

SANTA CLARA COURSE: Synodality, Discipleship and Mission

Professor C. Vanessa White, D. Min.

Term: Winter 2024

Online synchronous and asynchronous

Office Hours: by appointment

Class location: Online (asynchronous and synchronous)

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course looks at the interrelationship of Synodality Discipleship and Mission as seen in the life of Jesus Christ as well as followers of Jesus throughout human history and as evident today. Attention will be focused on the process leading up to the recent synod in Rome. Attention will be focused on the role of prayer and spiritual practice in the journey of discipleship as well as the documents of the church in shaping an understanding of mission and discipleship.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Gittins, Anthony J. *The Way of Discipleship: Women, Men and Today's Call to Mission*. Liturgical Press, ©2016, ISBN: 9780814647158

Neafsey, John. *Act Justly, Love Tenderly: Lifelong Lessons in Conscience and Calling*. Orbis, ©2016. ISBN: 9781626981928

POPE FRANCIS. *Walking Together: The Way of Synodality*. NY Orbis Books, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-62696-524-7

Ross, Kenneth R. *Mission Rediscovered: Transforming Disciples: A Commentary on the Arusha Call to Discipleship*. World Council of Churches. & Globethics.net, © 2020. Print: 9782889313709. On the web: 978-2-88931-369-3 **(it can be downloaded free from the [globeethics.net](http://www.globethics.net/publications) website: www.globethics.net/publications.)**

Bass, Dorothy. Ed. *Practicing Our Faith*. 2nd edition. Jossey-Bass. ©2010. ISBN: 9780470484111

LEARNING OUTCOMES AND ASSESSMENT:

Student success in this course is manifest in the ability to:

1. Identify key biblical texts, church documents, historical events and spiritual writings which are instrumental in developing the Christian understanding of discipleship and mission
2. Critically reflect, articulate, and witness to the value of spirituality and the role of context in journeying as a disciple in mission
3. Articulate and critically reflect on the role of spirituality, mission, and discipleship in the student's development as a minister in today's world.
4. Define what synodality is and the process of synodality in the life of the Christian disciple.

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Assessment Methods

- Student performance in this course will be evaluated based on:
 - Presence and participation in class and online
 - Written and oral assignments associated with readings, notes, class participation and attendance
 - Individual and group presentations assigned during the course
 - Weekly completed assignments on the web

Criteria used for assessing performance

- **Content** (e.g., quality of material in the submission of sources learned through course notes and readings; demonstration of ability to support one's position)
- **Communication** (e.g., clarity of thought; clarity of organization of ideas; style—grammar, spelling, proper citation of sources, etc., in group situation's ability to work collegially)
- **Critique** (e.g., ability to identify strengths and weakness of ideas/positions presented by self and/or others; attention to what is missing in the positions/ideas of self and /or others; attention to the contexts out of which positions/ideas arise, including one's own context)

GRADING

A Indicates the student has *significantly* exceeded the minimum expectations for the assignment. The student has consulted the relevant scholars and has consistently entered dialogue with these scholars, offering his/her critique of the relevant sources. All the required parts of the assignment are present, and the written presentation is consistently above average, with no errors in spelling or grammar. The student demonstrated leadership in the course.

B Indicates the student has *exceeded the minimum* expectations for the assignment. The student has consulted relevant scholars and has entered a dialogue with most of them, offering his/her critique of the sources. All the required parts of the assignment are present, and the written presentation is above average, with no errors in spelling or grammar. The student demonstrated good participation in the course.

C Indicates the student has *met the minimum* expectations for the assignment. The student has consulted relevant scholars and has presented their views well, at least occasionally offering a critique of the sources. The required parts of the assignment are present, and the written presentation is acceptable, with minimal errors in spelling or grammar. The student made little contribution to the group or class.

D Indicates the student *has not met the minimum* expectations for the assignment in one or more of the following ways: significant critical scholarship is not consulted; significant segments of the assignment are missing or inadequate; or the written presentation is inadequate in grammar, spelling, or format. Minimal participation of student

F Indicates the work is not acceptable for graduate-level study.

I Student did not complete work for the course and has consulted with the professor to complete work at later date and has completed necessary forms for an incomplete

PI Student did not complete the work and therefore has received a permanent incomplete in the course and does not receive credit for taking the course.

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. PRESENCE, PARTICIPATION ONLINE (35 points)

- **INTRODUCTION: (5)** Students will post an introduction to the online platform.
- **Journal Practice (15):** 3 Journal Entries from the book *PRACTICING OUR FAITH* as well as 6 spiritual practices that will be announced in class. Journals due on Saturdays.
- **Presence and Participation in class (15)** Spiritual Practice as part of the journal experience students will be expected to participate in the spiritual practice for each module and participation in class.

2. PRAYER LEADERSHIP – (5 points)

D. Min students will be assigned and expected to develop a prayer experience for each module that is attentive to the themes of the course. Prayers developed by students will begin in February. Professor will develop prayers in January.

3. CRITICAL REFLECTION/SUMMARY OF READINGS (30 points total)

Students will be assigned a peer learning/discussion group for the semester. Students will have time during class to discuss the readings in their small group. Each student must post an integrative critical response to the readings on the date listed below. Each reflection is worth 10 points.

Postings are expected by the date listed below at 11:59 p.m. on date listed below.

3 postings are required during the course.

- #1: February 7, 2023, *Modules 1 & 2*
- #2: February 28, 2023, *Modules 3 & 4*
- #3 March 11, 2023, *Modules 5 & 6. (Module 7 will be incorporated in final)*

REFLECTION: Using the question below and on D2L as guides, students will post a critical reflection of the readings. (at least 4 per critical reflection)

What was your main insight? What were your questions? What were the weaknesses of the article? The strengths? What challenged you? How did the reading inform your understanding of the relationship between spirituality, discipleship, and mission? What are the implications for ministry?

4. FINAL PAPER, POWERPOINT PASTORAL PROJECT or ORAL EXAM (30 points) Due: Week of March 13

PAPER - Write an 8 – 10-page paper (double-spaced, 2,000 to 3,500 words) that discusses the themes in this course and how you would use what they have learned in your ministry. What is your understanding of mission and discipleship? How does one's journey in spirituality shape one's response? This paper is to incorporate the course readings/discussions. This paper will follow the CTU writing style manual (Turabian) for formatting and citation of sources.

PROJECT

Pastoral Project. Develop a pastoral project for parish (a retreat, special event) that highlights the theme of mission and justice. Your project should include the goals of the project, the needs assessments, the participants, a description of the actual project which would include a bibliography of sources/resources used and how you plan to

evaluate the project.

Oral Interview/Exam of questions on various themes discussed in the course. Questions will be given to the student one week before the end of the semester. As a student, you will choose two questions and the professor chooses one. Meetings will be set up via videoconferencing and takes 15 – 20 minutes. Questions will be distributed for study during the last two weeks of the course.

GRADING/ASSESSMENT

ALL OTHER STUDENTS

▪	PARTICIPATION/PRESENCE/PRACTICE/PRAYER	40
▪	CRITICAL READING	30
▪	FINAL	30

Grading and Points

A+	4.00	99-100
A	4.00	93-98
A-	3.75	90-92
B+	3.50	87-89
B	3.00	83-86
B-	2.75	80-82
C+	2.50	77-79
C	2.00	73-76
C-	1.75	70-72
D+	1.00	67-69

PAPERS/ASSIGNMENTS – DUE DATES

DATE	POINTS SC4005	ASSIGNMENT
January 17, 2023	5	Introductions
January 24, 2023	5	JOURNAL #1
February 7, 2023	10	Critical Reflection Paper #1 (MODULE 1&2)
February 14, 2023	5	JOURNAL #2
February 28, 2023	10	Critical Reflection #2 (MODULE 3 &4)
March 11, 2023	15	Combined Critical Reflection #3 (MODULES 5 & 6) and Journal)
March 15, 2023	30	FINAL (Paper, Presentation, Project, Exam)
Dates vary	5	PRAYER
Zoom Class	15	Participation in course
TOTAL	100	

EXTRA CREDIT: Attend a Lecture that is attentive to Mission, Discipleship and Spirituality and write a 1-page reflection on this experience as it pertains to the topic.:

Up to 2 extra credit points will be given for this assignment.

Students are graded on their ability to meet the requirements for the course. Grades do not necessarily reflect the student's intelligence or capability. Failure to meet the requirements stated for the course will impact the student's grade.

COURSE CALENDAR

MODULE ONE – Week of January 10 and January 17

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE – Mission and Discipleship

ZOOM CLASS #1 – January 10, 2023 – 5 – 7:30 p.m. PST

1. Journal Reading and Spiritual Practice:

- **READ:** Dykstra and Bass, “Times of Yearning and Practices of Faith” And “Stephanie Paulsell “Honoring the Body.” in *PRACTICING OUR FAITH*.
- **SPIRITUAL PRACTICE:** Breathing and Sacred Pause. See D2L for instructions.

2. Critical Readings:

Anh Q. Tran. A Church of Mercy and Hope: Pope Francis and the New Evangelization,” *Pope Francis and the Event of Encounter*

Gilberto Cavazos Gonzales. “The Spiritual Journey” in *BEYOND PIETY*. 11-27.

Anthony Gittins. *The Way of Discipleship*. Read PART I: Theology, Mission and Christian Discipleship.

Sr. Natalie Becquart. “Synodality According to Pope Francis: A Call from God, an Open Path, a Moving Thought.” *Walking Together: The Way of Synodality*. Introduction. xi-xviii

Wonsuk Ma and Kenneth R. Ross: *The Spiritual Dimension of Mission in Mission Spirituality and Authentic Discipleship* (Edinburgh Center, 2013) on D2L. Or Ross, Kenneth. “The Arusha Call to Discipleship 8 – 15. In *Mission Rediscovered: Transforming Disciples*.

3. VIEW/LISTEN:

- a. Anthony Gittins – “Discipleship and Mission”
- b. Joan Chittister, OSB on “The Time is Now”
- c. Steve Bevans, SVD: Prophetic Spirituality
- d. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King: St. Paul’s Message to America.

MODULE TWO – Week of January 24 and January 31

DOCUMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND OTHER SOURCES

THE SYNODAL PROCESS

ZOOM CLASS #2- January 24, 2023 – 5 – 7:30 p.m. PST

1. Journal Reading and Spiritual Practice:

JOURNAL READ: M. Shawn Copeland. “Saying Yes and Saying No” in in *PRACTICING OUR FAITH*.” (Chapter 5)

PRACTICE: DISCERNING YES and NO

2. Critical Readings

- Read at least three documents in this section. **And at one of the documents in the intercontinental phase of the synod.**

- **VATICAN II**
 - **Ad Gentes (12/07/65)**
- **BL. POPE PAUL VI:**
 - **On the Church (Ecclesiam Suam)**
 - **Evangelization in the Modern World**
- **POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II**
 - ***Homily, Apostolic Pilgrimage to Poland**

- On the Permanent Validity of the Church's missionary mandate (Redemptoris Missio)
- The Encounter With the Living Jesus Christ: The Way to Conversion, Communion and Solidarity in America
- Catechesis In Our Time
- **POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI**
 - Address to Catholics Engaged in Church and Society
 - Address to Leaders Involved in the New Evangelization
 - Homily at Mass For the New Evangelization
- **POPE FRANCIS**
 - Lumen Fidei (The Light of Faith)
 - Evangelii Gaudium (Joy of the Gospel)
 - World Mission Day Message 2022
- **WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**
 - The Arusha Call to Discipleship
- **THE SYNODAL PROCESS**
 - https://www.synod.va/en/synodal-process/the-continental-stage/final_document.html

3. VIEW/LISTEN:

- a. Diane Bergant, CSA: – Laudato Si – “Our Privilege and Challenge as Children of the Earth”
- b. Ton Sison – “The Arts, Film and Evangelization in Evangelii Gaudium”

MODULE THREE – Week of February 7 and February 14

CALL, CONSCIENCE and ENCOUNTER

ZOOM CLASS #3 – February 7, 2023 – 5 – 7:30 p.m. PST

Journal Reading and Spiritual Practice.

JOURNAL READ: Ana Maria Pineda. “Hospitality” in *PRACTICING OUR FAITH*.

Spiritual Practice: Hospitality.

1. Critical Readings

Read – John Neafsey – *Act Justly, Love Tenderly: Lifelong Lessons in Conscience and Calling*.

Pope Francis. “A Task that Involves and Concerns All of God's People: Letter to the People, August 20, 2018. *Walking Together: The Way of Synodality*. 60-70
 And “*Ecclesial Exercise in Discernment: Address at the Opening of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, the Fatih and Vocational Discernment*. 71-76.

2. VIEW

- a. Anne Arabome, SSS “What Faith Means to Me as a Nigerian Woman Theologian” *Catholic Women Speak*, November 12, 2018.
- b. Film - The Dorothy Day Story: Revolution of the Heart (1 hour)
- c. Robert Schreiter, CPPS – The Heart of the Gospel (reflection on Evangelii Gaudium)

MODULE FOUR: Week of February 21*DISCIPLESHIP***ZOOM CLASS #4 – February 21, 2023 – 5 – 7:30 p.m. PST****1. Journal Reading and Spiritual Practice:****JOURNAL READ:** L Gregory Jones. "Forgiveness" Chapter 10.**Spiritual Practice:** FORGIVENESS**2. Critical Readings:***Mission Rediscovered: Transforming Disciples – A Commentary on the Arusha Call to Discipleship.***Choose two** of the chapters in Gittins book (*The Way of Discipleship*) on the section entitled Gospel, Discipleship and Contemporary Living. (chapter 5 – 14)**Pope Francis.** *Walking Together: The Way of Synodality.* 78-99**3. VIEW:**

Pope Francis's on Discipleship (September 18, 2018)

MODULE FIVE: February 28 and March 6*MISSION and THE MISSIONARY PARISH***ZOOM CLASS #5 – February 28, 2023 – 5 – 7:30 p.m. PST****1. Journal Reading and Spiritual Practice:****JOURNAL READ:** TBA**Spiritual Practice:** COMMUNITY: Reflect on how you are developing an authentic community.**2. Pope Francis.** *Walking Together: The Way of Synodality.* 126-150.**3. Readings:** From *New Theology Review.* The Missionary Parish. Volume 24. Number 2, May 2011.**Choose three.**Bevans, Steve. *The Missionary Parish: Beyond the Spiritual Service Station*, 6 =16

Bowe, Barbara. "God's Reign – Not Ours: To What Shall We Compare the Kingdom of God? 17 – 27.

Cruz, Gemma T. *Dialogical Encounters: Mission in the Context of Religious Diversity.* 51 – 61.Hailer, Gretchen, RSHM. *Companions on the Journey Together*, 62 – 71.

Hunsberger, George R. "Claimed as Christ's Own: Baptized into Missionary Discipleship. 40 – 50.

Lumas, Eva Marie, SSS. "It Takes a Whole Village To . . . Do Just About Everything! Embracing a Preferential Option for the Poor." 72 – 80.

Nanko-Fernandez, Carmen M.: *Creation in Divine Diversity: Imaging Community, Respecting Difference* 28 - 39.White, C. Vanessa. "I'm Gonna do What the Spirit Say Do": *Spirituality of Laity in Mission.* 85 – 88.**4. VIEW:**a. Carmen Nanko Fernandez – "Reflection on *Evangelii Gaudium*" Learn@CTU

b. Gemma Cruz – "Mission among crucified peoples"

c. C. Vanessa White – "Love and the Missionary" in *Evangelii Gaudium*

MODULE SIX: March 13, 2023*TO BE IN THE WORLD***ZOOM CLASS #6 – March 13, 2023 – 5 – 7:30 p.m. PST****1. Journal Reading and Spiritual Practice:****Spiritual Practice: TESTIMONY** (see D2L for further information)**JOURNAL READING:** Thomas Hoyt, Jr. "Testimony" (Chapter 7) in *PRACTICING OUR FAITH***2. Pope Francis Walking Together: The Way of the Synod. 151-172.****3. Online Readings: TBA****4. VIEW: TBA****COMBINED CRITICAL REFLECTION #3 and JOURNAL – March 15*****THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO REVISION***

October 14, 2023