

REGENT COLLEGE
Distance Education

SPIR 663: SOULCRAFT: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Professor Emeritus Eugene Peterson

Grader: Joyce Peasgood

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2 Graduate Credit Hours

Main source for guidelines, resources, extra handouts;

www.regent-college.edu/classesonline

Your due date: _____

(See the last page of your Student Handbook for setting your due date)

600 level courses are usually more advanced and focused than 500 level courses and generally assume the completion of some theological studies.

A course may be dropped within two weeks of the course start date for a 100% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between two and four weeks of the course start date for a 75% refund (less a \$25 drop fee). A course may be dropped between four and eight weeks of the course start date for no refund; after this time the student is committed to receiving a grade for the course. All course materials must be returned in original condition before a drop or refund will be approved.

Course Description

The Letter to the Ephesians is a primary text in developing the craft of spiritual formation (soulcraft). As we study this text we will develop an approach to spiritual formation that is distinctively Christian, in contrast to approaches that stress psychological development or lapse into religious conformism.

We will explore the text in the actual conditions in which this formation takes place in us - conditions comprised by home, workplace, congregation, institutions, culture. As God does his formational work in us and those with whom we live, we will develop skills in recognizing what he is doing, and look for the appropriate ways in which we can respond, participate, and guide.

Course Outline

CD 1, 2 iTunes A	DVD 1, 2	Introduction; God & Predestination
CD 3, 4 iTunes B	DVD 3, 4	Paul & Soulcraft; Grace & Great Love
CD 5, 6 iTunes C	DVD 5, 6	Cross & Cornerstone; Mystery & Glory; Saints & Church
CD 7, 8 iTunes D	DVD 7, 8	Gifts & Growth; Truth & Forgiveness
CD 9, 10 iTunes E	DVD 9, 10	Love & Worship; Family & Society; Prayer & the Devil

Academic Requirements

	<u>2 credit hrs.</u>
Lectures	10 hrs
Reading	42 hrs (800 pp)
Annotated Bibliography	3 hrs
Reflective Response	10 hrs (5 pp)
Term paper	<u>25 hrs</u> (13 pp)
TOTAL	90 hrs

Assignment

1. Lectures (10 hrs.)
2. Annotated Bibliography of Reading: the five required books (800 pages). Each annotation should be double spaced and no more than one page in length. One paragraph for the review of the book and one paragraph for personal response. (45 hrs.)
3. A Reflective Response to one of the three required authors – 1250 words. For this assignment, students should consider how their own experience intersects with the author’s perspective. If you were able to sit and talk with the author, what would you say? (10 hrs.)
4. A Term Paper on either "The Spiritual Shape of My Life: A Remembrance" (looking backwards), or "The Spiritual Shape of my Life: A Vision" (looking ahead) - 3250 words. (25 hrs.)

The paper is designed to facilitate reflection upon the events, people, places, circumstances, childhood experiences that affected the spiritual formation of the person's soul. The grader is looking for careful thought into the formation factors that have given shape to the inner life of the student, as he or she is aware of this aspect within their spiritual experience.

In regard to the vision ahead, the student will reflect upon their present understanding of how God has shaped their soul, and the manner in which their present experience of God will influence their journey in Christ into the future.

NOTE: Assignments will only be graded once they are all handed in.

Evaluation

Annotated Bibliography	10 %
Reflective Response	30 %
Term Paper	<u>60 %</u>
	100 %

NB: The Course Evaluation form is to returned by your course due date

Late Policy and Extensions (please read carefully!)

For every week that your course requirements are submitted late, there will be a deduction of a third of a letter grade per assignment accordingly. Only under circumstances that are both *unavoidable and unforeseeable* are extensions considered (please refer to your student handbook for specific details

<http://www.regent-college.edu/academics/cstudies/documents/StudentHandbook.pdf>). Weddings and births do not count as *unavoidable and unforeseeable*. If you need to go beyond the six-month time limit, you must contact the Coordinator *first* for an extension. Contact information is provided in your Student Handbook. Please note that extensions are not automatically granted, and must be applied for before your original due date.

ACADEMIC HONOUR Regent College upholds the highest standards of academic responsibility as part of our commitment to Christ in all of life. Students are required to familiarize themselves especially with the discussion of “Academic Integrity” in the College Catalogue.

Required reading

Buechner, Fredrick. *Telling Secrets*.

_____. *The Sacred Journey: A Memoir of Early Days*.

_____. *Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation*.

Peterson, E.H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*.

Therese of Lisieux. *The Autobiography of Saint Theresa Lisieux: The Story of a Soul*.

Recommended reading

On Ephesians:

Barth, Markus. *The Anchor Bible, Ephesians*.

_____. *The Broken Wall, A Study of the Epistle to the Ephesians*.

Gore, Charles. *St Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians in Practical Exposition*.

On Soulcraft:

Augustine. *Confessions*.

Barth, Karl. *The Christian Life*.

Bunyan, John. *Pilgrim's Progress*.

Day, Dorothy. *Loaves and Fishes*.

_____. *The Long Loneliness*.

Dillard, Annie. *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*.

Hauerwas, Stanley. *A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic*.

Herbert, George. *The Temple*.

Houston, James. *The Heart's Desire: Satisfying the Hunger of the Soul*.

May, Gerald. *Will and Spirit*.

Merton, Thomas. *Seven Story Mountain*.

Packer, J.I. *Rediscovering Holiness*.

Peterson, E.H. *Run with the Horses*.

_____. *Traveling Light: Modern Meditations of St. Paul's Letter of Freedom*.

_____. *Where Your Treasure Is: Psalms that Summon You from Self to Community*.

Teresa of Avila. *The Autobiography*.

Tugwell, Simon. *Ways of Imperfection: An Exploration of Christian Spirituality*.