SPF790 — *Sins & Temptation*  
(3 credit hours)  
Master’s Block Course @ KC Campus – with Video Conference  

Spring 2014

**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 Monday, February 3, 2014 and finishes on Thursday, May 8, 2014, with class sessions held weekly on Thursdays, 9:00am – 12:35pm (Central time zone) in Room #301.

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**

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Assistant: Phil Antilla  
Email: philantilla@gmail.com

**Catalog Description**

SEMINAR IN SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Occasional topical explorations in Christian spirituality and spiritual formation.

**Course Narrative & Rationale**

This course explores the Christian tradition of understanding and responding to the reality of sin with an eye toward the particularities of sin types or “sins” as they manifest in individuals, communities, and cultures. Drawing on the philosophical and theological categories of vice and virtue and grounded in a robust theology of grace, students will study the dynamics of temptation and formative resistance. The course provides an opportunity for theology & ministry students to knowledgably and honestly confront the work of sin in their personal lives and in their communities of faith, contributing to the development of an approach to holy living that is incarnational and concrete. The course is an elective in all programs. Classes will be taught through a mix of lecture and discussion.

**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.
2. Development of wisdom and discernment through engagement with the literature of the Christian faith through critical, scholarly study of the history and theology of Christianity and the application of that heritage to personal and corporate Christian life.
and the following MACFD program objectives:
2. The development of a practical theology of Christian ministry consistent with the student’s theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.
3. A discernment of the various developmental aspects and cultural contexts that influence people and their growth along the life course, in order to design appropriate ministry strategies that form persons into ongoing faithful disciples.

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:
CN20: Ability to reflect theologically on life and ministry.
CN23: Ability to identify and explain the Doctrine of Holiness from a Wesleyan perspective.
CH6: Ability to pursue holy character (Christlikeness) by practicing faith formation and the classic Christian disciplines as 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.
CH9: Ability to apply understanding of his or her ongoing developmental needs across the life course of the minister to the pursuit of holy character.
CH10: Ability to demonstrate a realistic self-understanding including personal strengths, gifts, weaknesses, and areas of needed growth.

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. KNOW a broad range of sin and grace expressions & dynamics as detailed in the Christian tradition.
2. UNDERSTAND one’s own characteristic ways of sinning and corresponding opportunities to access grace, especially during times of temptation.
3. DESIRE to experience and live more fully into a personal journey and community life marked by transformation of vices into virtues.
4. DO research on a particular manifestation of sin and grace with relevance to contemporary Christian ministry.

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>2,3</td>
<td>CN20, CH9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>CH7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>CN20, CN23, CH6, CH8, CH10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CN20, CH6, CH7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,3</td>
<td>CN23, CH6, CH8, CH9, CH10</td>
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Required Texts & Course Materials


Choose one of the following:


or


TOTAL PAGES: 1327

**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. Write an Autobiographical Essay centered on a sins inventory & grace record in which you describe and reflect on your personal and communal history with respect to transgression and redemption. Document (as you are able) the individual and corporate “sins” that have impacted and shaped your life. Include references to your family, other significant interpersonal relationships, your cultural contexts, and your experiences in communities of faith. Identify the issues & questions that emerge for you from these recollections and reflections. Select a title for this essay that best reflects your understanding of the interplay of sin & grace in your life. This document will remain confidential with the course instructor. Length: 3,000 words. Due: Saturday, February 15.

2. Read all the assigned texts according to the schedule in the Course Calendar below and contribute to discussions on the assigned class days.

3. Submit four Bi-weekly Reports in which you comment on key ideas from the assigned readings, identify applications for your personal and communal living, and, as you are able, share with the instructor (or another chosen confessor) your current spiritual journey. Length: 1,000 words. Due: see Course Calendar below.

4. Research and write a Final Paper that analyzes a specific contemporary expression of a signature sin from the Christian tradition. Your analysis should include: a) biblical/theological commentary; b) social science/cultural commentary; and c) formation strategies for the transformation of vice into virtue. Proposal length: 300 words. Due: Wednesday, March 26. Completed project length: 5,000 words. Due: Wednesday, April 30.

5. Write a Personal Plan for the immediate and near future describing specific spiritual practices you will engage to utilize place and space more formatively. Length: 600 words. Due: Wednesday, May 7.

**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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 (Feb 3-9)</td>
<td>Feb 6</td>
<td>Intro to course territory, Review of syllabus</td>
<td>Read: TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 (Feb 10-16)</td>
<td>Feb 13</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Read: TBD, Autobiographical Essay due Feb 15</td>
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### Distribution of Student Learning Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL COMMUNITY LEARNING HOURS</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL READING</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL WRITING</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL OTHER ASSIGNMENTS &amp; LEARNING ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXAMS &amp; QUIZZES</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Additional Costs

None.

### Course Grading

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Autobiographical Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Reports</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar Participation</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Plan</td>
<td>5%</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.
Bibliography

TBD

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
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.