



LEARNING TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS

SFS 501S - 2 credit hours

Western Seminary – San Jose Campus

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Syllabus – Fall 2014

COURSE MEETING SCHEDULE

Mondays, 8:00am-12:00pm: Sept. 15, 29; Oct. 13, 27; Nov. 10, 24; Dec. 8 (28 hrs)

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 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, each student should be able to:

- 1) articulate a biblical model of spiritual maturity that reflects, in response to God's redemptive love, appropriate love for Him, others, and self;
- 2) cooperate more effectively with God's Spirit in the process of forming new habits that are consistent with progressive sanctification.

TEXTBOOKS

Gerald Sittser, [*Water from a Deep Well*](#) ISBN 978-0-8308-3493-8 \$22.00

Brian Hedges, [*Christ Formed in You*](#) ISBN 978-0982438770 \$15.95

Brad Bigney, [*Gospel Treason*](#) ISBN 1596384026 \$14.99

Sam Crabtree, [*Practicing Affirmation: God-Centered Praise of Those Who Are Not God*](#) ISBN 1433522438 \$14.99

You are encouraged to purchase these titles through the Amazon.com associate program; you may use the links provided above, or the search option found on the Western website under “Students/San Jose”:
<http://www.westernseminary.edu/students/sanjose>.

ONLINE CLASSROOM

This class has an online classroom. Your first class assignment is to access this website during the first week of the semester and take a simple quiz confirming your participation in the course. You will also use the learning center to download handouts and submit assignments.

To access the site, go to <http://www.westernseminary.edu/classrooms/>. Click on ‘login’ (on the right above the calendar), use your student number for your username, and the password you received from the school. For a replacement password, click on ‘forgot your password’ or contact Jon Raibley: jraibley@westernseminary.edu. The on-line classroom will go live no later than the first Monday of the semester.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Online Orientation (15 min.)

Before the end of the first Friday of the semester, you need to log onto the web classroom, download the syllabus for the course, and complete the report indicating that you have read and understand the course requirements. By federal law, we now need to ensure that students participate in classes for the full length of the semester. So failure to complete the online orientation on time may result in a grade penalty and may impact your financial aid eligibility.

2. Reading (28 hours)

Read the required textbooks in their entirety; you can read them in any order you choose. At 45 pages an hour (Western’s familiarity rate), this reading should take approximately 28 hours. Please report the completion of these readings through the online classroom. Due date: Dec. 13

3. Small Group (13 hours + 1/2 hour for two evaluations)

Identify at least one other person with whom you will meet weekly for a minimum of one hour to promote mutual spiritual growth. The other member(s) of the group can be fellow students, roommates, fellow church members, your spouse, etc. If you are already in such a “mutual discipleship” relationship or a small group that takes seriously the spiritual growth of its members, that can count as fulfilling the assignment. A roster of your group should be submitted online by Sept. 5. Groups should begin meeting the week of Sept. 8 and continue through the week of Dec. 13.

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

Two brief evaluations of the effectiveness of these meetings will be submitted, one on Oct. 27 and the other on Dec. 13. The evaluation forms are in the online Course Folder.

4. “Love in Action” Project (8 + 2 = 10 hours)

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 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). Paper due date: Dec. 6

5. Reading Review Paper (4 hours)

In a paper of around two pages total, assess 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. Due: Dec. 13

6. "Forming New Habits" Papers (2 hours)

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. Due: Oct. 3

PART 2: In addition to periodically reporting your progress to your small group (if appropriate), at the end of the term submit a one-half page evaluation of your progress. Due: Dec. 13

7. Integrative Paper (4 hours)

Based upon class discussion, readings and whatever other resources you wish to consult, write a two-page 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. Be sure to include a description of the role played by the gospel in the process of spiritual maturing. Due: Dec. 13

8. Final Course Evaluation (15 min.)

Before the end of the last Friday of the semester, you will receive an email with a link to the final course evaluation. Once again this honors the federal law that requires us to ensure that students participate in classes for the full length of the class. So failure to complete the final course evaluation on time will result in a grade penalty and may impact your financial aid eligibility.

GRADING

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points Possible (100)</i>	<i>Time</i>
Online Orientation	3	.25 hr
Class attendance	14	28 hrs
Small group attendance	13	13 hrs
Small group evaluations	4 (2 + 2)	.5 hrs
Reading	24	28 hrs
Habits papers	4 (2 + 2)	2 hrs
Reading Review	10	4 hrs
"Love in Action"	10 (8 + 2)	10 hrs

Integrative Paper	15	4 hrs
Final Course Evaluation	3	.25 hr
TOTALS	100 pts	90 hrs

Basic Point Allocation:

A+=100-99, A=98-95, A-=94-93; B+=92-91, B=90-88, B-=87-86; C+=85-84, C=83-81, C-=80-79; D+=78-77, D=76-74, D-=73-70; F=69-0

Attendance and Late Assignments: Students are expected to attend all class meetings. Students who miss class are responsible for missed work. Absences and tardiness may impact a student's grade. Students who anticipate an absence should discuss it in advance with the instructor. Students who miss more than 80% of the seat time for the class will not pass the course without a request for, and the completion of, additional assignments. Assignments submitted after the due date and time will result in a reduction of the student's grade for that assignment. Due date extensions for individual assignments will be granted only on the basis of extenuating circumstances, and must be requested in advance of the pertinent due date.

Incompletes/Extensions: The final deadline for submitting all course work is the last day of the semester as noted in the Academic Calendar and in the class schedule. In the case of serious illness, family emergency, or similar extenuating circumstances, the student may request an extension. A one-to-three week extension is typical in all except the most extreme cases, and some penalty for late work may apply. Under no circumstances will the student be given more than five weeks to complete all required coursework except by petition and approval of the Administrative Committee. (Extensions longer than five weeks are rare and should only be requested under extreme circumstances.)

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.

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/handbook>.

Statement on WiFi Services: Our community at Western Seminary is defined by our membership in the body of Christ. As we share common resources, we wish to do so with respect and consideration for others. Our IT department has created a strong and secure wireless internet network at each of our campus locations to enhance the student learning environment. Some of the considerations in developing our wifi networks have included providing excellent security (better than you'll find at the local coffee shop) and doing so within a budget that does not significantly impact tuition costs. Keeping costs low means that we don't

have an endless supply of bandwidth. We ask that you use the wifi network for academic purposes and avoid downloading large files or streaming video. Please be mindful that your internet use (both in class and on campus) can distract others or prevent them from accessing resources they need for their studies. We appreciate your participation in promoting thoughtful, considerate internet use on campus.

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.

Period of Enrollment: In order to comply with federal regulations Masters level courses will be scheduled to begin and end within the published dates for the three semesters: fall, spring, and summer. This includes intensive hybrid (in-ministry) courses and independent studies. Distance education courses will start and end within the dates of the three semesters. In light of this, every student will be required participate in the course in the first week and the final week of the semester.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Sometime during the first week of the semester, log on to the learning center and complete the online orientation.

9/15 COURSE INTRODUCTION
CONSTRUCTING A BIBLICAL MODEL OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY
WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LOVE GOD AND OTHERS?
TOWARD A CLASSIC MODEL FOR EVANGELICAL RENEWAL

(form small groups; roster due 9/5)

9/29 FORMING NEW HABITS
OVERCOMING OPPOSITION TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH
INTEGRATING EMOTIONS AND SPIRITUALITY

(habits paper part 1 due 10/3)

10/13 REDEEMING ADVERSITY/SUFFERING
STEWARDSHIP OF YOUR BODY
DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL SELF-CONCEPT
PRACTICING THE "ONE ANOTHERS"

10/27 RELATING TO OTHERS: TAMING YOUR TONGUE
RELATING TO OTHERS AS AN EVANGELIST
RELATING TO OTHERS AS A WORKER

(small group eval #1 due 10/27)

11/10 RELATING TO OTHERS AS A FAMILY MEMBER
RELATING TO OTHERS WITH SEXUAL PURITY
RELATING TO OTHERS AS A CITIZEN
INTRO: ASSESSING HISTORICAL MODELS OF SPIRITUALITY

11/24 MODELS: MONASTIC/ASCETIC, MYSTIC, PURITAN/REFORMED, WESLEYAN

("Love in action" paper due 12/6)

12/8 MODELS: KESWICK, CHARISMATIC
PREPARING FOR DEATH
COURSE REVIEW

(Integrative paper, habits paper part 2, small group eval #2, reading review paper and reading/attendance reports due 12/13)

Sometime during the last week of the semester, log onto the learning center and complete the final course evaluation.