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](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 Monday, September 10, 2012 and finishes on Monday, December 10, 2012, with class sessions held on Mondays, 1:30 – 4:30pm, in Room #302.

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. Douglas S. Hardy, PhD  
Email: dshardy@nts.edu  
Office: (816) 268-5484  
Office Hours: by appointment  
Web: [http://www.nts.edu/faculty/dr-douglas-hardy.html](http://www.nts.edu/faculty/dr-douglas-hardy.html)  
Assistant: Micah Horton  
Email: ironhorton@gmail.com

Course Description, Narrative, & Rationale

The Ministry of Spiritual Direction is a seminar-style course designed to introduce students to the ministry of Christian spiritual guidance. Its central purposes are to provide a theological foundation for understanding classic and contemporary guidance practices and encourage intentional spiritual direction practice within current pastoral ministry contexts. It does not, in itself, provide adequate preparation or training for certified spiritual direction practice. The course satisfies hours in the Ministries of Formation domain of the MDiv program and can count toward the Certificate in Spiritual Formation.

*Individually*, students will be encouraged to pray and seek to live a holy life. These are indispensable foundations for any Christian spiritual direction work.
In class, students will be invited to practice contemplation, i.e., be attentive to and discerning about what unfolds in the community of learners. This posture is necessary for theological reflection to be formative spiritually and for spiritual reflection to be formative theologically.

Outside of class, students will be encouraged to continue the contemplative posture as they remain open to receiving spiritual guidance, and to offering spiritual guidance as a form of pastoral care, in service to the church and the world, for the sake of God’s larger purposes.

Degree Objectives

This course specifically addresses the following MDiv program objectives:

#1: The practice of the Christian disciplines of worship, prayer, contemplation, study and service within the community of the seminary and in and through specific congregations and the wider church.

#3: The development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the intellectual challenge of the literature of the Christian faith, by the critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity, and of the literature and practices of Christian spirituality, ethics and ministry.

#5: The cultivation of gifts for ministry into competent skills and practices in worship and preaching, teaching, and discipleship, care and counseling, evangelism and missions, administration and servant-leadership.

and the following MACFD program objectives:

#5: Cultivate practices and abilities necessary for skillful performance of age-level and family ministries, for educating the laity in faithful discipleship, for guiding relationships in the church, for spiritual and professional development, and for engaging in theological discernment of sound educational practice.

Course Outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired Course Outcomes</th>
<th>Assignment Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Learn about the tradition of Christian spiritual direction as a distinctive formational &amp; pastoral care practice.</td>
<td>1a,1c,2a,2b,4a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Experience receiving and giving spiritual guidance with an eye toward discerning the role of the practice in one’s personal formation &amp; pastoral ministry.</td>
<td>2c,3b,4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Develop skills for contemplating others &amp; engaging them in conversation regarding spiritual matters while listening for and discerning the Spirit’s presence &amp; work.</td>
<td>3a,3b,3c,3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Articulate a Christian theological foundation for the practice of spiritual guidance.</td>
<td>1a,1b,1c,4a,4b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (USA Edition—validated February 2006), [http://www.nazarenepastor.org/cms](http://www.nazarenepastor.org/cms):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ability Statements - Content</th>
<th>Assignment Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN20: Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry.</td>
<td>1a,1b,1c,2b,3c,3d,4a,4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability Statements - Competency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP12: Ability to express pastoral care and concern appropriately for individuals and families in crises, passages, and the normal routines of life.</td>
<td>3b,3c,3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP13: Ability to offer spiritual counsel and to discern for referral counseling needs beyond the minister’s ability.</td>
<td>3b,3c,3d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CP14: Ability to apply the knowledge of basic helping skills gained from historic Christian and appropriate contemporary models.</td>
<td>3b,3c,3d,4b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability Statements - Character</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CH7: Ability to locate, understand, &amp; use the resources for individual &amp; corporate spiritual formation.</td>
<td>1a,2a,2b,2c,3a,4a,4b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Required Texts & Course Materials


Select chapters/articles furnished or referred to in class (approximately 100 pages)

Total Pages: 847 Total Cost: $66.85

Course Assignments & Requirements
1. **Read** the four (4) assigned textbooks and supplemental readings in their entirety over the course of the semester and:
   a. Participate in class discussion of Guenther (September 17), Barry (October 1), and Rice (April 25). [Course Outcome:1; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CH7]
   b. Write a 3 pages (minimum) summary of Barry’s argument for a Christian theological underpinning of spiritual direction. Due: September 30. [Course Outcome:4; COSAC Outcome:CN20]
   c. Write an “Individualizing Spiritual Direction” Paper using Jones and Ruffing. This 6 pages (minimum) essay will express your understanding of how spiritual diversity (Jones) and personal narrative (Ruffing) inform the work of the spiritual director. (1) Concisely summarize these authors’ main claims; (2) Apply their analysis to yourself; and (3) to a person you know who is different from you in significant ways. Due: November 11. [Course Outcome:1;4; COSAC Outcome:CN20]

2. **Interact with Spiritual Directors:**
   a. Interview at least one a spiritual director in person or watch a minimum of 5 SDI Educational Videos at [http://www.sdiworld.org/resources/videos.html](http://www.sdiworld.org/resources/videos.html). Write a Report according to the instructions in *Moodle.* Due: October 7. [Course Outcome:1; COSAC Outcome:CH7]
   b. Read the Interview Reports of at least two of your classmates and post a Response in the Forum in which you (1) critically assess the similarities & differences between the two directors in relation to yours (do not respond to a classmate who interviewed the same director as you), and (2) pose a question for theological reflection that emerges from the Interview Reports. Due: October 19. [Course Outcome:1; COSAC Outcome:CH7]
   c. Meet with a local spiritual director for your own spiritual direction. This can be the same person you interviewed or a different person. You must schedule & follow-through with a minimum of two (2) separate meetings over the course of the semester (not including an interview meeting for the above assignment) OR you may schedule a Directed Spiritual Retreat with a director that would involve a minimum of two overnights and two (2) separate meetings in that context. Following your final meeting, write & submit a brief Report according to the instructions in *Moodle.* Due: December 10. [Course Outcome:2; COSAC Outcome:CH7]

3. **Engage in Spiritual Conversation as a Spiritual Guide:**
   a. Identify an aspect of your current ministry that holds potential for you to become more intentionally engaged as a spiritual guide to others. It may be interpersonal (e.g., an acquaintance relationship with a neighbor, a new Christian at church, or a youth you are mentoring), group-oriented (e.g., a Sunday School class, Bible study, or ministry team), or organizational (e.g., staff meetings, planning, or promotion). Submit a brief write-up of your initial analysis of the spiritual guidance potential in your current ministry context(s) according to the instructions in *Moodle.* Due: September 16. [Course Outcome:3; COSAC Outcome:CH7]
   b. Utilizing the class as a supportive & accountable resource, practice a preliminary ministry of guidance through attentive listening and intentional direction of conversations, “trying on” the perspective of a spiritual director appropriate to your context. [Course Outcome:2,3; COSAC Outcome:CP12,CP13,CP14]
c. Write up a Case Study of one specific interaction according to the instructions in Moodle, and present it in Class for the purpose of supervision. Due: One week prior to one’s scheduled Class supervision session (see Class Schedule). [Course Outcome:3; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CP12,CP13,CP14]

d. Post a statement in the Moodle Forum describing what you learned personally & professionally about spiritual direction from your Case Study Presentation. Respond to each of the classmates who shared the same presentation day as you, with a specific insight into their learning. Due: Initial post by Friday after one’s scheduled Class supervision session & responses by the following Monday (see Class Schedule). [Course Outcome:3; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CP12,CP13,CP14]

4. Personalize & Integrate Your Learning About Spiritual Direction:
   a. Research a Topic in spiritual direction of particular interest or relevance to you and/or your ministry. Write a 12 pages (minimum) Paper, including bibliography, that explores the topic and consolidates the pertinent information from the literature on the topic.

   OR

   Read the novel Glamorous Powers by Susan Howatch (New York: Fawcett Crest, 1988) and write a 12 pages (minimum) Reaction Paper that critically reviews the author’s understanding of the theology and practice of spiritual direction. In addition to specific references to characters and events in the novel, integrate material from the course texts into your analysis. Due: December 2 [Course Outcome:1,4; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CH7]

   b. Write a 6 pages (minimum) Vocation Paper that articulates in detail your understanding of the theology and practice of spiritual direction, and develops a vision and plan for your personal involvement in this ministry beyond this course. Due: December 9 [Course Outcome:2,4; COSAC Outcome:CN20,CP14,CH7]

Distribution of Student Learning Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total 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>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL READING</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL WRITING</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER ASSIGNMENTS &amp; LEARNING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXAMS &amp; QUizzes</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>133</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.

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 be formatted (and will be evaluated) utilizing either the “Footnotes–Bibliography Style” or “Parentheses–Reference List Style” for source citation as detailed in the most current edition of the Turabian Style Guide: [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/manual](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/manual).

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
Inclusive Language usage guidelines can be found at http://www.nts.edu/nts-resources/student-handbooks/.

Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams
Grades for late assignments will be affected as follows: 5% reduction per day. No assignments received after December 10 will be graded.

Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance &amp; Class Participation</th>
<th>10%</th>
<th>Case Study &amp; Forum</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings’ Papers</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>Topic/Reaction Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interview &amp; Forum</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Vocation Paper</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meetings with Spiritual Director</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)

You have access for viewing your grades in the “Grades” area of Moodle. Any questions or concerns about your assigned grades should be immediately brought to the attention of the instructor.

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. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance. If a student is absent four or more weeks of the semester, the professor may automatically fail the student.

If you are a student obtaining V.A. and Department of Education benefits, you must notify the professor so that attendance can be recorded for mandatory reporting.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Class Topic / Activities</th>
<th>Assignments / Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 10</td>
<td>Entering the Territory of Spiritual Direction</td>
<td>Read Guenther; Context Analysis by September 16; Sign up for SD Interviewee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>Discuss Holy Listening</td>
<td>Read Ruffing (Intro) &amp; Barry; Sign up for Case Study Presentation; Contact Interviewee &amp; Schedule Interview</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Movie: Groundhog Day – The Importance of Concrete Experience</td>
<td>Finish reading Barry; Barry Summary Paper by September 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Reading Assignments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>Discuss Spiritual Direction &amp; the Encounter with God</td>
<td>Read Jones (Intro &amp; ch.1), Ruffing (chs. 1-2); SD Interview Report by October 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Issues in Spiritual Direction (Lecture by Amy Plantinga Pauw-2:30-3:30pm)</td>
<td>Read Jones (chs. 2-3), Ruffing (ch.3);</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 15</td>
<td>Issues in Spiritual Direction</td>
<td>Read Hardy (Pastor), Jones (chs. 4-5), Ruffing (ch. 4); Post assessment &amp; question in Interview Forum by October 19</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>No Classes – Reading &amp; Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>The Pastor &amp; Spiritual Guidance (visit with CoK pastor)</td>
<td>Read Hardy (Wesleyan), Jones (chs. 6-7 &amp; conclusion), Ruffing (ch. 5 &amp; conclusion); Post Case Studies 1,2,3 by November 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5</td>
<td>Spiritual Direction in the Wesleyan Tradition</td>
<td>Jones &amp; Ruffing Comparison Paper by November 11; Read Case Studies 1,2,3;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 12</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations &amp; Supervision: 1,2,3</td>
<td>Post responses to Case Studies 1,2,3 by November 16 &amp; 19; Post Case Studies 4,5,6 by November 18</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 19</td>
<td>Guest-TBD (Dr. Hardy at AAR/SBL Meeting Chicago)</td>
<td>Read Rice; Read Case Studies 4,5,6; Post Case Studies 7,8,9 by November 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations &amp; Supervision: 4,5,6</td>
<td>Read Rice; Post responses to Case Studies 4,5,6 by November 30 &amp; December 3; Read Case Studies 7,8,9; Research/Novel Paper by December 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations &amp; Supervision: 7,8,9</td>
<td>Post responses to Case Studies 7,8,9 by December 7 &amp; 10; Vocation Paper by December 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10</td>
<td>Movie: Dead Man Walking – The Interpersonal &amp; Social Challenges of Spiritual Direction; Course Retrospective &amp; Conclusion</td>
<td>Spiritual Direction Meetings Report by December 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bibliography**


Issues of the journal *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction* are available at the NTS Library. An index of all articles published in the Journal can be found at [http://sdiworld.org/presence_journal.html](http://sdiworld.org/presence_journal.html)

A listing of all media reviewed in *Presence: An International Journal of Spiritual Direction* can be found at [http://sdiworld.org/amazon/media-reviews-in-presence.html](http://sdiworld.org/amazon/media-reviews-in-presence.html)