Although students and faculty continually discuss and reflect upon topics of biblical, theological, and spiritual importance, the pursuit of theological education can be hazardous to one’s relationship with God. Overexposure to sacred stories and symbols can create spiritual “dead zones” in some people’s lives where vital communications with the Lord drops off to nothing. Constant analyses of Scriptures for exegetical assignments often leave scant fragments of the Bread of Life to feed the souls of the learner. In addition, a life of extreme busyness can almost eliminate the quietness, patience, and attentiveness essential to cultivating a life in the Spirit of Jesus.

This fall’s integrative seminar will explore how students perceive the influence of seminary education on their sense of spiritual vitality. The basic source of data will be a simple online survey. The results of this study will provide the basis for a forum of discussion regarding the states of our souls as ministers and leaders-in-preparation.

Registration

Integrative Seminars are required academic events for students at GCTS. How many of these events you must attend are dependent upon the length of your program and when you started (see below, Attendance Policies, for more details). Students intending to participate in the fall 2009 seminar must register for it as they would any other course. To register, include “Fall Integrative Seminar IS504” on your fall registration form. If you have already registered for fall classes, simply complete an Add-Drop form and submit it to the Registrar’s office before August 25, 2009. There is no charge for this event. If you want to invite a guest, contact Dr. Steve Klipowicz to discuss this possibility.

Seminar Pre-Assignment

The following should be completed before the seminar and written elements of the assignment should be brought to the event for credit. Please include your name and student I.D. # on written work.

1. Go online before August 26, 2009 to https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=w3FIQnHojtjJilRqffBoPQA_3d_3d and complete the online survey regarding spiritual vitality at the Seminary. The password for the survey is “gcts” Make sure you only complete the survey once. Please complete the survey even if you do not intend to participate in the seminar.
3. Create a personal spiritual assessment by answering the following. Please write out your answers and bring this paper to the seminar with your name and ID number on it.
What is the nature and quality of your relationship to God? How consistent and vital are your times of intimacy with the Lord? What seems to be lacking and why? How varied and comprehensive are your approaches of spiritual formation? What models of spiritual development and formation guide your devotional practices? How do accountability relationships or spiritual friendships foster your involvement in personal and corporate spiritual disciplines? What are you doing to enhance the spiritual growth of others? What can you do to insure that seminary life does not erode your walk with God? Who do you pray with on a regular basis? How does your faith help you to trust God in difficult situations, to do things out of your comfort zone?

Attendance Policies

For students starting degree programs after Spring 2006

All degree students starting classes in the summer of 2006 and afterwards will be required to attend a complete sequence of six Integrative Seminars (IS501 – 506). Dual degree students or students who earn more than one degree will not need to do more than six while. Although students do not need to take the six seminars in a specific order, students must attend and complete requirements for a particular seminar under each of six themes. Students may miss particular seminars without any penalty provided that students ultimately do attend six seminars under the above six course offerings.

Students who started seminary before fall 2008 may count the New Student Orientation as one of the required Integrative Seminars. Students beginning in fall 2008 are not credited for the New Student Orientation but must complete the required Academic Writing workshop.

To complete a seminar, students must enroll, attend the event, and complete all required assignments. These events are graded pass-fail, but do not influence a student’s GPA.

Integrative Seminars will be able to be made up if students miss specific seminars due to various reasons. The make up process will require completing all necessary course work, viewing a specific seminar on video, reading a related book and paying a make-up fee.

Students who are transferring into the Seminary will be pro-rated in terms of standing to determine the actual number of Integrative Seminars needed to be made up. Students who commute from considerable distances will be able to complete the sequence of six seminars either through attendance or doing the seminars by the make-up procedure.

Students in degree programs before Summer 2006

Students who began classes before the summer of 2006 simply must complete six seminars during their tenure at GCTS. These seminars do not have to be in a certain order or sequence. If a student completes a degree program in less than six semesters, the number required will be pro-rated to the number of semesters in attendance. Attendance at the New Student Orientation is counted as one of the required events.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Steve Klipowicz
Director of Ministerial Formation