

SF 245: INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL FORMATION SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on building community through an understanding of and appreciation of God's sovereign and gracious work in the student's life. It is an orientation uniquely suited for cross-cultural experience. This course may not be taken as a substitute for SF101. SF245 is required of and limited to M.A./BEL students.

SF245 introduces students to the general principles of Dallas Theological Seminary's approach to spiritual formation, and has some similarities to the first semester (SF101-Identity). It is intended for M.A./BEL students, as a distinct, one-semester experience of reflections on the meaning of our identity in Christ, His fullness in us, and principles of leadership.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. The student will experience the satisfaction brought by honesty and openness to one another in regard to their struggles, accomplishments and hopes.
2. The student will understand that partnership with others is a key ingredient in spiritual ministry.
3. The student will grasp the implications of grace and patience in spiritual growth and ministry as broken, yet redeemed people.
4. The student will embrace the reality of dependent humility before God.
5. The student will reflect on the relationship of life and ministry among people of other cultures.

III. COURSE TEXTS

1. Required

Dallas Theological Seminary. *Identity*. Dallas: Dept. of Spiritual Formation, 2008. (*This is vol. 1 of the four-part SF series.*)

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *In the Name of Jesus, Reflections on Christian Leadership*, New York, New York: Crossroad Publishing Co., 1992. (ISBN-13: 978-0824512590) (*A short classic worth buying.*)

2. Suggested

Boa, Kenneth *That I May Know God, Pathways to Spiritual Formation*, Multnomah Publishers, Portland Oregon, 1998. (*This book is no longer being printed by the publisher. It is available for purchase, new or used, at reasonable prices via Amazon.com.*)

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The student will actively participate in the group.
2. The student will read the texts and additional class handouts.
3. The student will participate in and report on a service-oriented ministry.
4. The class is invited to *Café Koine* for celebration.

V. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VI. COURSE POLICIES

A. Class Participation

The course follows the lecture-discussion method; therefore, students will regularly attend and participate in classes and read the chapters assigned in the texts as noted in the course schedule.

B. Absences

The number of permitted absences equals twice the number of times the course meets each week. For this course, that equates to two, 50-minute absences. Coming late to class three times equals one absence. Each unexcused absence over this prescribed limit results in a reduction in the student's final grade as prescribed in the *2009-2011 Student Handbook* 1.15.3.

C. WMIS E-mail Announcements

The World Missions and Intercultural Studies (WMIS) E-mail Announcements are the primary avenue through which the WMIS department will announce academic news and other information pertinent to world missions and intercultural ministry. Each semester, all students enrolled in World Missions classes will automatically be added to the WMIS list. Students will be held responsible for reading the content of these e-mails as long as they are enrolled in WMIS classes.

VII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Lecture Topic
8/29	Introduction and suggested topics
9/5	Life Map explanation + Life Map, Mike Pocock
9/12	Life Map Presentations, students
9/19	Life Map Presentations, students
9/26	Reflection on, <i>In the Name of Jesus</i> , From Relevance to Prayer
10/3	Reflection on, <i>In the Name of Jesus</i> , From Popularity to Ministry
10/10	Reflection on, <i>In the Name of Jesus</i> , From Leading To Being Led

10/17	Intro to Identity & Image, p. 9+ 15
10/24	Design/Identity, p. 21
10/31	Heritage/Identity, p. 31
11/7	Identity in Christ, p. 37
11/12-16	Reading Week – No SF meeting
11/19-23	Thanksgiving Break – No SF meeting
11/28	
12/5	Belief, p. 43
12/12	Practice/Virtues, p. 55-65
12/17-20	Final Exams Week – No SF meeting.