

**NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Spiritual Formation 7205 From Hostility to Hospitality**  
**Fall 2011, 1 credit**  
**Monday, 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

**DRAFT SYLLABUS: WATCH FOR UPDATES**

**Professors:**

Paul Koptak, N-38 Nyvall Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor 773-244- 6227   pkoptak@northpark.edu  
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*Thus, the spiritual life is that constant movement between the poles of loneliness and solitude, hostility and hospitality, illusions and prayer. The more we come to the painful confession of our loneliness, hostilities and illusions, the more we are able to see solitude, hospitality and prayer as part of the vision of our life.* Henri Nouwen, Reaching Out

**Course Process and Values:**

This spiritual formation course is designed to increase our awareness of the movement within ourselves, in the communities of which we are a part, and in our relationship with God, between hostility and hospitality. It hopes to encourage the development of the spiritual practices that facilitate hospitality toward all God's creation and to diminish those life practices that impede relationships oriented toward genuine respect, love, justice and transformation.

**Learning Outcomes:**

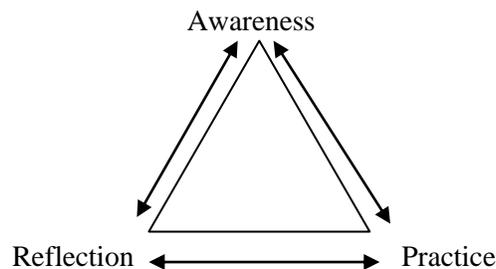
M.Div: *"Becoming spiritually formed through growing in faith, personal character, self-care, and the various competencies required for effective ordained ministry".*

MACF: *"Becoming spiritually formed through growing faith, personal character, self-care, and the various competencies required for effective ministry in Christian formation".*

MACM: *"Becoming spiritually formed through growing in faith, personal character, self-care, and one area of particular specialization required for effective ministry in the church, including the ability to articulate the theological basis for that specialization".*

**Guiding Questions:**

How do we cooperate with the Holy Spirit's leading in the inner movement from hostility to hospitality?  
What practices of hospitality nurture and follow from this inner disposition?



## Course Requirements:

1. Attendance and participation in group discussion
  - For any and all absences (including those for seminary sponsored courses and mission trips) class members shall:
    - a. Inform the small group as to the reason for the absence and,
    - b. Submit a written response to the discussion questions for the day and email them to the group leaders and group peers.
  - Students whose absences exceed two will be referred to the course professors for adjudication. Since participation is the requirement for successfully completing the class, it may be necessary to repeat the class.
  - These policies and procedures are built on the convictions that small group process and mutual accountability are core educational values for this course. We hope you will all be well this semester and not need to miss class, but in case you do we hope this will clarify what needs to be done.
  
2. Completion of assigned readings and written responses
  - Assigned reading is on reserve at the library and/or posted on blackboard.
  - You are *encouraged* to use a personal journal to record your reflections on the content and process of the course. You may find the discipline of regular writing prepares you to respond to the lectures, readings, discussions and practical experience.
  
3. Small Group Format: Leadership for Groups will be shared by the members of the Group
  - You will be assigned to a small group that will meet throughout the term with the following responsibilities:
    - a. Discuss and process course content.
    - b. Participate in the assigned hospitality project and accompanying reflection and presentation.
    - c. Practice mutual accountability by talking about what is happening internally regarding your own movement from hostility to hospitality.
  - Possible service sites: Jesus People USA, St. Leonard's House, Misericordia, The Night Ministry (and Deborah's Place at The Night Ministry), Genesis, Chicago Coalition, Pacific Garden Mission, Open Door Shelter, North Park Friendship Center, Exodus Refugee Ministries, Mennonite Voluntary Service in Pilsen, Catholic Worker House, Cathedral Shelter (Episcopal), Hartwell Center (Alzheimers care)
  - Southern, Carol, ed. *2009-2010 Directory of Health and Human Services in Metropolitan Chicago*. Chicago: Community Resource Network, 2009.

**Disabilities Accommodations:** *Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office. Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. For further information please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>*

*Please note: this course is a formation and integrative course that requires your full presence. Please do not use computers during the class and remember to turn your cell phones off.*

**Components of the class:**

I. Tradition

II. Context: Experience and Location

III. Rule of Life: Cultivating an inner disposition and practices of hospitality

**Course Schedule** (May be revised and guest speakers added at the instructors' discretion)

Date	Lecturer	Topic	Assignment
	Prof. Koptak Prof. Sutton	Syllabus and Course Overview Introduction to the themes Hospitality in class Guiding questions for this class	
	Prof. Sutton	Walking Albany Park Project Instructions: Finding a directory of social services and choosing a site	Tom Allen, " <i>Listening to the Spirit on the Margins</i> " Groups begin to contact and make one orientation visit by fall break
	Prof. Koptak	Hospitality and the Hebrew Scriptures	Christine Pohl, "New Look at Old Tradition" and "Ancient and Biblical Resources."  You may wish to view Pohl's lecture: <a href="http://www.henrycenter.org/media/?id=265&amp;type=video">http://www.henrycenter.org/media/?id=265&amp;type=video</a>
	Prof. Koptak	Hospitality and the Christian Tradition	Eric H. F. Law, <i>Inclusion: Making Room for Grace</i> (Chalice, 2000), 1-27.
	Prof. Sutton	Pietism, Friendship, and Social Service Developing a Rule of Life	Lambert, Jean. "Befriending in God's Name: Preface to a Missionary Theology of God as Friend." <i>Covenant Quarterly</i> 46, no. 2-3 (May – August 1988): 37-68.  Recommended: North American Congregation. <i>The Rule of the Society of St. John the Evangelist</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: Cowley, 1997. Read chapters of interest to you in preparation for writing your own rule of life.
	Guest Speaker:	Learning from Service: What can we expect in hospitality service?	
	Guest Speakers:	A Congregational Case Study: Hospitality at a local church	

	<b>Fall Break: No Class</b>		
	Small Group Service Project		
	Small Group Service Project		
	Small Group Service Project		
	Group Presentations	on hospitality project ---where did group serve? ---what did group learn? ---how did it affect your spiritual journey toward hospitality?	
	<b>Thanksgiving: No Class</b>		
	Group Presentations	on hospitality project ---where did group serve? ---what did group learn? ---how did it affect your spiritual journey toward hospitality?	
	Small Groups to share rule of life  Closing prayer and worship		Final assignment due at the end of term: Reading report, reflection essay, and a rule of life for use in the next semester.