

Syllabus for  
**PRM 558—Spiritual Formation and Discipleship**  
3 Credit Hours  
Spring 2014

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of spiritual formation—how the Christian faith is developed in the life of a person intellectually, emotionally, and behaviorally through discipleship in one-on-one or group settings.

Prerequisites: None.

This course examines the nature of personal spiritual formation as it applies to the ministry of spiritual direction. Attention is given to the theological foundations, spiritual disciplines, perspectives, emphases, and methods of spiritual formation and discipleship.

II. COURSE GOALS

The purpose of this course is to enable the student to do the following:

- A. Study the biblical basis for the processes of spiritual formation and discipleship.
- B. Examine the contributions of spiritual disciplines to the spiritual formation process.
- C. Be moved toward greater effectiveness in facilitating spiritual formation and discipleship as equippers in the Body of Christ.
- D. Study various methods and skills used in spiritual direction within a variety of ministry settings.
- E. Realize the importance of applying principles and processes of discipleship within actual or potential ministry situations.

III. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

As a result of successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Present a biblical basis for the process of spiritual formation and discipleship.
- B. Explain how spiritual disciplines function as guides toward spiritual formation.
- C. Discuss perspectives and emphases that increase the effectiveness of spiritual directors.
- D. Discuss various methods and skills used in spiritual direction within a variety of ministry settings.
- E. Explain the importance of applying principles and processes of discipleship with actual or potential ministry situations.

#### IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

##### A. Required Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.  
ISBN: 9780310238485

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline*. New York: Harper Collins, 1998.  
ISBN: 9780060628390

Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2004.  
ISBN: 9780801091698

###### 2. Other

None

##### B. Optional Materials

###### 1. Textbooks

None

###### 2. Other

None

#### V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

##### A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
2. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence are charged a late exam fee.
3. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University must adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, electronic, video, multimedia, or computer software. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating involve both lying and stealing and are violations of ORU's Honor Code: "I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately collaborate with other students on assignments." Plagiarism is usually defined as copying someone else's ideas, words, or sentence structure and submitting them as one's own. Other forms of academic dishonesty include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - a. Submitting another's work as one's own or colluding with someone else and submitting that work as though it were his or hers;
  - b. Failing to meet group assignment or project requirements while claiming to have done so;
  - c. Failing to cite sources used in a paper;
  - d. Creating results for experiments, observations, interviews, or projects that were not done;
  - e. Receiving or giving unauthorized help on assignments.By submitting an assignment in any form, the student gives permission for the assignment to be checked for plagiarism, either by submitting the work for electronic verification or by other means. Penalties for any of the above infractions may result in disciplinary action including failing the assignment or

failing the course or expulsion from the University, as determined by department and University guidelines.

4. Final exams cannot be given before their scheduled times. Students need to check the final exam schedule before planning return flights or other events at the end of the semester.
5. Students are to be in compliance with university, school, and departmental policies regarding Whole Person Assessment requirements. Students should consult the WPA handbooks for requirements regarding general education and the students' majors.
  - a. The penalty for not submitting electronically or for incorrectly submitting an ePortfolio artifact is a zero for that assignment.
  - b. By submitting an assignment, the student gives permission for the assignment to be assessed electronically.

B. Graduate School of Theology and Ministry Policies and Procedures

1. **Completion of Assignments**

Assignments are due on the dates established in the course calendar, which is published in the syllabus. **Any assignments turned in after the scheduled due date are penalized five percent (5%) of the original value per day including weekends, breaks, and holidays.** All work turned in two weeks after the assignment deadline is received but is granted a grade of zero for that assignment. **No work** is accepted after the final date of regular classes.

2. **Incompletes**

- a. An incomplete is given only after the student establishes with the academic committee by written petition that student's work is incomplete for good cause (i.e., lengthy illness, death in the family). **Incompletes are rarely granted.** Only those absences that are incurred within the time period of the extenuating circumstances prompting an incomplete are excused. The student is still accountable for any other absences and is penalized for them according to the attendance policy.
- b. A Petition for Incomplete Grade with all supporting documentation must be submitted for approval one week prior to the end of normal classes. **The submitting of a petition does not automatically ensure the granting of an incomplete.** The petition must be approved by the academic committee of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry. Students are expected to continue all course work until an incomplete is granted.

3. **Examinations**

- a. Early examinations **are not** allowed. Late examinations without grade penalty are administered only when extenuating circumstances are present (such as a death in the family the week before exams or a sudden and major illness the week of exams that is documented by a physician).
- b. A Petition for Late Examination must be submitted to the academic dean's office. A **\$15 fee**, plus proper documentation, must accompany the petition. The academic committee reviews each petition and grade penalties are assessed. (Late exam fee is not a grade penalty.)
- c. Students taking late exams should expect alternate versions of the original exams.
- d. **Not being present for the final examination automatically results in failure of the course.**

4. **Attendance**  
The administration and faculty of the Graduate School of Theology and Ministry believe that class attendance is crucial in order for students to receive impartation, spiritual formation, and a community experience. Therefore, the Official Attendance Policy for the GSTM is as follows:
  - d. Students will receive one letter grade reduction after missing more than two weeks of classes.
  - e. Students who miss more than one month of classes will fail the course.
  - f. **The absences allowed prior to a grade reduction are designed to allow for emergencies and illnesses and are not designed for indiscriminate use.**
  - g. Administrative excuses are granted only when a student is on official university business and has received approval in advance from the university administration.
  - h. Students are expected to be prompt for classes.
  - i. Students are expected to remain for the entire class session.
  - j. Leaving early without permission constitutes an absence.
5. The Disability Service Center, in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, assures that no qualified individual with a disability will be denied reasonable accommodations based upon the individual's needs. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the Disability Service Center and properly register for these services. For more information, call 918.495.7018 or go to [www.studentresources.oru.edu](http://www.studentresources.oru.edu).

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures
  - a. Grading:
 

Book critiques	30%
Reading certification	10%
Midterm exam	15%
Course project	25%
Final exam	20%
  - b. Grading scale:
    - A=90-100%
    - B=80-89%
    - C=70-79%
    - D=60-69%
    - F=59% and below
2. Whole Person Assessment Requirements
  - a. All students entering the seminary are required to enroll in PRF 059—ePortfolio: Whole Person Assessment, which provides specific training to develop skills needed to create an ePortfolio.
  - b. WPA requirements for this course:  
None
3. Other Policies and/or Procedures  
Each student is expected to complete the following assignments:
  - a. Class participation
  - b. Book critiques  
Read and critique the Boa and Hull textbooks. The critique should include a summary, an evaluation, and integration with other aspects of the course experience. Each section should be 1½-2 pages in length.

(Note: In the Boa book, read Appendix B before beginning with Ch 1.)

- c. Reading certification for Foster text.  
Student certifies that the Foster text has been read.
- d. A midterm exam
- e. Course project (**student chooses one**):
  - (1) Research/Project Paper—the student writes a **ministry** paper that includes the following two sections:
    - (a) Theological/historical perspectives of discipleship or spiritual direction.
    - (b) A description of the strategy and implementation of a system of discipleship or the ministry of spiritual direction within an actual or potential ministry situation.

**Note:** To some degree, it should be obvious how the first section serves as a defense or rationale for that which is described in the second section. The paper should be 8-10 pages and include an introduction, conclusion, and at least five resources in the bibliography.
  - (2) Research/Reflection Paper—the student writes a **personal** paper that includes the following three sections:
    - (a) Theological/historical perspective of the use of spiritual disciplines in spiritual formation.
    - (b) A personal perspective and practice/use of selected spiritual disciplines.
    - (c) Ways that the student can improve the use of the selected spiritual disciplines in personal spiritual formation.

**Note:** As much as possible, content from the first section of the paper should be alluded to in the final two sections in order to synthesize past and present research and experience. The paper should be 8-10 pages and include an introduction, conclusion, and five resources in the bibliography.
- f. A final exam

## VI. COURSE CALENDAR

### C. Course Outline

- 1. Introduction
- 2. The Process of Spiritual Formation
- 3. Spiritual Disciplines
- 4. Spiritual Gifts
- 5. Discipleship
  - a. Individual
  - b. Small Group
  - c. Large Group

### D. Assignments Due

- |    |                              |         |               |
|----|------------------------------|---------|---------------|
| 1. | Book Critique—Boa            | Week 5  | Due 2/5/14    |
| 2. | Reading Certification—Foster | Week 7  | Due 2/21/14   |
| 3. | Midterm Exam                 | Week 8  | Due 2/26/14   |
| 4. | Book Critique—Hull           | Week 12 | Due 4/2/14    |
| 5. | Course Project               | Week 15 | Due 4/25/14   |
|    | Final Exam                   |         | GSTM Schedule |

**Inventory for Student Learning Outcomes  
Graduate School of Theology and Ministry**

**Master of Divinity**

**PRM 558—Spiritual Formation and Discipleship  
Spring 2014**

**Dr. Charles Snow, Instructor**

This course contributes to student learning outcomes for the Master of Divinity degree as indicated below:

**Significant Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

**Moderate Contribution**—Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

**Minimal Contribution**—Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

**No Contribution**—Does not address the outcome.

Degree Program Outcomes	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution	No Contribution
<b>1</b>	<b>Old Testament Scripture in Cultural/Historical Context</b>			
	Articulate a foundational knowledge of the historical/theological content of Scripture with application to selected contemporary situations.		X	
<b>2</b>	<b>Exegetical Tools to Translate/Analyze Biblical Text</b>			
	Interpret the biblical writings in the Greek and/or Hebrew languages using critical exegetical tools, and write a hermeneutical and exegetical paper.			X
<b>3</b>	<b>Biblical/Theological Basis for Ministry Strategies</b>			
	Present practical ministry strategies utilizing biblical and theological principles.	X		
<b>4</b>	<b>Christian Ethics for Social Issues</b>			
	Analyze and discuss contemporary social issues affecting the Church and society based upon biblical, theological, and ethical principles.		X	
<b>5</b>	<b>Theology and Theory of Ministry</b>			
	Develop and articulate a theology and theory of ministry that is relevant to the student's background and calling.	X		
<b>6</b>	<b>Skills for Contemporary Ministry</b>			
	Demonstrate skills for contemporary ministry within a variety of traditions, churches, and cross-cultural contexts.	X		
<b>7</b>	<b>Knowledge of History of Christianity</b>			
	Present a basic knowledge of the history of Christianity.		X	
<b>8</b>	<b>Knowledge of Christian Theology/Doctrines</b>			
	Exhibit a basic knowledge of theology and Christian doctrines.		X	