

SPFM 5211: Intercultural Spirituality: Praying Together

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Spring Semester 2018

Monday 6:30-8:45

Location: tba

1 credit

Course Description: This spiritual formation course is designed to address the students' experiences of community and engagement with cultures other than one's own, utilizing prayer as the method of engagement with one another. The Lord's Prayer is primary as a common and biblical Christian prayer as together we explore its ability to cross the divides of community, culture and history. It is this prayer which will frame the course. The biblical and theological significance of the Lord's Prayer in various Christian traditions will be explored in a dialogical and experiential format utilizing a variety of classic spiritual disciplines including *lectio divina*, centering prayer, prayer of the body and iconography, to name a few. Other points of crossing culture occur across the readings which reflect a variety of authors and experiences as well as the interaction among the class as community.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Articulate the biblical, historical and cultural significance of the Lord's Prayer in its original setting/community
2. Describe the use of the Lord's Prayer and prayer more broadly in a variety of Christian communities and settings
3. Participate in a variety of prayer practices
4. Demonstrate the capacity to listen more intentionally to oneself and others in this small group setting
5. Identify one's own cultural biases of prayer and worship
6. Examine the ways prayer can *cross* difference and *create* difference
7. Collaborate in creating and leading prayer and worship which models intercultural awareness and sensibility

Readings:

All required reading will be available in the Moodle course shell. The readings chosen represent diverse perspectives whose authors are from a variety of cultural contexts and backgrounds. This diversity is highlighted in each week's introduction in Canvas.

Course Requirements/Assignments:

1. Full participation and attendance in each class session is required for a passing grade.
2. Completed reading *prior* to each class session. Student engagement is critical to the class and preparation by reading the material for each session is expected.
3. Students will partner with another class member from a different cultural background and attend a Christian worship service of a religious or ethnic tradition which is unfamiliar to *both* students; i.e. Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Episcopal, African American, Korean Full Gospel, Latino, Taize, etc. a list of worship options will be available. Students may also receive permission to attend a service not on the list provided. See explanation below.
4. A final integrative paper of 5-6 pages. See explanation below. **Due: April 30, 2018.**
5. The class will work together to plan and implement a chapel service incorporating their learning from the class. See explanation below.
6. Two sessions of Spiritual Direction by April 30. See explanation below.

Course Materials

1. Personal Journal
2. Bible
3. Optional: Colored pencils, markers, crayons, etc. for use with your journal.

Grading is Pass/Fail:

Successful completion of all above assignments and faithful attendance will result in a grade of **PASS**. In Spiritual Formation courses where grading is Pass/Fail, you are expected to be present and prompt for all class sessions. Absences are strongly discouraged. If there is an **emergency** and you must miss class, *contact the course instructor before class begins*. Students with more than 2 absences will need to withdraw from the course. The last day to drop a course with permission is April 15. This is not license to miss class. We hope you will be well this semester and do not need to miss class, but in case you do, it is your responsibility to contact the professor before class. If a class 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 250 words will be required on the theme from the missed class. The paper must be emailed to the instructor by 5:00 p.m. on Friday of the same week.

Assignment Details

Assignment 3: Worship attendance with classmate

Students will partner with a classmate and together attend and participate in a Christian worship experience *unlike* their own. The difference could be culture or language or tradition/style. In addition, each pair will present to the class a summary of their experience. Class time will be allotted for this assignment.

The questions below are suggested as guidelines to organize the presentation. This is intended as a guide to help students reflect about their experience of God in the context of an unfamiliar/cross-cultural form of worship. The presentations will be scheduled the first week and presented in 10-15 minute presentations during the class sessions over the semester. While you cannot recreate the experience for the class please create a sense of what the experience was like for you. Please use PowerPoint or other visuals for your presentation. In your presentation you will be discussing this primary question:

In what way(s) was this worship experience crossing culture for you?

The points below may help you to organize your presentation:

- a. How did you prepare for this worship experience?
- b. Briefly describe the flow and structure of the service?
- c. What was familiar to you? What was unfamiliar?
- d. How did you participate in the service?
- e. What were some aids to your participation? What were some obstacles?
- f. What was your experience of prayer in the worship?
- g. How did you experience God in the service?
- h. How did you experience community in the worship?
- i. Describe the use of the Lord's Prayer in the service (if it was used)

Grading Presentation Rubric will be posted in Canvas

Assignment 4: Integrative paper:

In 5-6 pages (12 font, double spaced) write an integrative paper using your journal entries collected over the semester and other cogent material (presentations, readings, experiences) from the class. Please note your journal entries with the date they were first written with a footnote or parenthetically. Please use the following as a guide to your writing:

- a. Address your experience of community with God and others in this class. How did your experience of God and others grow as a result of being together around the Lord's Prayer this semester?
- b. Describe your experience of engaging cultural perspectives within the class and any ways this influenced your experience of God. Here you can discuss readings, presentation, worship, etc. How was this experience crossing culture for you and how does that impact your spirituality?
- c. Describe a new way (or ways) of praying that you encountered as a result of this class and how you intend to incorporate this practice into your life.
- d. Articulate one or two key learnings through your encounter with the Lord's Prayer in this setting.

*Paper writing rubrics in Canvas: Due **May 7,2018***

Assignment 5: Planning and Implementation of Chapel Service:

There will be some class time given to plan a chapel service which will be implemented toward the end of the semester. The elements will be chosen based on your learning together, your experiences in other worship services, and how you might incorporate those into a seminary chapel service. Tentatively, the chapel will be implemented **Thursday, May 3, 11a.m.**

Assignment 6: Two sessions of Spiritual Direction

- a) Each student will participate in two sessions of spiritual direction.
 - a. This is not required of undergraduate students
- b) Please schedule your sessions with your seminary spiritual director.
- c) If you have not yet seen a spiritual director Contact Ellen Kogstad to arrange your sessions. ekogstad-thompson@northpark.edu
- d) If it seems cogent, use these sessions to explore your capacity to wade into “different” ways of praying/spirituality.
- e) Report on completion at the end of the semester by an email to the instructor. **Due May 7, 2017**

Course Schedule - Spring 2018

Week 1 (Jan.29): Why are we here? Why are you here? How do we pray and live together?
Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer, Mutual Invitational and Multicultural Dialogue.

Reading: Syllabus

Osborne, Grant, “Intro to the Lord’s Prayer”

France, R.T., “Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer”

Week 2 (Feb.5): The Lord’s Prayer unpacked: A kingdom prayer for a kingdom community

Reading: Underhill, Evelyn. Ch.1 *Abba*: “Introductory”

“The Our Father: The Revolutionary Prayer of Commitment to the Kingdom of God.”
Mattam, Joseph. Source: AFER, 35 no 2 Ap 1993, p 69-78.

Week 3 (Feb.12): *Our Father who art in heaven*: Image and identity (ies) of God

Reading: Underhill, Evelyn. Ch.2 *Abba*: “Our Father”

Miraslov Volf, *Exclusion and Embrace*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996. “Gender Identity” 167-190.

Celine Mangan, O.P., *Can We Still Call God Father? A Woman Looks at the Lord’s Prayer*,
Wilmington: Michael Glazier, 9-28.

Week 4 (Feb.19): *Hallowed be thy name:* What is holy?

Reading: *Abba*, Ch.3: "The Name"

Barbara Holmes, *Joy Unspeakable*, "At the Crossroads: Secular Reclamations of the Contemplative Life."

Week 5 (Feb.26): *Thy Kingdom come:* Defining Kingdom and the reign of God

Reading: *Abba*, Ch. 4: "The Kingdom"

Howard Thurman, *Mysticism and the Experience of Love*. Wallingford: Pendle Hill Publications.

Week 6 (March 5): *Thy will be done:* saying yes and no

Reading: *Abba*, Ch. 5: "The Will"

Su Yon Pak, U. Lee, J. Kim and M. Ji Cho, "Fervent Prayer: The Practice of Praying Together" and "Thy Will be Done: The Practice of Piety," *Singing the Lord's Song in a New Land: Korean American Practices of Faith*, Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005, p.75-85.

Week 7 (March 12): No Class: Reading Week.

Week 8 (March 19): No Class: Time allotted for worship observation

Week 9 (March 26): *Give us this day our daily bread:* What do we really need?

Reading: *Abba*, Ch. 6 "Food"

Simon, Arthur. *Rediscovering the Lord's Prayer*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005, p.62 86.

Week 10 (April2): No Class-Easter Monday

Week 11 (April 9): *Forgive us our sins:* individual and corporate. Debt and debtors: forgiveness and reconciliation

Reading: *Abba*, Ch. 7, "Forgiveness"

"A Hidden Wholeness: Thomas Merton and Martin Luther King, Jr." Raboteau, Albert J. *A Fire in the Bones: Reflections on African American Religious History*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995, 166-182.

"Reconciliation." Thurman, Howard. *Disciplines of the Spirit*. Richmond: Friends United Press, 1963, 104-127.

Week 12 (April16): *Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:*

Reading: *Abba*, Ch.8 "Prevenience"

Bruno Hidber, "Deliver us from Evil, A Gift of Reconciliation Without Limit"

Week 13 (April 23): *Yours is the kingdom and the power and the Glory*: summation or consummation

Reading: *Abba*, Ch. 9 “Glory”

Bradshaw, Timothy. *Praying as Believing; The Lord’s Prayer and the Christian Doctrine of God*. Oxford: Regent’s Park College, 1998. p. 195-208.

Week 14 (April 30): Working it out: Class time allotted to plan a seminary community chapel service integrating their learning from the course to be executed in the final weeks of the semester.

Week 15 (May 7) Time allotted for worship presentations.

Electronic devices: As this is a formation course that requires your full presence, please do not use devices for anything except note taking and remember to turn cell phones off.

Confidentiality Agreement: NPTS must have a signed copy of the confidentiality agreement for every registered student in our spiritual formation courses. If you have not read and signed the document in another course, see the instructor. If you have signed the document, please be reminded of its standards of confidentiality.

Students with disabilities who believe that they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact seminary academic services at 773-244-6217. Please do so as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely manner. If needed, appointments can be relocated. For further information please review the following website: <http://www.northpark.edu/Current-Students/Student-Development/Disability-Resources/Resources-for-Students.aspx>

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 to 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>

Selected Bibliography

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- Douglas-Klotz, Neil. *Prayers of the Cosmos: Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus's Words*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1990.
- Haase, Albert, O.F.M. *Living the Lord's Prayer: The Way of the Disciple*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Holmes, Barbara. *Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2004.
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- Pramuk, Christopher. *Hope Sings, So Beautiful: Graced Encounters Across the Color Line*. Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2013.
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- Reininger, Gustave, ed. *The Diversity of Centering Prayer*. New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 1999.
- Riggs, Marcia Y. and Barbara Holmes. *Can I get a witness? Prophetic Religious Voices of African American Women: An Anthology*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books, 1997.
- Simon, Arthur. *Rediscovering the Lord's Prayer*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2005.

Stevenson, Kenneth. *Abba Father: Understanding and Using the Lord's Prayer*. Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2000.

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Stewart III, Carlyle Fielding. *Soul Survivors: An African-American Spirituality*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1997.

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Vest, Norvene. *Tending the Holy: Spiritual Direction Across Traditions*. New York: Morehouse, 2003.

Wright, N.T. *The Lord and His Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.