Loyola University New Orleans
Loyola Institute for Ministry
Spirituality for Ministers
Initial Syllabus
15M-LIM-G827-W01

Instructor: Tom Ryan
Email: tfryan@loyno.edu
Phone: 504-865-2069

Important! You will be notified by email when your Blackboard site is available (normally the week before class begins). Please check your Loyola email account for instructions. Please reply to the instructor’s email when you receive it to confirm that you are ready to begin the course. If you experience difficulties in finding your email address, please contact Diane Blair: db Blair@loyno.edu.

Course Description

This course will discuss the theological foundations of the Christian life and explore how ministry is rooted in and gives expression to the minister’s relationship with God. Students will be invited to reflect on prayer, discernment and spiritual growth in the context of finding God in the midst of ministry. The course will present a holistic spirituality that centers on discipleship and life in the Spirit.

Course Goals

As a result of this course, students will

• deepen their theological understanding, professional competence and practical ministerial skills in the area of spirituality;
• examine critically their own beliefs, attitudes, and practices in their relationship with God;
• integrate their religious experience and their ministry; and
• explore the implications of beauty and liturgy for their spirituality.

Required Readings

Other articles made available through the Library or Blackboard.

Library and Technical Assistance

Assistance with research, technology, and Blackboard is available under the Handouts and Tutorials heading at http://researchguides.loyno.edu/. Specific research guidance for LIM
courses is available at http://researchguides.loyno.edu/ministry and for this course at http://researchguides.loyno.edu/lim christianministryforministers. Please familiarize yourself with these sources.
For general library assistance, please see http://library.loyno.edu/help/. The librarian assigned to assist LIM students is Dr. Brian Sullivan whose contact information appears on the LIM Research Guide pages.

Evaluation and Course Requirements

Week 1 Paper and Bibliography

**Paper (5%)**: Please write a 500-700 word essay that describes your ministry, gives your initial understanding of spirituality (jot down some initial ideas before you begin your course readings if possible!), discusses your initial understanding of spirituality for your ministry, and concludes with questions you have about spirituality and/or directions you’d like to take in the study of spirituality. This is not a research paper and should not draw on any sources beyond your own experience and wisdom. You will not be graded on whether you are right or wrong but on how well you follow the assignment and the applicable paper guidelines (see below).

**Bibliography (5%)**: Your final paper will address the implications of spirituality for your ministry. Please develop a bibliography (i.e. simply a list) of at least 12 items (you don’t need to read them yet) that you could conceivably (but might not) use as resources for your final paper—so resources that address the connection between spirituality and your ministry (or that just address your ministry or spirituality if you can’t find enough on the connection between the two). The bibliography should be formatted in MLA style. Please see the LIM Guide to Written Theological Reflection for assistance. The bibliography should contain at least

- **Five** books from presses that are appropriate for graduate-level study (list will be posted on Blackboard and is available by email). You should use WorldCat to search for these.
- **Five** scholarly articles. You should use ATLA or Catholic Periodical and Literature database for these. See the following for a comparison of popular and scholarly sources: http://researchguides.loyno.edu/popularandscholarly. See the Library’s Research Guide for this focus area for a selection of scholarly journals (especially Spiritus) you might consult.
- **Two** articles from popular sources. (a list of suggested popular sources is available on Blackboard and by email).

**Participation in Weekly Sessions (50% of Graduate Student evaluation; 100% of ceu evaluation)**

The sessions of this course include assignments for reading, audio segments and discussion questions. In addition to reading all the materials assigned and listening to assigned audio segments, all students will also be expected to participate in the class discussions by way of the Discussion Board. Participation in class discussions accounts for 50% of the grade for graduate students. CEU credit (100%) is also determined by weekly participation in the discussions and session assignments.
Graduate Student Final Essay (35%)

Graduate students will complete a 12-15 page research-reflection essay, integrating the course material and the student’s ministry experience and research. As in other LIM courses, students should follow the guidelines provided in the Guide to Written Theological Reflection, available in the Course Resources Section of Blackboard, and the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers (latest edition) for proper writing and citation style in reflection papers. A social media option will also be available.

Papers Guidelines

Papers should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font and 1-inch margins. They should be submitted through Blackboard. They should be carefully proofread for coherence, clarity, grammar and spelling. They will be evaluated on content, style, and persuasiveness. All sources used or relied on must be carefully, properly and thoroughly documented using MLA style. For assistance, please consult LIM’s Guide to Written Theological Reflection. If there is any question about any of this, please ask.

Grading

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1 Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1 Bibliography</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Exercise (TBA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
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Assignments for Weeks 1 and 2 and Schedule for Rest of Term

Session 1 Introductions

Starts May 25 at Noon CDT and Concludes June 1 at Noon CST

- Introduction on Blackboard (No Discussion Board Otherwise)
- Week 1 Paper
- Week 1 Bibliography

Session 2 Spirituality

Starts June 1

- Optional whole-class conversation, tentatively Monday June 8 at 7PM CDT. Those who participate in this conversation do not need to participate in Discussion Board this week. Accommodations will be made for students who live outside of U.S.
- “Christian Spirituality for Pastoral Ministry Focus Area” (4 pages) (Available on Blackboard and by Email from Instructor).
- “Spirituality for Ministers Introduction” (2 pages) (Available on Blackboard and by Email from Instructor).
• Re-read "Spirituality for Ministers," from the Intro to Practical Theology course book (Available among your Intro to Practical Theology readings, on Blackboard, and by Email from Instructor).
• Cunningham and Egan, Christian Spirituality, Chapters One and Three.

Session 3 Wholistic Spirituality, June 8

Session 4 Prayer in the Spiritual Life, June 15

Session 5 Discernment, June 22
• Optional whole-class conversation, tentatively Monday June 29 at 7PM CDT. Those who participate in this conversation do not need to participate in Discussion Board this week. Accommodations will be made for students who live outside of U.S.

Session 6 A Spirituality for Justice, June 29

Session 7 Beauty and Spirituality, July 6

Session 8 Communal and Liturgical Spirituality, July 13
• Optional whole-class conversation, tentatively Monday July 20 at 7PM CDT. Those who participate in this conversation do not need to participate in Discussion Board this week. Accommodations will be made for students who live outside of U.S.

Session 9 TBA, July 20

Final Paper Due July 31