Selected Course Offerings for Certificate in Spiritual Direction

2015 Summer Term

(Classes meet on-campus unless otherwise noted)  (Revised 2-2-2015)

This course begins online January-March, 2015; both online and on-campus sessions are required.

June 13-14 On-Campus Sessions: Sat. (1:30-4:30 PM) and Sun. (1:30-4:30 PM)

SPIR 437 01A - The Practice of Discernment in Prayer | Becky Van Ness (1 credit)

An exploration of how our personal image of God evolves as we discern God’s ways of being present to us in prayer and in life. By both studying and practicing discernment of spirits we can become sensitive to inner movements, understanding where they come from and where they lead us. The course will include an introduction to the practice of lectio divina applied to our lived experience.

Grading is satisfactory / unsatisfactory. Requirement: Access to computer with built-in camera OR attached web cam.

Note: This course is the first required spiritual direction course for the certificate program.

June 15–19 (8:00-11:30 AM) and July 27-31 (1:00-4:15 PM) M-T-W-TH-F

PTHM 405 01A – Introduction to Pastoral Ministry | Dawn Carrillo (3 credits)

This course introduces students to the theology of ministry, including historical and contemporary theologies of ordained and lay ministry. Students also explore basic methods in the practice of ministry.

Note: This course fulfills the pastoral ministry component for the Core Theology Requirements.

June 15–July 2 8:00 - 11:15 am: M-T-TH-F (Jun 15-26); M-T-W-Th (Jun 29-Jul 2)

PTHM 418 01A - Dynamics of Spiritual Direction | Becky Van Ness (3 credits)

The study of spiritual direction allows student to develop skills in guiding others to identify and articulate their relationship with God through the life of faith, religious experience, discernment, and prayer. Students learn various models of spiritual direction and the purpose and dynamics of peer and individual supervision.
Prerequisites: 1) “The Practice of Discernment in Prayer” course; 2) Completion of an approved ministry core theology course; 3) Admission to the spiritual direction program

Note: This course fulfills the second of three on-campus summer courses leading to the certificate.

June 15–July 2  8:00-11:15 am: M-T-TH-F (Jun 15-26); M-T-W-Th (Jun 29-Jul 2)

SPIR 468 01A - Spiritual Guidance-Theology, Sources and History | Eileen Flanagan  (3 credits)

A theologically critical, historically-rooted approach to Christian spiritual guidance, with emphasis on monastic and Benedictine components. Primary and secondary sources will be consulted and assessed. Theological implications and ethical challenges for the contemporary practice of ecumenical and interfaith spiritual direction will be addressed.

Note: This course fulfills the spirituality component for the Core Theology Requirements.

June 15–July 2  1:00-4:15 pm: M-T-TH-F (Jun 15-26); M-T-W-Th (Jun 29-Jul 2)

PTHM 468 01A - Integrating Spiritual Direction | Eileen Flanagan  (3 credits)

Emphasis will be on integrating a theological understanding of spiritual direction with the experiences of the practicum. This course will go more deeply into topics already introduced in the pre-practicum course in addition to covering more advanced issues in spiritual direction. An exploration of Benedictine stability will support the on-going development of contemplative presence. Grading is satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Prerequisites: 1) “Practicum in Spiritual Direction”; 2) Recommendation of supervisor(s) from the Spirituality Center at St. Benedict’s Monastery

Note: This course fulfills the third of three on-campus summer courses leading to the certificate.

June 15–July 2  1:00-4:15 pm: M-T-TH-F (Jun 15-26); M-T-W-Th (Jun 29-Jul 2)

SSNT 468 01A – The Spirituality of the New Testament | Laszlo Simon, OSB  (3 credits)

The documents of the New Testament cannot be correctly understood without an examination of the historical circumstances that shaped them. Each sector of research - textual criticism, literary analysis, redaction criticism etc. - has its own proper rules but no one of these specializations is an end in itself. The Catholic interpretation of the New Testament is a theological discipline. Its main task is to contribute to the authentic and vital transmission of God’s Word to his people and to the spiritual task of deepening genuine Christian faith. Cross-listed with SPIR 468 02A.

Note: This course fulfills the scripture component for the Core Theology Requirements.
PTHM 454 01A - Ministry through the Life Cycle | Barbara Sutton (3 credits)

This course provides an overview of pastoral and spiritual issues that ministers encounter with individuals and families in various life stages. Issues included in the course also include the life cycle of a family and the cycle of healing for people.

Note: This course fulfills the pastoral ministry component for the Core Theology Requirements.

SSNT 488 02A – Four Gospels, One Jesus | Laszlo Simon, OSB (1 credit)

The temptation to construct one "master-narrative" was very strong for the first Christian generations. The early church, however, preferred instead to preserve four gospels within the canon of the New Testament. This course will briefly explore each gospel/portrait of Jesus, appreciating them as examples of ancient biography and our record of Christ's living presence. Cross-listed with SPIR 468 03A.

Note: This course fulfills in part the scripture component for the Core Theology Requirements (3 credits are required).

MONS/SPIR 434 01A - Monastic Spiritual Theology | Gregory Peters (3 credits)

Monasticism is an ancient Christian institution and is historically present in all three of the major Christian traditions: Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant. In this course, students will explore the Christian monastic tradition through reading and discussion of primary texts of these great monastic figures: John Cassian, Maximus the Confessor, Julian of Norwich, Martin Luther, Teresa of Avila, Seraphim of Sarov, Edward Pusey and Thomas Merton.

Note: This course fulfills the spirituality component for the Core Theology Requirements.

PTHM 468 05A – Praying with Imagination | Barbara Sutton with Dawn Carrillo and Anne Kaese (3 credits)

Class begins with on-line components in early July and concludes with final on-line components following the retreat week; class meets S-M-T-W-TH-F July 12-17
This course invites pastoral leaders and catechists to pray with the Illuminated Word of The Saint John's Bible and to extend that prayer through the arts of bookmaking, such as calligraphy, painting, and storytelling. The morning sessions empower participants to practice the Seeing the Word process, delve deeper into learning the rhythm of visio divina and facilitate the practice with others. The afternoon sessions will invite participants to ground their own spirituality through developing their artistic imagination. Some evening hours will also be scheduled. Pre-reading and post-reflection/integration assignments for credit-earning students.

Note: This course fulfills in the prayer component for the Core Theology Requirements.

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**July 13-17**  1:00 - 4:15 am: M-T-W-TH-F

**PTHM 468 03A – Practices of Spirituality Amidst Digital Cultures | Mary Hess (1 credit)**

Anderson and Foley write that the journey of faith is caught up amidst the interwoven narratives of God's story, my story, and the story of the community of faith. Yet how do we engage these "mighty stories" amidst 21st century rituals -- movie-going, video gaming, facebooking, and so on? We'll explore how spirituality emerges in the midst of digital cultures and consider practices which contribute to self-reflection, community formation and generative faith.

Note: This course fulfills in part the prayer component for the Core Theology Requirements (3 credits are required).

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**July 13-17**  8:00 - 11:15 am: M-T-W-TH-F

**SSOT 468 02A – Who is the Old Testament God? | Laslo Simon, OSB (1 credit)**

No one can know what God is really like. The Bible does not speak of who God is but of what God says, how God acts and how God is experienced. The Old Testament is full of variety and of contradictions: in this we course we will explore briefly God's relationship to the world, to humans, and quite especially to Israel. We will uncover both the fragility and the resilience of these relationships. Cross-listed with SPIR 468 04A.

Note: This course fulfills in part the scripture component for the Core Theology Requirements (3 credits are required).