

**Course Syllabus:**                    **Archdiocese of Detroit**  
**SS Cyril & Methodius Theological Seminary**  
**3535 Commerce Road, Orchard Lake, MI 48324**

**Course:**                                **Spiritual Masters SP 762**  
**2 credits;                                Winter 2017**

**Professor:**                            **REV. TOMASZ SEWERYN, PH.D.**  
  
tseweryn@sscms.edu

**Meeting times:**                    **Tuesday                    6.30 pm – 8.20 pm, Room 108**

**Office Hours:**                    Students may consult with the professor on Wednesdays 2:00-3:00 pm  
or by an appointment, Office room, or by email tseweryn@sscms.edu

**Course Description:**

This course encompasses a study of the theory, development, and current practice of Spiritual Direction as a ministry. The teaching how to directly assist individuals in developing and cultivating their personal relationship with God. What should Spirituality be like and what Spiritual Direction be like? The course includes such topics as the roles and relationship of director and directee, stages of spiritual development, discernment of spirits, vocation. One of the most important part will be understanding that spiritual direction is always the work of invisible God, assisting by visible and effective instrument of spiritual father.

This course offers historical, theological study of the spiritual direction, focusing on the dimensions of the sacramental grace, prayer and contemplation into the lives of the individuals.

This will require a final examination on the understanding of the principle of Spirituality, its role within the economy of salvation, its goods and ends in the lives of today's believers.

**Learning Goals, Course SLOs (State Learning Outcomes):**

*After completing this course, you should, among other things, be able to:*

1. Characterize the basis for proper understanding of spiritual direction.
2. To gain a better appreciation for the practice of spiritual direction in the life of the Church as well as in the life of the individual Christians.
3. Interpret the essential elements of spiritual life on relation to the divine life.
4. Recognize and affirm the principles and regulations to be a spiritual director.
5. Indicating the base and the needs for spiritual practices at daily basis.
6. Explain and utilize the necessary conditions for cultivating principles in the student's personal spiritual life base on some example of famous spiritual directors.
7. Explain the necessity of spiritual development of the Christians in nowadays.
8. To learn how to deal with the most common issues of spiritual direction in a parish setting.

**Required Texts:** /Only some exceptions indicated by the professor from:/

- IRÉNÉE HAUSHERR, *Spiritual direction in the early Christian East*, Kalamazoo, MI 1990.
- WILLIAM A. BARRY, *Spiritual direction and the encounter with God : a theological inquiry*, New York 1992.
- WILLIAM A. BARRY; WILLIAM J. CONNOLLY, *The practice of spiritual direction*, New York 1982.

### **Church Documents:**

- VATICAN COUNCIL II, *Gaudium et Spes*, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, Vatican 1965. /GS/
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Vatican 1994.
- JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical *Dives in Misericordia*, Rome 1980 /DM/
- JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Exhortation *Vita Consecrata*, Rome 1996. /VC/
- JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Exhortation *Reconciliatio et Penitentia*, Rome 1984. /RP/

### **Optional texts:**

- JEAN LAPLACE, *Preparing for spiritual direction*, Chicago 1975.
- JANET RUFFING, *Spiritual direction: beyond the beginnings*, New York 2000.
- KEVIN G CULLIGAN (KEVIN GERALD), *Spiritual direction: contemporary readings*, Locust Valley, NY 1983.
- FRANCIS K. NEMECK; MARIE TH. COOMBS, *The way of spiritual direction*, Wilmington, Del. 1985
- CHAS. HUGO DOYLE (CHARLES HUGO), *Guidance in spiritual direction*, Westminster 1958.
- DAVID L. FLEMING, *The Christian ministry of spiritual direction*, St. Louis, MO 1988.
- MICHAEL DOWNEY, *Understanding Christian Spirituality*, New York 1996.
- MARY A. HUDDLESTON, *Springs of Spirituality*, Liguori, MO 1995.
- *The Study of Spirituality*, Edit. Ch. Jones, New York 1986.
- MICHAEL COX, *Handbook of Christian Spirituality*, San Francisco 1985.
- JAMES J. BACIK, *Catholic Spirituality Its History and Challenge*, New York 2002.
- *Spirituality and Moral Theology. Essays from a Pastoral Perspective*, Ed. J. Keating, New York 2000.
- RALF MARTIN, *The Fulfillment of All Desire*, Steubenville, OH 2006.
- PATRICIA H. EARL, *Building the Builders: Faith Formation in Spirituality*, Arlington, VA 2013.
- *The Journey of Western Spirituality*, Ed. A. W. Sadler, 1980.
- JOHN T. CARMODY, DENISE L. CARMODY, *Christian Uniqueness & Catholic Spirituality*, New York
- JOSEPH DE GUIBERT, *The Theology of the Spiritual Life*, New York 1953.
- WOLFHART PANNENBERG, *Christian Spirituality*, Philadelphia 1983.

**All materials are available at the Seminary's Library. Other materials supplied in xerox copies.**

**Course Delivery Methods:** On-ground, in weekly lectures in the classroom. The course is conducted with the use of lectures, instructor facilitated discussion, study questions for each topic, and visual presentations

**Course Mechanics:** You will be responsible for having read the material assigned for some class before having come to class. Students will be able to prepare a batch of material from a given lesson as their final test.

**Grading Criteria:** The following constitute the finale grade:

Participation: 20%  
 Midterm test: 20%  
 Assignments: 20%  
Final exam: 40%

The following grade scale is as published in the Catalog.

**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

**\*Road Map: Course Calendar**

Date	Unit with:	Topic	Assignment
01/17	<i>Biblical Studies</i>	INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUALITY	-----
01/24	<i>Biblical Studies</i>	INTRODUCING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	-----
01/31	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOD AND INDIVIDUALS	-----
02/07	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DIRECTEE AND THE LORD	YES
02/14	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE	-----
02/21	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	HELPING A PERSON NOTICE AND SHARE INTERIOR FACTS	-----
03/07	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	A THEOLOGY OF DISCERNMENT OF SPIRITS	YES
03/14		MIDTERM TEST	-----
03/21	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	ASPECTS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIRECTOR AND DIRECTEE	-----
03/28	<i>Fundamental Theology</i>	BECOMING A SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR	-----
04/4	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	THE BASIS FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIRECTOR AND DIRECTEE	YES
04/11	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	THE NEED FOR OPENNESS OF HEART	-----
04/18	<i>Spiritual Theology</i>	DISTURBANCES IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DIRECTOR AND DIRECTEE	-----
04/25		SUPERVISION IN SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	YES
05/2		FINAL EXAM	

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. *(Not in Catalog with grades)*

**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. *To this may be added any requirements of the professor mandating use of the Writing Center,*

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. *(Should be added to the Catalog)*

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. Merriam-Webster 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.)**

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