

Saint Paul School of Theology  
**Course of Study 123**  
**Formation & Discipleship**  
**Summer 2022**

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I will typically answer emails within 8 hours of their arrival to my inbox. Please do not hesitate to email me with questions about class. I am readily available, by appointment, to meet with any student via Zoom or over the phone. Please contact me by email at least 24 hours prior to your desired time to request an appointment.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course grounds the student in the theology and core practices of personal and congregational formation and discipleship.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to:

1. Articulate a theological basis for the Wesleyan emphasis on spiritual disciplines and practice them as means of grace.
2. Explain and implement the General Rules and the practices of small groups in a congregation.
3. Educate and resource a congregation in the discipline's Christian formation.
4. Organize congregations to help people discern their callings and gifts for ministry.

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

Matthaei, Sondra Higgins. *Formation and the Faith*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2008.

Thompson, Marjorie J. *Soul Feast*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox: 2014.

### **ADDITIONAL READINGS (provided on Moodle)**

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016.

<https://www.ctcumc.org/files/fileshare/2016-book-of-discipline.pdf>

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/the-general-rules-of-the-methodist-church>.

West, Nathaniel D. "Religious Educators as Public Ministry Leaders." In *From Lament to Advocacy* edited by Anne E. Streaty Wimberley, Nathaniel D. West, and Annie A. Lockhart-Gilroy, [page #'s]. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2020.

Wimberley, Anne E. Streaty. "Religious Education and Lament Inviting Cries from the Hearth, Guiding the Way Forward." In *From Lament to Advocacy* edited by Anne E. Streaty Wimberley, Nathaniel D. West, and Annie A. Lockhart-Gilroy, [page #'s]. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2020.

## CLASS STRUCTURE

1. **Zoom Orientation—Meet from 6-8 pm CST, Wednesday, June 29th** for an introduction to the class. Attendance is required for all students.
2. **Online Forums – July 6-July 15, 2022**  
FORUMS - 2 forums per week (a total of 4 forums)  
In these two weeks I will post 2 forums per week. Each of the 2 forums will invite reflection on course material for the week
  - ❖ Students engage these forums by making initial posts (250 – 300 words) in response to the forum topics. You may wish to reference course texts, narrated PowerPoints, videos, or other material.
  - ❖ Students will then respond to initial posts by two other students in each of the two forums each week (50 – 100 words)
  - ❖ Initial forum posts by students must be done by Wednesday at 11:59 p.m. (Central) of each week to allow students to write at least two responses to their classmates by Friday at 11:59 p.m. (Central).
  - ❖ Forum postings on time will count and be graded as class participation and attendance.
3. **Online Class Meeting—Wednesday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 8-12, 1-5 pm CST**  
Classes will be held via Zoom for 10 hours (combination of orientation and class day) to meet GBHEM policies and educational best practices.

You will receive a zoom invite from your instructor. A computer or tablet with a camera are preferred – and please plan to have your camera on during class to facilitate discussion.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Each reading or other assignment listed below is to be completed by 8:00 a.m. (Central) on the day on which it is listed.

### Wednesday, July 29

- Attend class orientation, 6:00 p.m. (Central) via Zoom

### Wednesday, July 6

Forming Faith, Forming Relationships, Finding Grace

- Read Matthaiei, Ch. 1, 2 & 3.
- Watch my lecture on Moodle.
- Respond to the forum prompt on Moodle.

### Friday, July 8

- Read Matthaiei, Ch 4 & 5.
- Watch my lecture on Moodle.
- Respond to the forum prompt on Moodle.

### Wednesday, July 13

- Read Thompson, all.

- Watch my lecture on Moodle.
- Respond to the forum prompt on Moodle.

#### Friday, July 15

- Read chapters by Wimberley and West, posted to Moodle.
- Watch my lecture on Moodle.
- Respond to the forum prompt on Moodle.

#### Wednesday, July 20

- Attend day-long class, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. (Central) via Zoom
- We will take plenty of comfort breaks, along with an hour lunch that day.

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Assignment 1: Theological and Practical Reflection Paper - Due date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

Write an 8-10 page paper utilizing resources (texts, lectures, forum conversations, live class conversations) answering the following:

1. Describe the theological basis for the Wesleyan emphasis on spiritual disciplines. How are Christian discipleship and spiritual disciplines connected? What is the role of grace?
2. Summarize the General Rules. Why are these rules important for the conducting of religious education in congregational life?
3. How might spiritual disciplines nurture discipleship, a sense of call, or discovery of one's fruits for ministry?

*Note: you are welcome to answer these questions in any order that makes sense for you, but please do address all questions listed above.*

#### **Assignment 2: Personal and Pastoral Reflection - Due date: Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

Write a 3-5 page paper about your own sense of call, answering the following:

1. How is your sense call informed by the Wesleyan tradition?
2. Name and describe any important life experiences, circumstances, contexts, and/or people who have been a part of shaping your call.
3. At this time in your life, what directions might this call be leading you toward?
4. What practices (spiritual or otherwise) help to provide clarity for you related to your call. How do these practices help to sustain you as you pursue your call?

*Note: You may, very well, be experiencing and living into more than one call. You are welcome to name all elements of your sense of call(s), and describe the interrelationship(s) between the places, practices, and/or work you feel called toward.*

#### **Assignment 3: Develop a Practical Resource - Due date: Wednesday, August 10, 2022**

In about 5 pages, write a practical resource (a sermon, a devotional, an educational series, a set of spiritual practices, etc.) that is intended to teach about Christian discipleship and spiritual formation. As part of the development of this resource, name the setting, group size, age range or other demographic features of your group, and duration (one time? a six-week series? etc.?) of the activity.

*Note: You are welcome to schedule time to talk with me about what kind of resource you might want to develop.*

**Online Forums:** See p. 2 for directions regarding the successful completion of online forums.  
7/6-7/15

**Final Grade:** Your final grade will depend upon successful completion of the following assignments:

<i>Assignment 1: Theological and Practical Reflection Paper</i>	30%
<i>Assignment 2: Personal Reflection Paper</i>	20%
<i>Assignment 3: Develop a Practical Resource</i>	20%
<i>Online Forums</i>	30%

**Two special notes:**

1. Late papers receive a grade no higher than C (unless by special accommodation) and may receive no credit.
2. Missing one class session or 20% of a class work results in no credit for the course. [See the COS policy below]

**COURSE POLICIES**

In this course, we have multiple sources of accountability. First, we are accountable to the Triune God and the Christian life and work to which we are called. Second, we are accountable to the Church and to the believers who make up the COS community. Third, we (instructor and students) are accountable to the Course of Study Policies and Guidelines, which help us to be faithful to our calls, the Church, and each other. I refer you to the COS policies but will highlight a few important expectations in this course.

*Class Attendance*

“A student is expected to attend every class session. Unexcused absences may be cause for loss of credit or dismissal from the school. A student missing twenty percent (20%) or more of the classroom work shall not receive credit for those classes. Online work shall be included in the attendance policy.” [COS Policies and Guidelines, page 5]

*Academic Integrity Statement/Plagiarism*

All students are expected to document the sources they use in their written work properly. All words from the source should be quoted and cited even if only one unique word, a phrase, or model and typology headings. The use of a concept, idea, or fact must also be given recognition.

Any violation of COS policy may result in a zero for the assignment, course, and disciplinary action against the student may be taken, including, but not limited to, dismissal.

Note from the instructor: To avoid plagiarism, which is taking someone else’s ideas or words/phrases/sentences and representing them as your own. In this course, **be sure** to use quotation marks to indicate when you’re quoting an author. Use footnotes to cite the places where anyone can find the quoted material or ideas. I recommend using Kate L. Turabian’s *A Manual for Writers*. A quick reference guide is found at:

<https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/turabian/turabian-notes-and-bibliography-citation-quick-guide.html>

**Please do not hesitate to contact me** whenever you need writing support or advice.

### *Sexual Harassment and Racial Harassment*

Note from the instructor: The two policies are too lengthy to quote here, but I refer you to the texts in the COS Policies and Guidelines, pages 19-23. Needless to say, the expected practice in our classroom (live via Zoom or online via Moodle) will be to encourage, respect, and support each other in our work. The classroom is not a competitive or contentious place, but a collaborative and mutually responsible setting.

### *Learning Accommodation*

As part of its commitment to equal opportunity, the Seminary is committed to providing qualified individuals with disabilities with reasonable accommodation. Students seeking accommodation should contact Margaretta Narcisse, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at [margaretta.narcisse@spst.edu](mailto:margaretta.narcisse@spst.edu).

This office maintains the forms necessary for medical documentation of disabilities required before any accommodation can be considered. Following receipt of medical documentation from the student, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs will determine reasonable accommodations for specified needs, including identifying persons to whom this information will be released.