

LIDLAW COLLEGE

Te Wananga Amorangi

401.515 Formation (School of Theology) Course Assessment and Delivery Outline

Campus: Henderson
Lecturer: Dr David Crawley

Semester 2, 2015
NQF Level 5, 15 credits

COURSE OVERVIEW

This course aims to help students' spiritual formation, through engagement with Scripture and a variety of Christian spiritual traditions, reflection on their own and others' spiritual journeys, and the development of spiritual practices.

ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

Assessment	Word count	% Final grade	Due date
Formation group participation	N/A	20%	N/A
Reflection 1	1800 words	25%	5 September
Essay	2500	35%	24 October
Reflection 2	1300 words	20%	7 November

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Assessment task
PART ONE: FOUNDATIONS OF FORMATION		
1	Hearing: God's passionate desire	
2	Belonging: in grace and freedom	
3	Being: under the blessing	
4	Knowing: no other gods	
5	Participating: in the great dance	Reflection 1 due
PART TWO: PRACTICES FOR FORMATION		
6	Praying: as companions and co-workers	
7	Meditating: as people shaped by the Word	
8	Following: as disciples of Jesus	
9	Loving: as we are loved	
10	Forgiving: as we are forgiven	
11	Discerning: as participants in God's hopes & desires for creation	Essay due
12	Blessing: as we are blessed	
Study wk		Reflection 2 due

ASSESSMENT TASKS AND DUE DATES

1. Formation Group participation

Learning outcome: 4
Percentage weighting: 20%

Punctual attendance at Formation Groups is compulsory, and a roll is kept. These groups form an integral part of the overall learning and formational aims of the course. Formation occurs, and is tested, in the context of community.

Criteria for assessment

1	Punctual arrival
2	Evidence of diligent preparation for group times
3	Constructive participation in the group process
4	Respectful interaction with other group members
5	Healthy self-awareness

2. Reflection 1: What’s shaped my foundations?

Length: 1800 words
 Learning outcomes: 1, 3
 Assessment weighting: 25%
 Due date: 11:59 pm, Saturday 5 September

This is the first of two “Reflection” assignments which provide you with the opportunity to engage with the material we have been covering in lectures and to apply it to your own experience. The emphasis is *personal and applied*. You don’t need to do a lot of extra reading or research, although what you write should clearly demonstrate that you have kept up with the required readings and the course guide notes (see grading criterion 1 below).

Note:

What you write in your reflections may cover quite personal matters. Be assured that the marker will keep whatever you write confidential. You may wish to alter names etc, so as to respect the privacy of others.

Detailed instructions are provided on Moodle.

Criteria for assessment

1	Clear understanding of course topics and readings
2	Healthy self-awareness in relation to spiritual development and practices
3	Appropriate personal application of course topics
4	Depth and clarity of written presentation

3. Essay

Length: 2500 words (includes 250 word personal application)
 Learning outcome: 3
 Percentage weighting: 35%
 Due date: 11:59 pm, Saturday 24 October
 Expected time (total): 30 hours

Choose one of the provided topics and write a 2500 word essay, including a brief section of personal application at the end of the essay of around 250 words in length.

Whereas the reflection assignments are primarily your personal response to aspects of the course, this essay is expected to be a more objective discussion on your chosen topic, following normal academic essay guidelines. Please note the grading criteria carefully.

Essay topics and detailed guidelines are provided on Moodle.

Criteria for assessment

1	Breadth of reading as evidenced in the essay
2	Clear understanding of reading material
3	Skills of analysis and synthesis
4	Overall depth of treatment
5	Originality and creativity of approach
6	Presentation, style and construction of essay
7	Correct use of footnotes and bibliography
8	Demonstration of appropriate self-awareness in the application

4. Reflection 2: Developing a spiritual practice

Length:	1300 words
Learning outcome:	2
Percentage weighting:	20%
Due date:	11:59, Saturday 8 November (the end of Study Week)

This reflection focuses on the role of spiritual practices in your formation. As part of this assignment you are required to choose one particular spiritual discipline to investigate and practice over a period of at least two weeks. You are encouraged to choose a discipline which has not previously been a regular part of your spiritual practices (or at least a fresh expression of a discipline which you have practiced in the past).

Detailed guidelines are provided on Moodle.

Criteria for assessment

1	Healthy self-awareness in relation to spiritual practices
2	Accurate account of historical background, purpose & practice of chosen discipline
3	Evidence of consistent and purposeful practice of the chosen discipline
4	Clarity of written presentation

LEARNING HOURS

Class time (12 x 2 hours)	24 hours
Self-directed reading and reflection	30 hours
Pre-reading and preparation for classes (1 hour/week)	12 hours
Formation Group participation & preparation (12 x 1.5 hours)	18 hours
Reflection 1: What's shaped my foundations?	18 hours
Reflection 2: Developing a spiritual practice	18 hours
Essay	<u>30 hours</u>
	150 hours

NOTES

- The guidelines regarding learning hours are not intended to be applied rigidly. They are simply provided to help you plan a balanced workload.
- There is no textbook for this course.
- Full attendance at lectures and Formation Groups is expected. Unexplained absences of more than 20% of class or group time will mean failure of the course. Unavoidable absences must therefore be explained to the lecturer, preferably in advance, by phoning 836 7821 or emailing dcrawley@laidlaw.ac.nz.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books that focus on spiritual formation

- Benner, David *Opening to God: Lectio Divina and Life as Prayer*. Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2010.
- Foster, Richard J *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. 2nd ed; London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.
Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1992.
Streams of Living Water. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1998.
- Gangel, Kenneth O & Wilhoit, James C *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994.
- Holmes, Peter R & Williams, Susan B *Becoming More like Christ: A Contemporary Biblical Journey*. Carlisle: Authentic, 2007.
- Nouwen, Henri *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit*. New York: Harper Collins, 2010.
- Pritchard, Sheila *The Lost Art of Contemplation: Deepening Your Prayer Life*. Bletchley: Scripture Union, 2003.
- Smith, James B & Graybeal, Linda *A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small-Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth*. 2nd ed; New York: HarperCollins, 1999.
- Wilhoit, Jim *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ Through Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2008.
- Willard, Dallas *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.
Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.

Books with an emphasis on spiritual theology:

- Kruger, C. Baxter *The Great Dance: The Christian Vision Revisited*. Jackson, MI: Perichoresis Press, 2000.
- McGrath, Alister *Christian Spirituality*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1999.
- Peterson, Eugene *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places: A Conversation in Spiritual Theology*. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2005.
- Smith, Karen E. *Christian Spirituality*. London: SCM, 2007.
- Webber, Robert E *The Divine Embrace: Recovering the Passionate Spiritual Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2006.

See also the 'Spirituality' series of *Grove Books*, which has many excellent brief booklets dealing with historical and contemporary aspects of Christian spirituality.

The practice of the spiritual life and spiritual disciplines:

- Barry, William A *God and You: Prayer as a Personal Relationship.* New York: Paulist Press, 1987.
- Calhoun, Adele A *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us.* Downer's Grove: InterVarsity, 2005.
- Demarest, Bruce *Satisfy Your Soul.* Colorado: Navigator, 1999.
- Dyer, Phil *Encountering the Still Point.* Oxford, NZ: Ricoh, 2000.
- Huggett, Joyce *Listening to God.* London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1986.
Learning the Language of Prayer. Sutherland, NSW: Albatross, 1996.
Open to God. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1989.
The Smile of Love. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1990.
- Jamieson, Alan *Called Again: In and Beyond the Deserts of Faith.* Philip Garside Publishing, 2004.
- MacDonald, Gordon *Ordering Your Private World.* Nashville: Oliver-Nelson, 1985.
Restoring Your Spiritual Passion. Nashville: Oliver-Nelson, 1986.
- Nouwen, Henri J *The Way of the Heart.* London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1981.
Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1993.
The Return of The Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming. New York: Image Books, 1993.
- Ortberg, John *God is Closer than You Think.* Grand Rapids; Zondervan, 2005.
The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
- Tacey, David J *The Spirituality Revolution : The Emergence of Contemporary Spirituality.* Sydney: HarperCollins, 2003.
- Willard, Dallas *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God.* Downers Grove: Inter-Varsity, 1983.
The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1998.
The Spirit of the Disciplines. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1988.
- Yaconelli, Michael *Dangerous Wonder.* Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1998.
Messy Spirituality: God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
- Yancey, Philip *The Jesus I Never Knew.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
What's So Amazing About Grace? Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.
Reaching for the Invisible God. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2000.