</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mallon Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log /Zone Analysis</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 hour Retreat &amp; Analysis</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The grades of the Mallon paper and Design & Mission assignments will be averaged, with the Mallon paper weighted twice as heavily as the Design & Mission paper. If all other work is done completely, the two-paper (Mallon and D&M) grade will stand. If other assignments are incomplete, the final grade will be reduced proportionately.

**Estimated Hours:**
Class sessions 30
Writing *Mallon* Paper 27
Writing *Design* Paper 21
Retreat & Analysis 10
Reading 45
Log/Zone Analysis 2
TOTAL 135

**Grading Scale** (from Catalog)
"Grade A is given for meeting with conspicuous excellence the demands which can fairly be made in relation to the requirements of the course. These demands would normally include unusual accuracy in fact, completeness in detail, perfection in form of work, independence of method, grasp of the subject as a whole and constructive imagination.
Grade B is given for exceeding the minimum of satisfactory attainment and for meeting certain aspects of the course with excellence.
Grade C is given for attaining satisfactory familiarity with the course and for demonstrating at least some ability to use this knowledge in a satisfactory manner.
Grade D is a passing mark but indicates unsatisfactory control over the material.
Grade F declares that the course has been failed.

- **Plagiarism** is considered a serious academic offense at GCTS. Please follow guidelines at [http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html](http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html).
- **Internet Usage:** Students are required to refrain from accessing the internet or playing computer/cell phone games, etc. at any point during class sessions, unless otherwise instructed by the professor. “Surfing the web,” checking email, and other internet-based activities are distracting to other students and to the professor, and prevent the student from fully participating in the class sessions.
- **Intellectual Property / Privacy Rights:** To protect the professor’s intellectual property rights with regard to classroom content and to protect the privacy of the professor and other students, students are required to refrain from audio, photographic, and video recording of classes, as well as audio, video, photographic, and written publication (including internet posting and broadcasting) or live transmission of classroom proceedings.