

School of Theology and Ministry  
Seattle University  
900 Broadway  
Seattle, Washington 98122

Fall Quarter, 2007

STMA 593-04: Scripture Guiding Spiritual  
Practice and Direction  
Hunthausen 100  
Thursdays, 1:30 – 4:20 p.m.

Instructor: Ann Holmes Redding, Ph.D.  
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## Texts

**Required:** The basic text for the course is the Bible. I will be using the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) and *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* in class. You may use whatever edition of the NRSV you might own. Read all scriptural references in at least two versions (including Merrill's *Psalms for Praying*, when applicable.) Please bring both versions to class, unless informed otherwise.

Bowe, Barbara E. *Biblical Foundations of Spirituality*.

Douglas-Klotz, Neil. *The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus*.

Merrill, Nan C. *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness*.

Mulholland, M. Robert. *Shaped by the Word: The Power of Scripture in Spiritual Formation*.

Peterson, Eugene H. *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language*.

Smith, Martin L. *The Word Is Very Near You: A Guide to Praying with Scripture*.

**Supplemental:** The texts below, while not required, may be helpful in your work for this class.

Ballentine, Samuel E. *Prayer in the Hebrew Bible*.

Bass, Dorothy C. *Practicing Our Faith*.

Koenig, John. *Rediscovering New Testament Prayer*.

**Course Description:** This course will provide students with the opportunity to explore how to use academic Biblical study to inform congregational and personal faith formation and spiritual practice. It will introduce students to traditional ways of using scripture for spiritual practice and direction, as well as help them to integrate formal theological study, personal spiritual practice, and the practice of ministry.

**Approach:** Learning *about* spiritual practice is of little use without learning *from* it. Therefore, the focus of the class will be both on learning about the traditional and contemporary spiritual practices based on the Bible and also on putting to use the practices about which we are learning. There will be an opportunity to choose, engage in, and reflect upon personal practices, as well as lead the class in a practice.

### **Objectives and students' learning outcomes**

1. Familiarity with a range of approaches to and uses of scripture in spiritual formation.
2. Development of personal, scripturally centered spiritual practice that is integrated with formal theological study.
3. Ability to choose a scripturally centered practice and lead a group or individual in it, such that
  - a. the students can report and reflect on such an activity; and
  - b. can lead the class in such an activity.

### **Evaluation Procedures**

1. For each of the requirements mentioned below the class and instructor will discuss the equitable and appropriate procedures and criteria for evaluation. The grading weight and scale included in the descriptions are suggested but open for negotiation.
2. The instructor will use those agreed upon procedures and criteria in her evaluation of the assignments.
3. The instructor will have a conference with each student near the end of the quarter to discuss the student's progress.

### **Course Requirements (See Assignment Descriptions below for details.)**

1. Attendance: Attendance in a class that meets for one quarter, once a week is particularly important. Also, in a class that involves experiential learning students should be accountable to one another in this regard. Students will submit in writing by the second class session notice about any anticipated absence. For other absences, students should, if possible, e-mail the instructor as soon as they are able. Suggested weight: 2 points extra credit for perfect attendance.
2. Presentation: Each student will prepare either an opening or closing scriptural meditation or other activity for the class. A sign-up sheet will be circulated in the first session. Suggested weight: 10%.
3. Reading and participation: A portion of each class session (except the first) will be a discussion or other exercise focused on assigned readings from the required texts. Students are expected to be prepared for and participate in that activity. Suggested weight: up to 3 points extra credit.
4. Practicum and report: Each student will choose and lead an individual or group in a scripturally centered practice, lead a group or individual in it, and write a report on the experience. Suggested weight: 35%.
5. Personal spiritual practice and journal: Each student will select, engage in, and reflect in a journal upon at least one regular (preferably daily), scripturally centered practice. Suggested weight: 20%.
6. Book review: Students will review either *The Word Is Very Near You* by Martin L. Smith or *Shaped by the Word* by M. Robert Mulholland, Jr. Suggested weight: 35%.

### Assignment Descriptions

1. Practicum and report: Choosing from practices presented in class and the readings, students will prepare a faith formational activity for use with an individual or a group. The activity should last at least four hours, but can be conducted in several sessions. (It may involve an assignment for the participants, but the time spent on the assignment will not count in the four hours.) The report on the activity will be 3 – 5 pages long, double-spaced. **Due date: 11 October** (for plan for practicum) and **15 November** (for report). The report should include:
  - a. The source of the activity.
  - b. A description of the context for it (the group or individual, the setting, your role, etc.)
  - c. The reason for the selection of the activity and desired outcomes.
  - d. A description of the activity itself.
  - e. Your assessment of how it went (e. g., what you were pleased with, what you were not pleased with, how you might do it differently, how it met the outcomes)
  - f. An anecdotal evaluation of it from the other participants.
2. Opening or closing exercise: Each student will take responsibility for opening or closing one of the class sessions with a scriptural meditation or other exercise. It should last approximately 10 minutes (no more than 15). The readings for the course will provide possible formats or content. The student may involve other students in the presentation. The student will hand in a brief description of the exercise (no more than one page, double-spaced) to hand in on the day of the presentation. **Due date: to be determined from sign-up sheet.**
3. Spiritual practice and journal: After selecting at least one personal spiritual discipline to practice for the duration of the class, each student will keep a journal reflecting on that practice and any experiences related to it. The length of the journal will vary greatly but should be at least 5 pages. It does not have to be typewritten, but must be legible. **Due date: 4 October** (for choice of practice) and **29 November** (for journal).
4. Book review: Each student will write a book review of either *Shaped by the Word* by M. Robert Mulholland, Jr. or *The Word Is Very Near You* by Martin L. Smith. The review will be 3 – 4 double-spaced pages and will include: an introduction to the content and layout of the book; the goal or purpose of the book; description of the most important points or topics and why they are important; how you might use the information or perspectives from the book in ministry or other work; your assessment of the value of the book. **Due date: 25 October.**

### Class Schedule

Date, Class #	In-class activity/topics	Preparation for <b>class</b> (changes possible; stay tuned)	Due to be handed in
27 Sept., Class no.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to class (students, instructor, syllabus, evaluation)</li> <li>• “Who Stole My Jesus?”: Academic Biblical Study and Faith Formation</li> <li>• Intro. To Biblical Hermeneutical Inventory</li> </ul>		
4 Oct., Class no.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biblical Hermeneutical Inventory –Part 1</li> <li>• What is Spirituality? Spiritual Formation? Spiritual Practice? Faith Formation?</li> <li>• Reading Scripture as a Personal Spiritual Practice</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> Bowe, front material, Chs. 1-2; Mulholland, Preface, Parts I and IV and Appendices (focus on Part IV); Smith, Preface and Part I.</p> <p><b>Choose</b> personal spiritual practice.</p> <p><b>Work</b> on Biblical Hermeneutical Inventory.</p>	Choice of personal spiritual practice
11 Oct., Class no. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biblical Hermeneutical Inventory – Part 2</li> <li>• Bible Study Methods and Models</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Chs. 3 – 4 and pertinent scriptural references.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> Bowe, Chs. 3 – 4, and pertinent scriptural references; Smith, pp. 178 – 184; handouts on Bible Study Methods and Models.</p> <p><b>Continue to work</b> on Biblical Hermeneutical Inventory.</p>	Plan for practicum
18 Oct., Class no. 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Daily Office</li> <li>• Use of Lectionary</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Ch. 5 and pertinent scriptural references</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 5 and pertinent scriptural references; Mulholland, Part II; Smith, Part II; lectionary readings as handed out.</p>	
25 Oct., Class no. 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preaching</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Ch. 6 and pertinent scriptural references</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 6 and pertinent scriptural references; Mulholland, Part III.</p>	Book review
All Saints Day, 1 Nov., Class no. 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spiritual Direction</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Ch. 7 and pertinent scriptural references</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 7 and pertinent scriptural references; start Douglas-Klotz.</p>	

8 Nov., Class no. 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role playing and drama</li> <li>• Biblical characters</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Ch. 8 and pertinent scriptural references</li> </ul>	<b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 8 and pertinent scriptural references; continue Douglas-Klotz.	
15 Nov., Class no. 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus</li> <li>• Music and arts</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Ch. 9 and pertinent scriptural references and Douglas-Klotz.</li> </ul>	<b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 9 and pertinent scriptural references; finish Douglas-Klotz.	Practicum report.
29 Nov., Class no. 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catch-up day</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Douglas-Klotz; Bowe, Ch. 10 and pertinent scriptural references</li> </ul>	<b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 10 and pertinent scriptural references. Other readings as assigned.	Journal
6 Dec., Class no. 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Church's Witness</li> <li>• Discussion of Readings: Bowe, Ch. 11 and pertinent scriptural references</li> </ul>	<b>Read</b> Bowe, Ch. 11 and pertinent scriptural references	