

HORIZON COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

P*147 – Spiritual Disciplines II (3 Credits)

Fall 2009

Prerequisite – Spiritual Disciplines 1

Instructor: John Drisner, M.A.

Textbooks: *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard J. Foster. Harper San Francisco, 1998
Longing for God, Richard J. Foster and Gayle D. Beebe, IVP Books, 2009
Horizon College and Seminary Student Journal, 2009-10
Rees Howells Intercessor, Norman Grubb, CLC Publishing, 1988.

Supplementary Textbooks – Optional

Praying Hyde, E.G. Carre (ed), Bridge Logos, 2004
Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian life, Donald S. Whitney, Nav Press, 1991

Course Introduction

Advanced Spiritual Disciplines is a practical, devotional course that focuses on the importance of the classical spiritual disciplines in the believer's life with the goal of inspiring students to a life time commitment of observing these disciplines. There is a particular emphasis on the discipline of prayer in this course. While the course will have some major cognitive elements it is hoped the student will be touched in their heart to make the inward, outward, and corporate disciplines an ongoing part of their lives.

Learning – Outcome Goals

In this course students will:

- 1 - gain an understanding of the twelve classical spiritual disciplines as outlined by Foster..
- 2 – appreciate the importance and purpose of the spiritual disciplines.
- 3 – become familiar with praying according to the model of The Lord's Prayer
- 4 - memorize key scriptural promises on the subject of prayer.
- 5 - become comfortable praying alone and in a group setting.
- 6 - study some of the spiritual leaders of church history
- 7 – see the practical benefits of keeping and maintaining a spiritual journal.
- 8 - see the role of prayer in maintaining spiritual intimacy.

Tentative Outline of Topics

- 1 – The Importance of the Spiritual Disciplines
- 2 – The Goal of the Spiritual Disciplines
- 3 – An Overview of the Spiritual Disciplines
- 4 – The Inner Disciplines
- 5 – The Outward Disciplines
- 6 – The Corporate Disciplines

Grading and Assignments

Class Participation	10%
Memorization	10%
The Journal	15%
Day of Solitude Journal	10%
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	15%
Final Exam	30

Notes on Grading and Assignment

Class Participation – Spiritual Disciplines II requires excitement and participation from the student. Attendance and participation in class discussion and prayer opportunities are a major component of the learning experience. Students are expected to read the book *Rees Howells Intercessor* and be able to interact with his life story in a class specifically designed for this purpose.

Memorization - Time will be taken during class to work on the memorization of "The Lord's Prayer" from The King James Version and five prayer promises from the writings of the Apostle John in the version of the student's choice. Students should expect to have to give some of their own time to this memorization project as well. Being able to write out The Lord's Prayer and five prayer promises from the writings of the Apostle John will be part of the final exam.

Day of Solitude Journal – During the second semester our class will be participating in a Day of Solitude and Silence. A journal for this day recording your spiritual journey with silence and solitude must be handed in for grading.

Assignment 1 – Students will be assigned a partner. As partners they will be required to lead the class in a twenty to thirty minute discussion on one of the classical spiritual disciplines outlined by Richard Foster in the *Celebration of Discipline*. Each student and their partner will have the freedom of choosing the spiritual discipline they would like to lead a discussion on a first come – first served basis. The mark will be based on the notes handed in by the pair of students from which the discussion was led and the quality of the discussion the students are able to generate.

Assignment 2 – Read *Longing for God* and do a five page report on one of the seven paths of Christian devotion. This report should indicate how the various individuals of church history that Foster and Beebe used to illuminate the path you chose to write on practiced the path of discipline and how their practice of the discipline may have differed the others within the

section. Special attention must be given in your report on how this discipline will affect and effect your life. References to at least three other authors and their writings must be a part of this paper.

Spiritual Journal – A weekly journal that tracks your practice of the spiritual disciplines must be handed in at the beginning of each class each week. It will be available for you to pick up after 2 pm each Wednesday. Weekly Journal – Each student in Advanced Spiritual Disciplines must complete the weekly Horizon College and Seminary Journal and hand it in for grading at the beginning of each Wednesday class.

Bibliography

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Horizon College/University of Saskatchewan Assessment of Student Work

90-100% [Exceptional] – a superior performance with consistent strong evidence of:

- a comprehensive, incisive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make insightful critical evaluation of the material given;
- an exceptional capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

80-89% [Excellent] – an excellent performance with strong evidence of:

- a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;
- a very good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

70-79% [Good] – a good performance with evidence of:

- a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;
- a good understanding of relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- some capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- a good ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner.

60-69% [Satisfactory] – a generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:

- an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;
- a fair understanding of the relevant issues;
- a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;
- a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner.

50-59% [Minimal Pass] – a barely acceptable performance with evidence of:

- a familiarity with the subject material;
- some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;
- some understanding of relevant issues;
- some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, which are only partially successful.

Under 50% [Failure] – an unacceptable performance