

SPIR 220

SPIRITUALITY AND MINISTRY

Winter Quarter, 2024

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Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries

A note to the reader: this is a draft version of the syllabus for SPIR 220. Most of what you see below, certainly in the shape of the course, will be familiar come January, 2024. Some of the specifics (scheduled topics and an assignment or two) will continue to be under review.

Course Description: Spirituality and Ministry, the two words that make up our course title, are vast topics theoretically independent of each other. However, in human experience they describe what could very well be called *the entirety of the Christian life*. Indeed, it can be said that in practice neither spirituality nor ministry can exist without the other. *What we do in this course is realize the extent to which that statement is true.* In the Christian tradition, spirituality is essentially relational and centered in the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. In turn, the spirituality of Jesus constantly engages neighbor and stranger alike. In this course, we examine how ministries broadly considered in the Christian tradition need and give expression to various kinds of spirituality and how spirituality elevates human relationships to the level of vocation, apostolic service, and mission.

Course Goals and Learning Objectives: SPIR 220, as a course in the GPPM, has two learning outcomes (LOs): *pastoral proficiency* and *leadership skills* in ministry. As such, a this is a course weighted toward pastoral application: students will grow in a greater awareness of their own spiritual and ministerial lives as well as experiences in spiritual formation within various pastoral contexts.

LO 2: Pastoral Proficiency

Familiarity with ministerial practices in various manifestations of church life, expressed in concrete pastoral applications which include discernment, compassion, and ministries of accompaniment.

LO 3: Servant Leadership

A commitment to identify injustices and developing skills to work individually and in collaboration with other ministers, in accompanying those in need and in service to the poor, the marginalized, and the alienated, both within and outside the Church.

Course Approach: the course is designed to accommodate busy schedules while encouraging *personal discipline* and *skillful time management* for the sake of a genuinely fruitful experience of the course. My work is to provide meaningful and engaging forums for course instruction, student interaction and an overall positive online learning experience. In all of this, students can expect a certain consistency in organization and assignment:

- **Camino/Canvas:** this is SCU's course management system and the main source and calendar setting for SPIR 220.
- **Modules:** the course is module-driven and divided into **four sections**, each with its own set of dates, themes, reading assignments, online discussion forums and written assignments. All modules are 'open' and accessible so that students can anticipate course work or review what's transpired.
- **Readings:** all reading assignments listed below in the syllabus are from either the two required books which students should purchase in advance of the course or uploaded to Camino. Weekly Camino "Announcements" help the student anticipate the coming session, usually with **guide questions** to keep in mind while reading. These questions are not separate assignments and needn't be written out. They're merely to help students focus on certain topics within the readings.

Class Hours: our three Saturday sessions (**January 13, February 10, March 16**) begin at 9a and end at 3p. Our Thursday evening two-hour sessions run from 6p – 8p. Each class is important and students are expected to attend each. But the Saturdays sessions are six hours long and constitute such an important degree of presence in the course that students who foresee a schedule conflict on one of those Saturdays should reconsider taking this course.

Course Schedule:

Saturday	1/13
Thursday	1/18
Thursday	1/25
Saturday	2/10
Thursday	2/15
Thursday	2/22
Thursday	2/29
Thursday	3/7
Saturday	3/16

Required Texts:

- Gregory Boyle, *Tattoos on the Heart* (Free Press, 2011); ISBN-13: 978-1439153154

- Michael Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Ligouri, 2004); ISBN-13: 978-0764811494
- All other texts, video and audio sources will appear in the relevant module on Camino

Course Requirements:

- **Writing** assignments include **five journals** (brief 2-3 page reflections) on the developing content of the course.
- A **final project** serves as a meaningful summation of the course, a **case study** on the spirituality and ministry of a person committed to both. (Details for both kinds of writing assignment will appear at our course page at Camino.)
- **Class attendance and participation** are major components of both a graduate course and one of this nature. Our online sessions depend on ‘real presence’ in the sense of a commitment to be in front of some screen on scheduled Wednesdays and Saturdays. Barring only extraordinary circumstances, I’m presuming student attendance at every scheduled session. Consider the Saturday sessions as three regular Tuesday meetings; missing any Saturday makes it hard to really complete the course.
- **Source Leadership:** each student will **choose a reading** from the syllabus to present *informally* and for discussion, either on a Saturday or Wednesday. (Again, guidelines for this will be found at Camino.)

Credit Apportionment:

General Participation:	35%
Discussion Leadership:	10%
Five Course Journals:	30% (6 points each)
Case Study:	25%

Instructor feedback reaches students through comments on papers and online discussions (emailed to each student) and, in more general ways, during onsite and online office hours. I am happy to consult with students on projects before, during or after they’re written in mentoring the practices of critical thinking and written communication.

Modules: the course is module-driven. What that means is when students access the course at Camino, they’ll go first to “modules” on the left side of the page. The four modules for the course illustrate the flow and schedule of course content. All readings and resources (excluding the Boyle and Casey books) will be found in these modules.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS

MODULE I: Foundations in Spirituality and Ministry

Saturday, January 13 (9a – 3p)

Morning Topics: Introductions—the course and each other

The Course Syllabus

Approaches to Spirituality and Ministry

What *is* Spirituality? What *is* Ministry?

Please read:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 1-4)
- Handout: Descriptions of Spirituality

Afternoon Topics:

Spirituality as an Evolving Reality: a Personal, Spiritual Ecology

Who *am* I in ministry?

The Nature of Spiritual Experience

Please read:

- Casey, Chs 5-10
- Annice Callahan, 'Images of Oppression and Liberation in Ministry'
- Handouts:
 - Self-Ecology Wheel
 - A Spiritual Awareness Exercise
 - Rita Ferrone and 'Where the Action Is'

Thursday, January 18

Topic: Ministry and Collaboration

Reading:

- Casey, Chs 11-12
- Wilkie Au, A Spirituality for Collaborative Ministry

MODULE II: Spirituality, Ministry, and the Art of Theological Reflection

Thursday, January 25

Topic: Reflecting on the experience of God as essential for ministry

Please read:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 13-14)
- Handouts:
 - Ignatian Spirituality & Interior Movements
 - Mystics & Mentors

Saturday, February 10

Morning Topic: Ministry, Spirituality, and Conversion of Heart

Please read:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 15-20)
- Anthony Krisak, 'Theological Reflection: Unfolding the Mystery'
- Handout:
 - Ignatian Pedagogy for Theological Reflection

Afternoon Topic: Personal Spirituality as the Basis of Ministry

- Joyce Rupp, 'Rediscovering God in the Midst of our Work'
- Handouts:
 - True Self / False Self

MODULE III: Spirituality as Ministry

Thursday, February 15

Topics: prayer forms and ministries of prayer; discernment and prayer

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 20-22)
- William Barry, 'Trusting the Action of God in Ministry'
- Handouts:
 - Prayers & Prayer Forms
 - Principles of Discernment

Thursday, February 22

Topic: ministries of accompaniment and spirituality

Readings:

- M. Casey, *Fully Human, Fully Divine* (Chs 23-25)
- S. McCarty, 'Basics in Spiritual Direction'
- Handouts:
 - Charism for Spiritual Direction

Thursday, February 29

Topic: spiritual accompaniment and the margins

Readings:

- Joann Wolski Conn, 'Dancing in the Dark: Women's Spirituality and Ministry'
- Gregory Boyle, SJ, *Tattoos on the Heart* (Chs 1-5)

MODULE IV: Spirituality and Ministry

Thursday, March 7

Topic: Ministry and the Spirituality of Hope

Readings:

- Gregory Boyle, SJ, *Tattoos on the Heart* (Chs 6-9)

- **Target Date for Completion of Case Study**

Saturday, March 16

Topic: Spirituality, Ministry, and the World

Reading:

- Janet Ruffing, 'Living Contemplatively in Challenging Times'

Case Study Presentations (brief summaries and discussions)

DRAFT