

**Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary
Orchard Lake, Michigan**

SP 642 Spiritual Masters

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Mondays 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Two Credit Hours

CAC 109

Course description:

The course is intended to present selected saints and their spirituality. Through the uses of selected spiritual classics, these guided readings will enable the student to learn various approaches to spiritual life within the broader context of Catholic spirituality.

The student, once familiarized with the lives and teachings of the selected masters, the student will be better able to appreciate the beauty, diversity, and richness of the Catholic Christian spiritual life. Special emphasis will be placed on how these treasures may be understood and applied to our lives today.

Goals:

- To become familiar with the significant figures and their teachings in the history of Christian spirituality.
- To gain a better understanding and appreciation for the search for a living experience of God.
- To be able to apply the wisdom and experience of the Church to the student's personal spiritual life.
- To cultivate a love for learning the Church's treasures of spiritual traditions

The course will integrate the following methodologies: lecture, discussion, analytical reading, and visual illustrations.

Grading:

The following will constitute the final grade:

- 50% final exam
- 30% midterm exam
- 20% two, three page reflection papers

Academic Integrity:

“Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Violations in this area are considered a serious offense and may result in a failing grade and/or dismissal from the program (Catalogue)

Course Delivery Method(s):

The course will be presented in the classroom using the traditional lecture format. Questions and discussions are an integral aspect of the course. Materials will be made available on the Populi platform. Additional discussion topics will also be posted on Populi.

Grade Interpretation

Grade Honor	Points	Percent Interpretation	
A	4.0	100-94	Exceptional/Outstanding performance
A-	3.7	93-90	Superior
B+	3.3	89-87	Very Good
B	3.0	86-83	Good/Graduate level performance
B-	2.7	82-80	Average
C+	2.3	79-76	Below Average/Below graduate performance
C	2.0	75-70	Minimum Acceptable
C-	0	69 and below	Fail
F	0		Failing - In Pass/Fail courses no honor points
P	0		Passing - In Pass/Fail courses; no honor points
W	0		Withdrawal - No credit or honor points
I	0		Incomplete - No credit or honor points

Incomplete Grades - An Incomplete, “I,” grade is given in exceptional situations to a student whose course work has been satisfactory, but who because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances has been unable to complete all course requirements. The student must request the “I” from the instructor before the final class of the course. A Petition for an “I” Grade is filed with the Academic Dean’s Office and Registrar’s Office. The work is to be completed no later than eight weeks from the end of the term. If an “I” is not removed by the final designated date, it automatically becomes an “F.”

Drop/Add Withdrawal - A student may drop, add or withdraw from this course only after having complied with all the procedures outlined in the current Catalog.

General Guidelines:

These are taken from the Catalog or the Web site except where indicated:

Guidelines for Academic Study - Students are expected to devote at least 2-3 hours of study per week, per credit. A normal reading load is about 500 pages per credit and research writing of about 5 pages per credit.

Standards for Written Assignments - Class assignments must be submitted electronically and in hard copy, unless otherwise indicated by the instructor, and proofread for proper grammar, spelling, punctuation, and form. In preparing research papers requiring documentation, students are to follow the guidelines in Kate L. Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, (latest edition). The manual is available in the Campus Bookstore and Library. Students are required to reference the Student Writing Guide posted on the Seminary Web Site. The Writing Center is available to aid students in preparing written and/or oral assignments.

Disabilities Accommodation – Students enrolled in this course who have documented disabilities should contact the professor at the first class session. Reasonable accommodations will be made to ensure that students with disabilities have access to course materials and interaction in modes in which they can receive them.

Class recording – Prior permission to record class lectures must be obtained. A signed affidavit may be required. Consult the professor before any recording takes place.

Class Attendance – Seminarians are required to be punctual and regularly in attendance at class sessions. Non seminarian students enrolled in online courses may chose, at their discretion, to attend classes in person or online in real time or time shifted. At the opening of a term, instructors will inform students of any specific policies governing attendance. Frequent absences may result in an academic penalty and/or failure in the course. Students should confer with the instructor concerning foreseen absences.

Inclement Weather - Students are expected to exercise good judgment and precaution in determining the safety of travel from their areas. Classes that have resident faculty and students exclusively will meet.

Academic Integrity - Students are expected to maintain personal honesty and professional integrity in examinations, assigned papers, and research projects. Source materials and citations used in the preparation of papers are to be indicated by proper documentation. Copyright laws should be honored when duplicating materials. Plagiarism and cheating are a breach of academic integrity. Plagiarism is defined as: “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (a created production) without crediting the source: to commit literary theft: present as new and original an idea or product derived from an existing source” (Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary 9th ed, Springfield, MA: Merriam, 1981, p. 870). Violations in this area are considered a serious offense. If a student is suspected of plagiarism, the following procedure is to be followed:

1. When the instructor suspects a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor may confront the student.
2. If the instructor has evidence that a student has plagiarized an assignment, the instructor should confront the student with the evidence. The student has an opportunity to explain what happened.
3. If the instructor is convinced that plagiarism has occurred, the instructor may suggest a course of action: e.g. rewrite the assignment and receive a grade or the student may take a “0” for the assignment and not rewrite the assignment.

4. The Academic Dean should be informed of the outcome of this discussion and a note will be placed in the student's file. The respective formation mentor is informed by the Academic Dean.
5. If there are repeated offenses, the student will fail the course.
6. The student who fails a required course must repeat it.
7. A student who plagiarizes or cheats consistently in the academic program will be dismissed from the program.
8. For dismissal from the academic program, a board consisting of the Rector, Academic Dean, the student's mentor, the faculty member(s) affected by the student's plagiarism and a faculty member of the student's choosing will be convened and a decision rendered. This decision will be communicated to the student by the Rector.

Cheating is defined as "to deprive of something valuable by the use of deceit or fraud; to influence or lead by deceit, trick, or artifice; to elude or thwart by or as if by outwitting <cheat death>intransitive verb: to practice fraud or trickery; to violate rules dishonestly <cheat at cards><cheating on a test> ("cheat." Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary. 2010. MerriamWebster Online. 5 May2010

<http://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/cheat>). In short, "cheating is defined as the intentional act of breaking the rules, or attempting to achieve personal gain through fraud or deceit. With children, cheating usually refers to academic fraud, such as copying answers from another student while taking an exam, or breaking the rules in a game" (Dianne K. Daeg de Mott, Thomson Gale, Detroit, Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood and Adolescence,1998).

Examples of cheating in an academic setting include, but are not limited to:

- a. copying answers for an exam from another student;
- b. writing out the answers to an exam beforehand and turning them in at the time of the exam;
- c. obtaining the answers to an exam prior to the exam and using them during the exam in some way;
- d. having another person take an exam or write a paper for you;
- e. continuing to write answers to an exam after the time has expired (timed examinations);
- f. obtaining copies of an exam or answer key to aid in studying for the exam or preparing an assignment;
- g. passing notes to another student during an exam;
- h. asking another student for help during the writing of an exam;
- i. using another person's paper, presentation, reflection, etc. and handing it in as your own work;
- j. using electronic devices such as computers or mobile phones to obtain answers during an exam.

(The term "exam" may be substituted with "quiz," "paper," or "presentation" as the case may be.)

Required texts:

Conferences, St John Cassian

Confessions, St Augustine of Hippo

Introduction to the Devout Life, St Francis de Sales
The Spiritual Exercises, St Ignatius of Loyola
The Story of a Soul, St Thérèse of Lisieux
The Private Writings of the "Saint of Calcutta", Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C.

Suggested selected books for a reflection paper:

The Holy Will of God, Leo Pyzalski
Abandonment to Divine Providence, Jean-Pierre de Caussade
The Dialogue, St Catherine of Siena
The Soul's Journey into God, St Bonaventure of Bagnoregio
The Ladder of Divine Ascent, John Climacus
The Cloud of Unknowing, Anonymous
The Ascent of Mount Carmel, St John of the Cross
The Practice of the Love of Jesus Christ, St Alphonsus of Liguori
Letters, Volume I, Correspondence with His Spiritual Directors (1910-1922), St Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

Course calendar:

8 January	Introduction
15 January	St John Cassian
22 January	St John Cassian/St Augustine
29 January	St Augustine
5 February	St Ignatius of Loyola
12 February	St Ignatius of Loyola
19 February	Midterm exam
5 March	St Francis de Sales
12 March	St Francis de Sales
19 March	St Thérèse of Lisieux
9 April	St Thérèse of Lisieux
16 April	St Teresa of Calcutta
23 April	St Teresa of Calcutta

Notice of Change:

The information in this syllabus is subject to change. The professor reserves the right to make any necessary changes.