Course Information

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 10, 2013 and finishes on Thursday, December 12, 2013, with class sessions held weekly on Tuesdays, 9:00am – 12:35pm in Room #306. Video conference students should familiarize themselves with the instructions in the video classroom tech support course or at http://moodle.nts.edu/course/view.php?id=755#07.

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.

Instructors

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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 through the MDiv program. (additional psychological testing fee)

Course Narrative & Rationale

Because of its focus on relationships, this course will be taught through a mix of lecture, small group discussion, and one-to-one conferencing.

Degree Objectives

This course specifically addresses the following MDiv program objectives:
1. Mature knowledge of God and self, attained through practices of Christian formation and personal discipline.
4. Cultivation of gifts, practical skills, and vocational identity as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through engagement in and reflection on the pastoral arts.

and the following MACFD program objective:

1. A deep personal commitment to God and God’s Church and a passionate, vital, and redemptive ministry formed through an ecclesial understanding of the Word of God, the heritage of the faith, the doctrines of the church, and through participation in the life of the church.

6. A capacity and desire for professional and spiritual growth in the context of ministry through research and leadership by demonstrating a spirit of integrity, openness, cooperation, and care.

Complete descriptions of all program objectives with corresponding outcomes can be found in the current academic catalog, available at http://www.nts.edu/academic-catalog.

Church of the Nazarene COSAC Ability Statements for Nazarene Ordination

This course specifically contributes to the following ability statements:

CP4: Ability to write an integrative philosophy of ministry that will answer “Why I do what I do when I do it.”

Portfolio: The development of a portfolio for assessing personal growth in character. This portfolio would include periodic self-assessment & assessment by significant others. These assessments would evaluate the minister with the “BE” categories.

CH6: Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation & the classic Christian disciplines as a means of grace.

CH7: Ability to locate, understand, & use the resources for individual & corporate spiritual formation.

CH8: Ability to take responsibility for his or her own continuing spiritual development.

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.

CH 10: Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, & areas of needed growth.

CH 11: Ability to maintain the practice of Sabbath & healthy self-care.

CH 12: Ability to practice faithful stewardship of personal relations including gender relationships, marriage & family, personal finance, & professional conduct.

CH 13: Ability to describe & apply personal communication skills, nurturing relationships, conflict resolution skills for marriage and family.

CH 14: Ability to maintain a healthy balance between family, church, & community commitments.

Complete descriptions of all Course of Study Advisory Committee (COSAC) Ability Statements can be found in the Sourcebook on Ordination (United States of America Edition—validated February 2006), available at http://www.nazarenepastor.org/cms.

Course Outcomes

It is the intention of this course that full participation will enable the student to:

1. Increase in self-awareness & self-understanding of one’s calling, strengths and gifts, growing edges and possible ministry pitfalls.

2. Strengthen relationships with significant others, including spouse (if married), classmates, mentors, and the local church.

3. Articulate a Christian pastoral identity and consequent theology of ministry.

4. Identify and commit to intentional practices for personal & spiritual formation and ministerial development during Seminary.

5. Participate in an official assessment process discerning ministerial readiness.

Cross-Reference of Assignments with Course Outcomes & COSAC Ability Statements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Course Outcomes</th>
<th>COSAC Ability Statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,2,3</td>
<td>CH6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,2</td>
<td>CH6,12,13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,5</td>
<td>Portfolio, CH8,9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Required Texts & Course Materials


TOTAL PAGES: 1223

### Course Calendar, Assignments & Requirements

**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. Some assignments via Moodle incorporate the “Turnitin” software program that provides accountability for plagiarism and feedback for improved writing.

**Policy Regarding Late Work**

Grades for late assignments will be affected as follows: 5% reduction per day (unless otherwise noted in an assignment grading template). No assignments received after the final day of the course (Thursday, December 12) will be graded.

**Assignment Descriptions & Requirements (cross-referencing with objectives in chart above)**

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, especially being attentive to the inclusion of video conference students. 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. Mid-
Part I – The Rule of Faith

In your own words, concisely summarize:

- 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). Do not give your personal testimony; rather describe God’s intentions for and work with all persons, using pertinent theological categories and terminology reflecting your formal theological education-to-date (approx. 600 words)
- Your understanding of the nature & mission of the Church, including the role of ordained Christian clergy and your philosophy of pastoral ministry (approx. 600 words)

Include references to the course texts.

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:

- Your most characteristic God-ward desires, gifts, and strengths
- Your most characteristic weaknesses, temptations, and sins
- Your assessment of how these impact your closest interpersonal relationships
- Your assessment of how these impact your ministerial identity and effectiveness in the particular ministry to which you have been called
- 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. 1,200 words).

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):

- Personal & communal spiritual formation practices
- 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 (a) why you’ve chosen each practice (with reference to your Rule of Faith & Rule of Hope), (b) how you will ground them in the corporate life of the Church, (c) detailing the concrete first steps of implementation, and (d) identifying the key relationships you will utilize for discernment, resourcing, and accountability.

Conclude your Rule with a brief summary that can be posted & easily accessed 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 hard-copy document for your home/purse/wallet, or electronically to your phone/tablet screen (approx. 1,200 words).

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 the professors (electronically via Moodle) and your spiritual mentor/spouse. A copy will be placed in your NTS Professional Portfolio.

Due: Tuesday, December 3

10. Remind your Spiritual Mentor to submit her/his brief Assessment via email to the professor with whom you scheduled an Exit Interview. 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 10

11. Meet for a half-hour Exit Interview with your chosen professor (only one, not both) to discuss your Rule and readiness for participation in the MDiv Supervised Ministry program. Sign-up for a specific time in Moodle. On campus students will meet at the professor’s office; Video conference students will meet via Skype.

Due: Must be completed by Thursday, December 12

Course Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Class Date</th>
<th>Class Topics/Activities</th>
<th>This Week’s Assignments/Due Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1     | Sept 10-15 | • Prayer  
• Seminary as a Crucible for Personal & Relational Formation  
• A Paradigmatic Prayer  
• Small Groups | • Read: Schwanz intro-2; Bonhoeffer  
• Complete Psychological Assessment Package  
• Write Spiritual Autobiography & Spiritual Practices Checklist |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2 | (Sept 16-22) | Sept 17 | • Prayer  
• Theological Foundations for Assessment  
• Discernment & Accountability: The Role of Others (Mentors)  
• Small Groups | • Psychological Assessment Package due Sept. 17  
• Spiritual Autobiography & Spiritual Practices Checklist due Sept. 17  
• Schedule Psychologist Meeting  
• Read: Schwanz 3; Rolheiser 1-5 |
| 3 | (Sept 23-29) | Sept 24 | • Prayer  
• The Church and Spiritual Formation  
• Discussion: Bonhoeffer / Rolheiser  
• Small Groups | • Read: Schwanz 4; Rolheiser 6-10; Oswald & Kroeger intro-VII  
• Write Reading Report 1 (Bonhoeffer, Rolheiser)  
• Recruit a spiritual mentor  
• Meet with Psychologist |
| 4 | (Sept 30-Oct 6) | Oct 1 | • Preaching Conference in the Chapel  
• Small Groups | • Reading Report 1 due Oct. 1  
• Read: Schwanz 5; Oswald & Kroeger VIII-appendix; Purves intro-1  
• Recruit a spiritual mentor  
• Write Assessment Journal 1 (Schwanz 1-5)  
• Meet with Psychologist |
| 5 | (Oct 7-13) | Oct 8 | • Prayer  
• Spirituality of Individual Differences: MBTI  
• Intimate/Family Relationships & Formation  
• Small Groups | • Assessment Journal 1 due Oct. 8  
• Read: Schwanz 6-7; intro by Gordon in Moodle; Daniels & Price; Purves 2-3  
• Spiritual Mentor Selection Form due October 11  
• Schedule Meeting with Spiritual Mentor  
• Write Reading Report 2 (Oswald & Kroeger, Daniels & Price)  
• Meet with Psychologist |
| 6 | (Oct 14-20) | Oct 15 | • Prayer  
• Guest: George Gordon on *The Enneagram* as a tool for Spiritual Formation  
• Small Groups | • Reading Report 2 due Oct. 15  
• Read: Schwanz 8-9; Purves 4-5  
• Meet with Spiritual Mentor by Oct. 18 |
| 7 | (Oct 21-27) | No class on Oct 22 | • Read: *Thompson* 3-4; Simone Weil article in Moodle | • Reading and Research Week |
| 8 | (Oct 28-Nov 3) | Oct 29 | • Prayer  
• Constructing a Rule of Life  
• Categories for Examining Spiritual Practices  
• Small Groups | • Read: Schwanz 10-12; Purves concl.-epilogue; Thompson 1-2  
• Write Assessment Journal 2 (Schwanz 6-11)  
• Write Draft of Rule of Life  
• Psychologist Interview completed by Oct 29 |
| 9 | (Nov 4-10) | Nov 5 | • Prayer  
• Pastoral Theology & Ministry  
• Small Groups | • Assessment Journal 2 due Nov. 5  
• Rule of Life Draft to Mentor/Spouse by Nov. 5  
• Read: Thompson 3-4; Simone Weil article in Moodle |
| 10 | (Nov 11-17) | Nov 12 | • Prayer  
• Academics & Spiritual Formation  
• Small Groups | • Read: Thompson 5-concl.  
• Write Reading Report 3 (Purves & Thompson) |
| 11 | (Nov 18-24) | Nov 19 | • Prayer  
• Sabbath & Self-Care  
• Small Groups | • Reading Report 3 due Nov. 19  
• Solicit & incorporate Rule of Life Feedback from Mentor/Spouse |
| 12 | (Nov 25-Dec 1) | Nov 26 | • Prayer  
• The Contemplative Tradition  
• Spirituality of Stewardship  
• Small Groups | • Write Final Rule of Life |
### 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>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL READING</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL WRITING</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER ASSIGNMENTS &amp; LEARNING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Costs

A Psychological Testing Fee of $125 assessed to each student covers expenses for purchase and scoring of the tests plus compensation for the Psychologist consultation.

### Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completing all Testing*</td>
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</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)

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.

### Bibliography

**Personal Assessment & Self-Understanding**


### Theology of Church & Pastoral Ministry


### Spiritual Formation


Institutional Information & Policies

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

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.

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 http://www.nts.edu/nts-resources/student-handbooks.

Students with Disabilities

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 that 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 or extenuating 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. 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.

Audio and Video Recordings

In order to foster a safe learning environment in which various viewpoints are respected, audio or video recordings or transcripts thereof by students is prohibited without the permission of the faculty member in charge of the course. If permission is granted, redistribution of these recordings or transcripts thereof outside the scope of the course is prohibited. Students enrolling in videoconferencing courses or participating in certain synchronous Moodle activities should be aware that their images and voices will be transmitted digitally through the videoconferencing equipment and may be recorded. Continued enrollment in these courses constitutes willingness to participate in the class with these conditions. If you have privacy concerns, please discuss your enrollment with the Registrar.

Course Evaluations

Course evaluations will be made available in the final two or three weeks of class in Moodle. The evaluation will be linked to a course assignment when available by the Dean’s Office. Students are encouraged to complete the evaluation.