

**North Park Theological Seminary**  
**SPFM 5201: JOURNEY: The Story of our Lives**  
**Ellen Kogstad, Instructor**  
**Fall Semester, 2017**  
**Thursdays 1:10-3:25 p.m.**

**Course Description:** *Journey: The Story of our Lives* is the introductory course in spiritual formation at NPTS. Participants will be encouraged to reflect upon their formation history and celebrate their unique spiritual journey. In addition to class interaction there will be formation groups where we listen for God in the stories of others. The practice of spiritual direction will be introduced.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Gain a fuller understanding of the scope of Christian spiritual formation through the use of the journey metaphor.
2. Share experiences from one's personal life story through active involvement in a weekly formation group session.
3. Notice the present movement of God as a gift and fruit of a life lived as followers of Christ and led by the Holy Spirit.

**Requirements:**

1. READ: The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery by David Benner, InterVarsity Press, 2004 AND Walking Home: From Eden to Emmaus by Margaret Guenther, Morehouse Publishing, 2011.
2. Attendance and promptness to class are normative expectations.
3. Write two reflection papers.
4. Sign the "NPTS Confidentiality Statement". Discussion in one's formation group is protected under this statement.

**Grading is Pass/Fail**

Completion of all above assignments and faithful attendance will result in a grade of **PASS**. Due to the nature of this course, you are expected to be present and prompt for all presentations and formation groups.

Absences are strongly discouraged. If there is an **emergency** and you must miss class, *contact your formation group leader and the course instructor before class begins.*

If a class and formation group session is missed due to an emergency (which includes seminary sponsored courses and mission trips), a make-up assignment of reading and a reflection paper of 350 words will be assigned on the theme from the missed class. The paper must be emailed to all members in the formation group and the formation group leader *before* the next class session.

This is not license to miss class or group. These policies and procedures are built on the conviction that small group process and mutual accountability are core educational values for this course. We hope you will be well this semester and not need to miss class, but in case you do, it is your responsibility to contact the professor and formation group leader before class.

Students with more than 2 absences will need to withdraw and retake the course.

The last day to drop a course with permission is November 17.

**Contact Information:** Ellen Kogstad can be reached at [ekogstad@northpark.edu](mailto:ekogstad@northpark.edu) and 773.244.5216. I am on campus Mondays and Thursdays.

**Integrative Reflection Papers:** Two reflection papers are required in this course. Each is expected to be 350-400 words in length and typed in 12 pt. type. By design reflection papers are not research papers. The expectation is that lectures, texts, students personal notes and formation group experiences will be meaningfully engaged and reflected upon. Quote a meaningful portion from the text. Why did it resonate with you? How is God forming your story at this season of life? Weave your story into the material. Feel free to use the pronoun “I”.

Notice that you are writing WITH God. What do you hear, sense, or feel from the Lord? Pray to hear God as you ponder all you have experienced through the class and formation group.

The **first** reflection paper is due October 5. Students will read their papers to each other during the formation group time. Reflect on the Benner book and these class topics: Listening Deeply, Journey metaphor, Transitions, Remember and Vocation. (Note: this is *not* a book review.)

The **second** reflection paper is due November 16. Reflect on the themes: Images of God, Evolution of a Journey, An Urban Journey, Forgiveness, and Darkness. Reference the Guenther book.

**Submission Details:**

SAVE as: LastNameFirstName 5201 (ex. KogstadEllen5201)

Send as a WORD doc.

Use Spell Check: do not submit with colored markings from uncorrected document

Use parenthetical referencing

Speaker: (Kogstad, 9.22.17)

Book: (Barry and Connelly, 1986, 37)

Submit each paper by class time on the respective dates above—Oct. 6 and Nov. 17 to [ekogstad@northpark.edu](mailto:ekogstad@northpark.edu) AND to your formation group leader AND read it in your group.

See “Academic Honesty” below.

**Title IX:** Students who believe they have been harassed, discriminated against, or involved in sexual violence should contact the Seminary Dean of Students and Community Life ((773) 244-6222) or Dean of Students (773-244-5565) or Director of Human Resources (773-244-5599) for information about campus resources and support services, including confidential counseling services.

As a member of the North Park faculty, we are concerned about the well-being and development of our students, and are available to discuss any concerns. Faculty are legally obligated to share information with the University's Title IX coordinator in certain situations help ensure that the student's safety and welfare is being addressed, consistent with the requirements of the law. These disclosures include but are not limited to reports of sexual assault, relational/domestic violence, and stalking.

Please refer to North Park's Safe Community site for contact information and further details.

<http://www.northpark.edu/Campus-Life-and-Services/Safe-Community>

### **Disabilities Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the program's office (773-244-5619). Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. Please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/ada>

### **Academic Honesty**

In keeping with our Christian heritage and commitment, North Park is committed to the highest possible ethical and moral standards. Just as we will constantly strive to live up to these high standards, we expect our students to do the same. To that end, cheating of any sort will not be tolerated. Students who are discovered cheating are subject to discipline up to and including failure of a course and expulsion. Our definition of cheating includes but is not limited to:

1. Plagiarism – the use of another's work as one's own without giving credit to the individual. This includes using materials from the internet.
2. Copying another's answers on an examination.
3. Deliberately allowing another to copy one's answers or work.
4. Signing an attendance roster for another who is not present.

For further information on this subject you may refer to the Academic Dishonesty section of the University's online catalog.