

SPIR 220

SPIRITUALITY AND MINISTRY

Winter Quarter, 2022

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COURSE SYLLABUS (*Tentative*)

This is a tentative schedule and some details may change before we begin the course in January, 2022. But most of what you find here you'll see again soon.

SPIR 220 (*Spirituality and Ministry*) is a **blended course** in the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries, Santa Clara University. Over the span of Winter Quarter, the course will convene three times for day-long sessions (**Saturdays: January 9, February 5, and March 12**). In the intervening weeks, the class will meet via Zoom on scheduled Tuesday evenings (6p – 8p) which are listed below.

Course Description: The two words that comprise our course title are vast topics theoretically independent of each other. However, in combination they describe what could very well be called *the entirety of the Christian life*. Indeed, it can be said that in practice neither spirituality nor ministry can exist without the other. *What we do in this course is realize the extent to which that statement is true.* In the Christian tradition,

spirituality is essentially relational and centered in the person and teachings of Jesus. In turn, the spirituality of Jesus constantly engages neighbor and stranger alike. In this course, we examine how ministries broadly considered in the Christian tradition need and give expression to various kinds of spirituality and how spirituality elevates human relationships to the level of vocation, apostolic service, and mission.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives: SPIR 220, as a course in the GPPM, has two main learning goals: *pastoral proficiency* and *leadership skills* in ministry. As such, it's a course weighted toward pastoral application: students will grow in a greater awareness of their own spiritual and ministerial lives as well as experiences in spiritual formation within various ministerial contexts. These goals are realized through three **course learning objectives (CLOs)**, each associated with specific exercises and activities assigned through the course (see the schedule of assignments below):

CLO1 Students will be able confidently to observe and identify—in various ministerial situations, including ones far from their own experiences—different **themes and characteristics of spiritualities in the tradition**: contemplative, activist, communitarian, catechetical, etc.

CLO 2 Students will learn the various **stages of 'theological reflection'** and understand how this process can be applied to any human experience for the purpose of greater pastoral self-awareness. They'll also learn how to help others enter into this reflective process as a crucial aspect of any ministry.

CLO 3 Based on frequent practice through the course, students will become adept in **raising critical questions of spiritual experience** in ministerial settings. They'll also acquire a greater fluency for ministerial discourse: what constitutes ministry and how best to reflect spiritually on ministerial experiences.

Course Approach: As a blended course, SPIR 220 is designed to meet the challenges of busy people while emphasizing *personal discipline* and *skillful time management*. The work of the instructor is to provide meaningful content (during our three Saturday sessions as well as online sessions) and engaging forums for course instruction, student interaction and an overall positive online learning experience. In all of this, students can expect a certain consistency in organization and assignment:

- **Camino/Canvas:** this is SCU's course management system and the main source and calendar setting for SPIR 220.
- **Modules:** the course is module-driven. What that means is when students access the course at Camino, they'll go first to "modules" on the left side of the page. The four modules for the course illustrate the flow and schedule of course content. All readings and resources (excluding the Boyle and Casey books) will

be found in these modules. All modules are 'open' and accessible so that students can anticipate course work or review what's transpired.

- **Readings:** all reading assignments listed below in the syllabus are from either the two required books which students should purchase in advance of the course or uploaded to Camino. Weekly Camino "Announcements" help the student anticipate the coming session, usually with guide questions to keep in mind while reading. These questions are not separate assignments and needn't be written out. They're merely to help students focus on certain topics within the readings.

Class Hours: Our Saturday meetings are set. As mentioned above, our Tuesday schedule will be determined soon. For the moment, please make sure all your Tuesdays for Winter Quarter, 2022 are free.

Required Texts:

- Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart* (Free Press, 2011); ISBN-13: 978-1439153154
- Michael Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Ligouri, 2004); ISBN-13: 978-0764811494
- All other texts, video and audio sources will appear in the relevant module on Camino

Course Requirements: Readings assigned for the three Saturday sessions should be completed in the days leading up to our meetings in Santa Clara; other readings for online discussions should be finished by **Monday** of each week in anticipation of our Zoom discussions on **Tuesday** evenings. Discussions about course texts, written exercises (in journals and online) all depend on careful attention—to the texts examined but also to **each other** in our collaborative efforts at discovery and synthesis.

- **Writing requirements** include **five journals** (brief 2-3 page reflections) on the developing content of the course.
- A **final project** will serve as a capstone to the course: a **case study** on the spirituality and ministry of a person committed to both. (Details for both kinds of writing assignment will appear at our course page at Camino.)
- **Class attendance and participation** are major components of both a graduate course and one of this nature. Our on-site and online discussions **depend on presence**—physical and intellectual. Barring only extraordinary circumstances, I'm presuming students will attend each session, Saturdays and Tuesdays. Please keep in mind that it will be hard to pass the course and miss any one of our Saturday sessions.
- **Source Leadership:** each student will **choose a reading** from the syllabus to present *informally* and for discussion, either on a Saturday or Wednesday. (Again, guidelines for this will be found at Camino.)

Credit Apportionment:

Participation:	35%
Discussion Leadership:	10%
Five Course Journals:	30%
Case Study:	25%

Instructor feedback reaches students through comments on papers and online discussions (emailed to each student) and, in more general ways, during onsite and online office hours. I am happy to consult with students on projects before, during or after they're written in mentoring the practices of critical thinking and written communication.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

Please Note: Saturday sessions run from **9am to 3pm** with a charitable lunch-break. Tuesday evening sessions begin at **6pm and end by 8**. We won't be meeting every Tuesday of the quarter, so please mark your calendars for the Tuesdays listed below.

MODULE 1: Foundations in Spirituality and Ministry

Tuesday, **January 4**

Topics: Introductions—the the course and each other
The Course Syllabus

Saturday, **January 8**

Topics: Approaches to Spirituality and Ministry (CLO 1)
What *is* Spirituality? What *is* Ministry?
A Personal, Spiritual Ecology (Exercise) (CLO 1, 3)
Identity in Ministry (CLO 1, 3)

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 1-4)
- Annice Callahan, 'Images of Oppression and Liberation in Ministry' (on Camino)
- Handouts: a 'Self-Ecology Inventory'; Finding God in Ordinary Experiences (these will be read during class)

Tuesday, **January 18**

Topic: Christology and Ministry I
Collaboration in Ministry

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 5-10)
- Wilkie Au, *A Spirituality for Collaborative Ministry* (Wicks, pp 391-406)

Journal 1 due later that week

MODULE 2: Spirituality, Ministry and the Art of Theological Reflection

Tuesday, **January 25**

Topic: Reflecting on the experience of God as essential for ministry

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 11-14)
- Anthony Krisak, 'Theological Reflection: Unfolding the Mystery'

Journal 2 due later that week

MODULE 3: Spirituality as Ministry

Saturday, **February 5**

Topics: The Ministry of Prayer; Discernment and Prayer

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 15-22)
- Joyce Rupp, 'Rediscovering God in the Midst of our Work'
- Handouts: Prayer and Prayer Forms; Discernment and Prayer

Tuesday, **February 15**

Topics: The Ministry of Spiritual Direction

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (chs 23-25)
- S. McCarty, 'Basics in Spiritual Direction'
- Handouts: On Contemplative Listening; a Primer on Ignatian Spirituality

Journal 3 due later that week

MODULE 4: Spirituality and Ministry Today

Tuesday, **February 22—Online Discussions** (note: for this week, we won't meet via Zoom but you'll be 'meeting' virtually in two Camino discussion forums)

Topics: Ministry, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues: Part I

Discussion 1: Progress report in case studies; general Q&A

Discussion 2: How contemporary issues are shaping my experience of spirituality and ministry

Reading:

- Janet Ruffing, 'Socially-Engaged Contemplation: Living Contemplatively in Chaotic Times'
 - View: 'Entertaining Angels: the Dorothy Day Story'
- Journal 4** due later this week

Tuesday, **March 1**

Topics: Ministry, Spirituality and Contemporary Issues: Part II

Reading:

- Gregory Boyle, SJ, *Tattoos on the Heart* (chs 1-5)
- Journal 5** due later this week

Saturday, **Mar 12**

Topics: Ministry and the Spirituality of Hope; summary and discussion of student capstone projects (case studies)

Reading:

- Gregory Boyle, SJ, *Tattoos on the Heart* (chs 6-9)
 - Case Study Presentations (from the class)
- Case Study** due on or before 3/18