



WSOLC – Western Seminary Online Campus

Course Number: SFS 501E – Fall 2014

Course Title: Learning to Love God and Others

Instructor: Randal Roberts, D.Min.

Credit Hours: 2

COURSE SCHEDULE

This course is only offered in a 16 week schedule. You can see a “Course Schedule by Week” in this syllabus. After enrollment in the course you can see a course schedule with specific dates in the learning center for your assignments.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The theological and practical dynamics of evangelical spirituality will be examined to provide a solid foundation both for rich fellowship with the Triune God and for living out the Great Commandment. The nature of spiritual maturity will be examined (including a biblically-balanced model of priorities) and practical experiences for nurturing that maturity will be provided. 2 credit hours.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Recognizing the importance of godliness for life and ministry, this course is designed to introduce you to the dynamics of spiritual growth and to encourage your thoughtful cooperation with God's transforming grace. Upon completion of this course, therefore, you should be able to:

- A. articulate (and live out to a greater extent) a biblical model of maturity which reflects appropriate love for God, others, and self;
- B. practice a devotional plan designed to facilitate your ongoing spiritual maturation;
- C. cooperate more effectively with God's Spirit in the process of forming new habits;
- D. foster healthy interpersonal relationships, including the ability to listen and speak with respect for the feelings and opinions of others;
- E. appreciate the resource of fellowship by participating in a small group designed to promote the spiritual maturing of each of its members.

TEXTBOOKS

Support the Seminary through Givingtons.com. We know that many of our students appreciate opportunities to help Western Seminary keep the cost of their education as low as possible. Givington's, a new online retailer, negotiates

competitive pricing with publishers and, when students use the **red** Givington's links below, returns up to 50% of all profits from all book purchases to the seminary. Now you can buy your books and help to underwrite the cost of your seminary education at the same time. This is a pilot program and we would appreciate your feedback. If you would like to drop us a note, contact James Stewart at jstewart@westernseminary.edu.

And of course if you prefer, you can also benefit the seminary by purchasing your books through the Amazon.com associate program. Simply use the blue links provided below, or the search option found on the Western website under "Students / Online": <http://www.westernseminary.edu/students/online>

Gerald Sittser, [Water from a Deep Well](#), Gerald Sittser, IVP Books 2010, ISBN-13: 978-0830837458 MSRP: \$22.00. [Givington's](#)

Brian Hedges, [Christ Formed in You](#), Shepherd Press 2010, ISBN 13: 978-0982438770. MSRP: \$15.95. [Givington's](#)

Brad Bigney, [Gospel Treason: Betraying the Gospel With Hidden Idols](#), P & R Publishing 2012, ISBN-13: 978-1596384026. MSRP: \$14.99. [Givington's](#)

Sam Crabtree, [Practicing Affirmation: God-Centered Praise of Those Who Are Not God](#), ISBN-13: 978-1433522437. MSRP: \$14.99. [Givington's](#)

This reading should be read at 45 pages an hour (Western's familiarity rate), this reading should take approximately 25 hours

Important Note: Required and recommended course texts are subject to change at any time.

COURSE FORMAT

1. Course Audio/Video Materials.

Shortly after your course registration, you will receive instructions about how to download your course using the Integr@te program (not earlier than three weeks from your start date).

2. Learning Center.

You will also be given access to a web-based learning center which functions as your classroom for the course. There you will find:

- The course syllabus. **Please Note:** The syllabus in your learning center is the governing course syllabus. Syllabi downloaded from the seminary website, or received from any other source, are for informational purposes only.
- A week-by-week schedule to help you successfully complete the course on time with the least amount of stress. To discuss changing the assignment due dates within the schedule, please contact Jon Raibley: jraibley@westernseminary.edu.
- A progress report for each lesson, by which you will indicate whether you completed your lesson requirements. While still allowing great scheduling flexibility, progress reports help us help you should you begin to fall

behind.

- Assignment summaries and links for uploading assignments.
- Links to discussion forums, your course instructor and other students, the distance learning support team, as well as links to other helpful communication and instructional resources.

3. Responsibilities.

Before the end of the first week of the session, you need to log onto the online learning center to complete and upload the course affirmation file. By federal law, we now need to ensure that students participate in courses for the full length of the course. So failure to complete the course affirmation on-time will result in a loss of course points and may impact your financial aid eligibility.

Students will receive on-time completion points for finishing their course work according to the schedule. This means students in the 8 week sessions are required to have all their course work into their course instructor by the end of week 7. Students in the 16 week sessions are required to have all their work into their course instructor by the end of week 15. If you have not been granted an extension, graded assignments turned in after 8:00 a.m. on Monday of the final week may be subject to a late penalty of up to 10% per day. No online completion points will be granted after that time.

4. Course Instructor.

You will be assigned a course instructor who will participate as appropriate in classroom activities; review, grade, and provide feedback on course assignments; and interact with you on any questions you have about the course. When you receive your course materials, you will also receive contact information for your course instructor. Please contact your course instructor within two weeks of your course start date and maintain regular contact throughout the course.

ASSIGNMENTS

- 1. Participation Requirements.** For each lesson, complete the items as instructed in your learning center, and submit the progress report verifying that you've done so. These progress reports are our primary means of verifying your attendance, and each is worth up to one point toward your final grade. If the progress report is submitted by the due date on your course schedule, you'll receive 100% of the report grade. If you submit the progress report late, but within two weeks of the due date, you will receive 80%. If you submit the progress report more than two weeks late, you will receive 50%. And, of course, if you fail to submit a progress report at all, you will receive 0%. Certain changes are allowed within the course schedule, to allow for flexibility. You may contact Jon Raibley for details: jraibley@westernseminary.edu.

In addition, you are to complete three activities that will allow us to verify your participation at key points within the course, in compliance with federal regulations. Failure to complete these activities within the designated times may impact the amount or timing of federal financial aid you receive.

- First week participation: Within the first week of the posted course dates, complete and upload the affirmation file.
- On-time verification. By the date listed in the schedule, submit your final assignments and complete the verification assignment, to confirm that you finished the course work on time.
- Course evaluation and reflection. Within the final week of the posted course dates, complete the course evaluation and reflection assignment; a link will be emailed to you at that time.

Points: **43** points possible (Media 21 points possible; Reading 16 points possible, 1 for affirmation file, 5 for on-time verification)

Time: 20 hours estimated time media; 26 hours estimated time reading.

2. Devotional Forum.

Part #1 You are expected to maintain a devotional life in which regular and significant time is set aside for Bible reading, meditation, and prayer. Post a copy of your devotional plans for this term (i.e., what strategy or methods you will seek to use for your devotions, about 150-200 words).

Part #2 Respond to another person's plan giving some encouragement or helpful ideas that they may not have thought about to achieve their devotional plan (about 100 words).

Part #3 Post the progress you are having on your devotional goals (about 100 words).

Part #4 Post the progress you are having on your devotional plan (about 100 words).

Part #5 Post some improvements that you could make in the future to improve your devotional life. (about 100 words)

Time: 5 hours estimated discussion time.

Points: 10 points possible (2 points each)

3. Small Group

Identify at least 1-3 other people with whom you will meet weekly for a minimum of one hour to promote mutual spiritual growth. A roster of group members should be uploaded by lesson #3. Groups should begin meeting that week and continue through the semester.

Each lecture will contain suggested discussion and application questions to help provide some guidance for these meetings, though discussing these is not obligatory. Time should also be set aside for prayer and the sharing of other concerns or personal goals related to spiritual development.

You will submit twice brief evaluations of the effectiveness of these meetings. Please, at the end of the course, submit a list of the number of small group meeting you attended using the "Small Group (Attendance Report)" link on the learning center (ex. I attended 12 small group meetings -John Smith)

Time: 15 hours estimated time
Points: 19 points possible (Small group attendance 13 points – Evaluations 6 points)

4. "Love in Action" Project

Spend at least eight hours during the term demonstrating Christ's love for others by "good deeds" as a volunteer. This can take a wide variety of forms, and can either be done individually or with a group. After these hours are completed, write a one-page (single-spaced) reflection paper briefly describing what you did, what feelings/attitudes you experienced both during and following these deeds, and what reaction (if any) was generated in the recipient(s).

Time: 10 hours estimated time
Points: 10 points possible

5. Reading Review Paper

In a two-page (single-spaced) paper, review each of the required texts; the review of each book should thus run approximately a half-page. Don't merely repeat the book's content; instead focus on your overall impressions of each book, where you agreed/disagreed with each author's approach, the most important lessons learned, etc.

Time: 3 hours estimated time
Points: 9 points possible

6. "Formation New Habits" Papers

PART 1: Write a one-page paper applying a biblical model of re-habituating to a particular habit that you are seeking to build or break to promote greater godliness in your life.

PART 2: In addition to periodically reporting your progress to your small group (as appropriate), at the end of the term submit to the instructor a one-half page evaluation of your progress.

Time: 3 hours estimated time
Points: 6 points possible (3 points each)

7. Integrative Paper

Based upon class discussion, readings and whatever other resources you wish to consult, write a two-page (single-spaced) paper that addresses the following issues: (1) What does spiritual maturity look like, and how is it best nurtured in believers?; (2) In light of your understanding of spiritual maturity, identify 2-3 areas of your life that would be most important for you to grow spiritually and establish a specific growth goal for each of these areas.

Time: 8 hours estimated time
Points: 9 points possible

GRADING SCALE

A+	A	A-	B+	B	B-
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99-100%	95-98%	93-94%	91-92%	88-90%	86-87%
C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-
84-85%	81-83%	79-80%	77-78%	74-76%	70-73%

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

Assignment	Approx. Hours	Points Possible
1. Participation Requirements		
Reading	26	16
Course Lectures	20	21
Policy Affirmation, On Time Verification, Course Evaluation		6
2. Devotional Forums	5	10
3. Small Group	15	19
4. "Love in Action" Project	10	10
5. Reading Review Paper	3	9
6. "Formation New Habits" Papers 1 & 2	3	6
7. Integrative Paper	8	9
Totals	90	106

COURSE SEQUENCE

Important: See the course schedule in the learning center for the due dates of your assignments.

Week	Lessons	Assignments & Notes
1	1. Course Introduction	(For each lesson, complete the progress report)
2	2. Spirituality Model 3. Spirituality Model (Cont.)	Read: Hedges: First 1/2 Devotional Forum Post - Part #1 Small Group Roster due
3	4. Opposition to Spirituality 5. Being Transformed	Read: Hedges: Last 1/2 Devotional Forum Response - Part #2
4	6. Emotions 7. Adversity	"Formation New Habits" paper #1 due
5	8. Body Stewardship	Read: Bigney: First 1/2
6	9. Self-Concept 10. Taming Your Tongue	Read: Bigney: Last 1/2
7	11. Reluctance to Evangelize 12. Work	Devotional Forum Post - Part #3
8	13. Sexual Purity 14. Family	Read: Crabtree: First 1/2 Small Group Evaluation #1 due
9	15. Government /Citizenship	Read: Crabtree: Last 1/2
10	16. Monasticism /Asceticism 17. Mysticism	Read: Sittser First 1/2
11	18. Puritan/Reformed 19. Wesleyan & Keswick	Read: Sittser: Last 1/2
12	20. Charismatic 21. Preparing for Death	Devotional Forum Post - Part #4 "Love in Action" project due

13	22. (Optional) A Global Perspective	Reading Review Paper due "Formation New Habits" paper #2 due
14		Devotional Forum Post - Part #5 Small Group Evaluation #2 due Small Group Attendance Report due Integrative Paper due
15		On-time Verification Due
16		Course Evaluation and Reflection. If you have not been granted an extension, graded assignments turned in after 8:00 a.m. on Monday of the final week may be subject to a late penalty of up to 10% per day.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance and Late Assignments: Student will receive on-time completion points for finishing their course according to the schedule. Students in the 8 week sessions are required to have all their course work into their course instructor by end of week 7. Students in the 16 week sessions are required to have all their work into their course instructor by end of week 15. If you have not been granted an extension, graded assignments turned in after 8:00 a.m. on Monday of the final week may be subject to a late penalty of up to 10% per day. No online completion points will be granted after that time.

Copyright Violation and Plagiarism: Research in secondary sources for the written project is permitted and welcomed. However, any appropriation of either ideas or wording taken from other sources, whether print or electronic, must be properly footnoted. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism which can result in substantial grade reduction or failure. Any unauthorized copying or use of copyrighted materials, including downloaded files of various kinds, can result in criminal charges and fines. For a fuller explanation of these issues or WS's copyright policy, see the Copyright Issues and Cheating" section of the Student Handbook: <http://www.westernseminary.edu/academic/handbook-copyright>.

Incompletes/Extensions:

In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or other extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control, students may request one course extension of no more than 4 weeks. Registration for a distance education course is conditional upon the successful completion of any current course you are taking. If you have received an extension for your current course, you are expected to finish your current courses before your next Online Campus course start date to stay registered.

If students face a personal emergency that requires requesting an extension going beyond the end of the semester, it may affect their ability to receive financial aid in the next semester, and they may face the possibility that their next semester's course registrations will be cancelled. Please contact the Financial Aid Office for assistance.

Audit/Enrichment Students: Enrichment students are encouraged, but not obligated, to participate in assignments and class discussions. Professors are not obligated to grade participation for these students, but may opt to do so depending on class size.

The Availability of Disability Services at Western Seminary: Western Seminary is committed to responding to the needs of students with disabilities as outlined in both the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with

Disabilities Act of 1990. Western students are assisted individually as their needs dictate. It is the responsibility of students with disabilities to identify themselves and the nature of the disability. Any student who has a disability should contact the seminary's Disability (Section 504) Coordinator, Ashley Mitchell, at 503-517-1819/1-877-517-1800, ext. 1819. Her office is at the Portland campus. Students at the northern California campuses may contact Student Services Coordinator – San Jose or Director of Student Services – Sacramento, or they may contact Ms Mitchell directly. Appropriate forms will be provided and must be submitted to the Disability Coordinator's office.

Questions regarding this course or its materials should be directed to:

**Western Seminary Online Campus
5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, OR, 97215
Attn: Jon Raibley - Email: jraibley@westernseminary.edu
1-800-893-8567 - In Portland: 503-517-1899**