Essential Information

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at http://support.nts.edu.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- Handbook for Inclusive Language

All standard courses at NTS span a 14-week period from the beginning of coursework to the completion of coursework. This course commences on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 and finishes on Tuesday, December 11, 2012, with class sessions held weekly on Tuesdays, 9:00am – 12:35pm in Room #306.

A course syllabus will sometimes go through more than one version, reflecting scheduling updates and/or the addition of detail as the course unfolds. The document footer indicates the version #. Students are responsible for the latest version of the syllabus which will be made available along with email notice in Moodle.

Instructor Information

Professor: Rev. Doug Hardy, Ph.D.  
Office: (816) 268-5484  
Office Hours: by appointment

Email: dshardy@nts.edu  
Assistant: Micah Horton

Professor: Rev. Judith A. Schwanz, Ph.D.  
Office: (816) 268-5491  
Office Hours: by appointment

Email: jaschwanz@nts.edu  
Assistant: TBA
Catalog Description

This required first-year course in the MDiv program enables new students to examine and strengthen their core relationships for Christian ministry—with self, with others, and with God. Through deepened self-understanding, increased capacity for love of others, and adoption of personal & professional disciplines, students are equipped to become whole and holy persons for ministry. Within the framework of a pastoral theology of the Church, the course provides instruction and guidance for discernment of ministerial callings (vocation), and formulation of a Rule of Life and Philosophy of Ministry. The assessment file established for each student in this course will serve as the base for ongoing assessment throughout the MDiv program. (additional psychological testing fee of $125)

Course Outcomes

This course focuses on Objective #4 of the MDiv program at NTS: The growth of mature self-awareness and self-understanding as flawed human beings, reconciled to God and to each other within the Christian community who are being transformed into the perfect likeness of Christ, filled with his Spirit, and gifted for the service of humanity. (Current catalog available at http://www.nts.edu/nts-catalog)

It does so by providing students with the opportunity to:

1. Increase in self-awareness & self-understanding of one’s calling, strengths and gifts, growing edges and possible ministry pitfalls. [Assignment # 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13]
2. Strengthen relationships with significant others, including spouse (if married), classmates, mentors, and the local church. [Assignment #1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13]
3. Articulate a Christian pastoral identity and consequent theology of ministry. [Assignment #1, 6, 7, 11]
4. Identify and commit to intentional practices for personal & spiritual formation and ministerial development during Seminary. [Assignment #8, 11]
5. Participate in an official assessment process discerning ministerial readiness. [Assignment #4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13]

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies

For students pursuing ordination in the Church of the Nazarene, this course contributes substantively to the fulfillment of the following Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC) Ability Statements found in the Sourcebook on Ordination (United States of America Edition—validated February 2006), available at http://www.nazarenepastor.org/cms:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Ability Statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN20</td>
<td>Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry. [Assignment # 1,2,6,7,8,11,13]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN23</td>
<td>Ability to identify and explain the Doctrine of Holiness from a Wesleyan perspective. [Assignment # 11]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competency</td>
<td>Ability Statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP4</td>
<td>Ability to write an integrative philosophy of ministry that will answer “Why I do what I do when I do it”. [Assignment # 4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Character</td>
<td>Ability Statements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>The development of a portfolio for assessing personal growth in character. This</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The portfolio would include periodic self-assessment & assessment by significant others. These assessments would evaluate the minister with the “BE” categories. [Assignment # 4, 5, 11, 13]

| CH 6 | Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation & the classic Christian disciplines as a means of grace. [Assignment # 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 12, 13] |
| CH 7 | Ability to locate, understand, & use the resources for individual & corporate spiritual formation. [Assignment # 6, 8, 9, 11, 12] |
| CH 8 | Ability to take responsibility for his or her own continuing spiritual development. [Assignment # 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13] |
| CH 9 | Ability to apply understanding of his or her ongoing developmental needs across the life course of the minister to the pursuit of holy character. [Assignment # 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11] |
| CH 10 | Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, & areas of needed growth. [Assignment # 7, 8, 11] |
| CH 11 | Ability to maintain the practice of Sabbath & healthy self-care. [Assignment # 8, 11] |
| CH 12 | Ability to practice faithful stewardship of personal relations including gender relationships, marriage & family, personal finance, & professional conduct. [Assignment # 3, 8, 11] |
| CH 13 | Ability to describe & apply personal communication skills, nurturing relationships, conflict resolution skills for marriage and family. [Assignment # 3, 8, 11, 12, 13] |
| CH 14 | Ability to maintain a healthy balance between family, church, & community commitments. [Assignment # 8, 11] |

Required Texts & Course Materials


Course Assignments & Requirements

1. Attend and be attentive, for each class session will include significant opportunity for individual self-reflection and group interaction. You will be invited to think, to feel, and to do, i.e., to engage your critical faculties, your embodied memories and affect, and your social & cultural identities. Bring all of you to class and commit to participate. If you must, due to unforeseen circumstances, miss a session, alternative readings and/or a project may be required. Missing more than two class sessions may jeopardize a passing grade for the course.
   [Due: Weekly; Course Outcomes: 1, 2, 3; COSAC Outcomes: CN20, CH6]

2. Attend the NTS Community Chapel service with the professors each Tuesday morning from 10:30 – 11:15am—this is required, not optional.
   [Due: Weekly; Course Outcomes: 2; COSAC Outcomes: CN20, CH6]

3. Participate weekly in your designated class small group.
   [Due: Weekly; Course Outcomes: 1, 2; COSAC Outcomes: CH6, 12-13]

4. Complete the Psychological Assessment Package at one of the Testing Sessions. A summary of the results, interpreted by a psychologist, will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio. The Portfolio will form a foundation for determining readiness for participation in the MDiv Supervised Ministry program, for future NTS assessment checkpoints such as Middler Assessment and Senior Integrative Seminar, and for communications with ecclesial officials regarding ministerial credentialing and/or employment. The contents of the Portfolio will be accessible to the NTS faculty for use in the ongoing “in-house” assessment process that is part of the MDiv program. Students will be given the opportunity to sign a waiver release for NTS to release the Portfolio information (all or in part) in response to requests from ecclesial authorities in reference to ministerial credentialing and/or employment.
   [Due: Tuesday, September 11, 1:30pm or 6:00pm; Course Outcomes: 1, 5; COSAC Outcomes: Portfolio, CH8-9]

5. Complete the self-scoring Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) and accompanying Student Information Sheet that will be distributed during the Testing Session. The results will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.
   [Due: In class, Tuesday, September 18; Course Outcomes: 1, 5; COSAC Outcomes: Portfolio, CH8-9]

6. Read all the assigned texts and submit the appropriate Reading Reports according to the Course Calendar below. All Reading Report Forms are accessible in Moodle and are to be submitted there electronically according to the due dates indicated.
   [Due: Tuesdays, October 2 (#1), 16 (#2), November 20 (#3); Course Outcomes: 1, 3; COSAC Outcomes: CN20, CH7]

7. Write a Spiritual Autobiography and complete the Spiritual Practices Checklist as a way to introduce yourself to the instructors, deepen your own understanding of God’s work in your life, and think about the role of spiritual disciplines in your Christian life. Paste the completed checklist into your autobiography document before submitting it (so that it is a single document). Instructions and the Checklist can be found in Moodle. This document will remain confidential with the course professors. (approx. 8 pages)
   [Due: Tuesday, September 18; Course Outcomes: 1, 3; COSAC Outcomes: CN20, CH8-10]

8. Keep an Assessment Journal utilizing the instructions provided at the end of each chapter in Schwanz’s Blessed Connections, and submit copies of your entries either electronically via Moodle or in hard copy (loose leaf pages or photocopies from your journal book—the writing must be legible).
9. Complete and electronically submit the *Spiritual Mentor Selection Form* and forward the instructions for the *Rule of Life* assignment to your spiritual mentor (and your spouse, if you are married). Both documents can be found in *Moodle*.

[Due: Friday, October 12; Course Outcomes: 2, 5; COSAC Outcomes: CH6-8]

10. Schedule a half-hour *Psychologist Interview* and meet with the psychologist who will provide you with individual feedback on the results of the Psychological Assessment Package. A summary of these results will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio. Scheduling information will be provided in class.

[Due: Interview must be completed by Tuesday, October 30; Course Outcomes: 1, 2, 5; COSAC Outcomes: CH8-9]

11. In consultation with your chosen spiritual mentor (and spouse, if you are married), formulate a *Rule of Life* for your time in Seminary—a biblically & theologically grounded, but personalized narrative & strategy for spiritual formation & ministry development that reflects the God-ward trajectory discerned and nurtured in the context of this class. Your *Rule of Life* will consist of three parts, each named for one of the three Christian theological virtues—faith, hope, and love (cf. 1 Corinthians 13:13):

Part I – The Rule of Faith

In your own words, concisely summarize:

a. Your understanding of God’s story of salvation as conveyed in Scripture, “the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints” (Jude 1:3). Include pertinent theological categories and terminology, reflecting your formal theological education-to-date. (approx. 2 pages)
b. Your understanding of the Church, ordained Christian pastoral ministry, and your particular ministerial calling/vocation. Include references to the course texts. (approx. 2 pages)

Part II – The Rule of Hope

Placing yourself within the framework of the Rule of Faith and drawing on the assessment data from this course, describe in detail:

a. Your most characteristic God-ward desires, gifts, and strengths
b. Your most characteristic weaknesses, temptations, and sins
c. Your assessment of how these impact your closest interpersonal relationships
d. Your assessment of how these impact your ministerial identity and effectiveness in pastoral ministry
e. Your identification of priority areas in your life & ministry that need attention during your time at Seminary so that “with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you” (Ephesians 1:18)

Make specific references to insights gained through the testing component of the course: MBTI, Enneagram, Assessment Journal, and Psychologist Interview. (approx. 4 pages)

Part III – The Rule of Love

Taking seriously the story of God and the Church (Rule of Faith) and your personal story (Rule of Hope), detail the specific, disciplined practices to which you will commit yourself during your time at Seminary, in order to welcome and embody the transformative work of the Holy Spirit increasing your capacity to “love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:18):

a. Personal & communal spiritual formation practices
b. Pastoral & ministerial development practices
Limit the practices you choose in each area to those few that reflect realistic and timely priorities for this season of your life. Explain why you’ve chosen each practice (with reference to your Rule of Faith & Rule of Hope), how you will ground them in the corporate life of the Church, detailing the concrete first steps of implementation, and identifying the key relationships you will utilize for discernment, resourcing, and accountability. Conclude your Rule with a brief summary that can be posted as a reminder of your commitments beyond the course. No more than a paragraph in length (or a simple list), it should be transferable to either a framed document for hanging in your home, or a wallet-size laminated document for carrying with you. (approx. 4 pages)

Specific instructions for you, your spouse, and your spiritual mentor can be found in Moodle, including steps and intermediary deadlines. It is your responsibility to initiate contact and schedule meetings, and to follow-through with submitting and receiving feedback on your Rule of Life drafts according to the dates in the instructions (see also Course Calendar below). The final version is due to both the professors (electronically via Moodle) and your spiritual mentor/spouse. A copy will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.

[Due: Tuesday, December 4; Course Outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5; COSAC Outcomes: Portfolio, CN20, 23, CP4, CH6-14]

12. Remind your Spiritual Mentor to submit her/his brief Assessment via email to the professor with whom you scheduled an Exit Interview by. If you are married, remind your spouse to email that professor, acknowledging that he/she has read and is supportive of your final Rule.

[Due: Tuesday, December 11; Course Outcomes: 2, 5; COSAC Outcomes: CH6-8, 13]

13. Meet for a half-hour Exit Interview with your chosen or assigned professor to discuss your Rule and readiness participation in the MDiv Supervised Ministry program. Sign-up information will be provided in class.

[Due: Must be completed by Thursday, December 13; Course Outcomes: 1, 2, 5; COSAC Outcomes: Portfolio, CN20, CH6, 8, 13]

### Distribution of Student Learning Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Face-to-face Class Sessions</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assignments and Learning Activities</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exams &amp; Quizzes</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Method for Submitting Assignments

This course requires internet access to NTS Moodle for instructional information about assignments and electronic assignment submission. Unless otherwise instructed, do not send assignments to the professors via email. Your electronic submissions will automatically be linked to the “Grades” area of Moodle to which you have access for viewing your grades. Contact support@nts.edu with technical questions or for assistance.
Form and Style Expectations

All formal written documents are to be carefully proof-read for correct spelling and grammar before submission; it is the responsibility of the student to ensure “clean” copy, even if it means securing assistance. All research-based written documents are to utilize complete in-text source citation with accompanying bibliography or reference list, according to Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers, 7th edition*, Revised by Wayne C. Booth, et al. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).

Inclusive Language

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language. Inclusive Language usage guidelines can be found at [www.wcwim.org](http://www.wcwim.org).

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams

Grades for late assignments will be affected as follows: 5% reduction per week. No assignments received after Thursday, December 6 will be graded. An absence from the final class session (during exam week) will be considered as a missed exam, and require make-up work for the student to be eligible for a passing grade.

Additional Costs

The Psychological Testing Fee of $125 covers expenses for purchase and scoring of the tests plus compensation for the Psychologist consultation.

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completing all Testing *</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Autobiography</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Reports</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment Journal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Mentor Selection*</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychologist Interview*</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule of Life*</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor/Spouse Assessments</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exit Interview*</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Failure to complete this assignment will result in a failing grade for the course

Grade Standards:

“A” (90%) - EXCEPTIONAL WORK (surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives)

“B” (80%) - GOOD WORK (strong, significant achievement of course objectives)

“C” (70%) - ACCEPTABLE WORK (basic, essential achievement of course objectives)

“D” (60%) - MARGINAL WORK (inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives)

“F” (<60%) - UNACCEPTABLE WORK (failure to achieve course objectives)

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students.
with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies which have been beneficial for the student in the past.

Class Attendance

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Given the highly interactive nature of this course, full participation is crucial. If you must, due to unforeseen circumstances, miss a session, alternative readings and/or a project may be required; please contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation. Missing more than two class sessions may jeopardize a passing grade for the course.

Daily attendance records must be reported for those obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits. Students must make the professor aware if their attendance must be recorded.

Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| September 11 | ▪ Prayer
▪ Seminary as a Crucible for Personal & Relational Formation
▪ A Paradigmatic Prayer
▪ Small Groups | Psychological Assessment Package at Testing Session–1:30pm or 6:00pm (you must attend one) |

**Relationship with Self:**
“Open My Eyes”

| September 18 | ▪ Prayer
▪ Theological Foundations for Assessment
▪ Discernment & Accountability: The Role of Others (Mentors) in our Formation
▪ Small Groups | ▪ Read: Schwanz intro-2; Oswald & Kroeger intro-VII
▪ Spiritual Autobiography & Spiritual Practices Checklist
▪ MBTI Self-Scoring Form & Student Information Sheet |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| September 25 | ▪ Prayer
▪ Spirituality of Individual Differences: MBTI
▪ Small Groups | ▪ Read: Schwanz 3; Oswald & Kroeger VIII-appendix; Rolheiser 1-3 |

| October 2    | ▪ Prayer
▪ Guest: George Gordon on The Enneagram as a tool for Spiritual Formation
▪ Small Groups | ▪ Read: Schwanz 4; Daniels & Price; intro by Gordon in Moodle; Rolheiser 4-6; Purves intro-1
▪ Reading Report 1: Oswald & Kroeger, Daniels & Price |

**Relationship with Others:**
“Incline My Heart”

| October 9    | ▪ Prayer
▪ Intimate/Family Relationships & Formation
▪ Small Groups | ▪ Read: Schwanz 5; Rolheiser 7-10; Purves 2-3
▪ Assessment Journal 1 (Schwanz 1-5)
▪ Spiritual Mentor Selection Form by October 12 |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| October 16 | - Prayer  
- The Church and Spiritual Formation  
- Discussion: Bonhoeffer  
- Small Groups  
- Read: Schwanz 6-7; Bonhoeffer; Purves 4-5  
- Reading Report 2: Rolheiser & Bonhoeffer |
| October 23 | Reading and Research Week – no class                                   |
| October 30 | - Prayer  
- Constructing a Rule of Life  
- Categories for Examining Spiritual Practices  
- Small Groups  
- Read: Schwanz 8-9; Purves concl.-epilogue; Thompson 1-2  
- Psychologist Interview completed |
| November 6 | - Prayer  
- Pastoral Theology & Ministry  
- Small Groups  
- Read: Schwanz 10-12; Thompson 3-4  
- Assessment Journal 2 (Schwanz 6-11)  
- Rule of Life Draft to Spiritual Mentor/Spouse |
| November 13| - Prayer  
- Academics & Spiritual Formation  
- Small Groups  
- Read: Thompson 5-concl.; Simone Weil article |
| November 20| - Prayer  
- Sabbath & Self-Care  
- The Contemplative Tradition  
- Small Groups  
- Reading Report 3: Purves & Thompson  
- Rule of Life Feedback from Mentor/Spouse back to Student |
| November 27| - Prayer  
- Discussion: Course Textbooks  
- Spirituality of Stewardship  
- Small Groups |
| December 4 | - Prayer  
- Course Retrospective  
- Small Groups  
- Final Rule of Life (copies to Mentor/Spouse) |
| December 11| - Covenant Service with Eucharist  
- Spiritual Mentor Assessment/ Spouse Acknowledgement due  
- Exit Interview completed by December 13 |

**Bibliography**

**Personal Assessment & Self-Understanding**


**Theology of Church & Pastoral Ministry**


**Spiritual Formation**


