



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

MC/SF501 – Spiritual Formation for Ministry

Course Developer: Dr. Tom Pfizenmaier

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Dana Allin

Fall 2021 (September 7th – December 13th, 2021)

Required Web Meetings:

September 14th (8-9 PM ET/7-8 PM CST/5-6 PM PT)

October 19th (8-9 PM ET/7-8 PM CST/5-6 PM PT)

December 7th (8-9 PM ET/7-8 PM CST/5-6 PM PT)

Contacts

Course Instructor: Rev. Dr. Dana Allin (dana@eco-pres.org)

Course TA: Rev. Jennifer Howat (jenhowat@me.com)

Flourish Registrar: registrar@flourishmovement.org

Course Description

The goal of this course is to introduce and explore the spiritual habits and disciplines of the Christian faith in conjunction with crafting a rule of life, which will help sustain a lifetime of ministry and mission. This exploration will be informed by the great spiritual leaders and traditions of the Christian Church.

Unlike many courses that rightly focus on mastering a body of knowledge and/or expertise, this course will be more of a “lab” course focusing on developing one’s relationship with God. Emphasis will be on the personal development of spiritual habits and disciplines through daily practice, combined with discovering the importance of accountable community in sustaining one’s soul over a lifetime of ministry.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Have a realistic view of the challenges their spiritual life will face in ministry.
- Be acquainted with the necessary tools and practices to sustain their spiritual life through those challenges.

Course Modality

This course is offered online at flourishmovement.org. This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for occasional web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. Finally, students will be placed in small groups of 4-6 students. During select lessons, groups will find a mutually convenient time to meet together for discussion and group activities. More information can be found within the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called “Lessons,” one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week(s)	Dates	Lesson Title
1	Sept. 7-13	Walking with God: Why Your Soul and Ministry Depend on It/Biblical and Theological Foundations
2	Sept. 14-20	Ordering Your Life: A Rule of Life and Lectio Divina
3	Sept. 21-27	The Task of Christian Formation: Holey, Wholey, Holy
4	Sept. 28-Oct. 4	Temptation and Varieties of Spiritual Expression
5	Oct. 5-11	The Seven Deadly Sins...and Their Antidotes
6	Oct. 12-18	Mapping the Spiritual Tradition: Part I – Desert Fathers to the Reformation

7	Oct. 19-25	Mapping the Spiritual Tradition: Part II – Reformation to the Present
8	Oct. 26-Nov. 1	Growing in Grit: Developing Resilient Character
9	Nov. 2-8	Spiritual Formation and Woundedness
10	Nov. 9-15	Becoming My True Self in Christ
11	Nov. 16-22	Formed for Leadership
12	Nov. 23-29	Thanksgiving Break – No Coursework Due
13-14	Nov. 30-Dec. 13	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

Course Requirements

I. Readings

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through www.gctscharlottebookstore.com or any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- Ash, Christopher, *Zeal without Burnout: Seven Keys to a Lifelong Ministry of Sustainable Sacrifice*. (ISBN-13: 978-1784980214)
- Benner, David, *The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery*. (ISBN-13: 978-0830846122)
- Foster, Richard, *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. (ISBN-13: 978-0062803887)
- Macchia, Steve, *Crafting a Rule of Life*. (ISBN-13: 978-0830835645)
- Ruben and Shawchuck, *A Guide to Prayer for Ministers and Other Servants*. (ISBN-13: 978-0835805599)
- Thomas, Gary, *Sacred Pathways: Discovering Your Soul's Path to God*. (ISBN-13: 978-0785279594)

- Turabian, Kate, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Ninth Edition (2018). (ISBN-13: 978-0226430577)
- Any kind of Prayer Journal for your personal use.

Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Eswine, Zack, *Sensing Jesus: Life and Ministry as a Human Being*. (ISBN-13: 978-1433512544)
- Eswine, Zack, *The Imperfect Pastor: Discovering Joy through our Limitations in a Daily Apprenticeship with Jesus*. (ISBN-13: 978-1433549335)
- Kibbe, Michael, *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. (ISBN-13: 978-0830851317)
- Zissner, William, *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. (ISBN-13: 978-0060891541)

II. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

III. Activities and Assignments

Students will complete various individual and group activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

IV. Small Groups

Students taking the course for credit (whether taking for CLP credit alone or those taking it for both CLP and Gordon-Conwell credit) will be placed in groups of 4-6 students. In this course, groups will be required to find a mutually agreeable time to meet weekly via Zoom to discuss course content; each student will submit a summary each week based on what was discussed in their group meeting.

V. Prayer Journal and Devotional Requirement

Students will spend *no less than* 45 minutes a day with the Lord in the devotional reading of scripture, prayer, reflection, and journaling, and will chronicle their devotional times in a prayer journal.

Students will maintain their prayer journal throughout the course, whether utilizing a virtual tool or a physical journal. The reflection should be informed by, and related to, the text for the day with Shawchuck and Job.

Students will submit their journals twice for review by the Course Instructor. Due dates are in the course site. The instructor's review will be for continuity of entries and diligence in reflective writing – not for content.

At the end of the course, students will complete a verification that they have engaged in the daily devotional time throughout the semester.

VI. Soul Sabbath

Each student is required to spend a full day (8 consecutive hours) taking a soul Sabbath. This day may be any time during the first 12 weeks of the semester.

The purpose of the Soul Sabbath is to understand the importance of periodic, intentional retreat with the Lord. In the back of the Job and Shawchuck book are twelve retreat models. The student is required to choose one and let it serve as their outline for their day along in solitude and silence with God. Reflections on the day should be written down for inclusion in the final integration paper due at the end of the course.

At the end of the course, students will complete a verification that they have engaged in the Soul Sabbath.

VII. Papers

Students will prepare two papers:

- The student's Rule of Life, developed during the first part of the semester (5-7 pages). Due on Monday, October 25, 2021.
- An Integration Paper, which will allow the student to integrate what he or she is reading, experiencing in their small group, discovering in their devotional time with God, and learning from the lectures and their Soul Sabbath experience (10-12 pages). Due on Monday, December 13, 2021.

Full descriptions of these papers can be found in the course site.

VIII. Web-Meetings with Course Instructor

Students will meet three times with the Course Instructor as a class to discuss course content and student insights. Dates and times are specified at the top of this syllabus. Information on how to connect will be available in the course site.

IX. Course Reports

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, small group attendance, small group leading, and class video session attendance.

Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname_AssignmentName_MMDDYY

example: JSmith_ResearchPaper_123119

All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Rule of Life	20%
Integration Paper	25%
Devotional Time	20%
Prayer Journal	10%

Small Group Summaries	20%
South Sabbath	5%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Small Groups	Must attend to pass the course.
Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student’s best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu.

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact registrar@flourishmovement.org for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7th week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7th week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be October 25th.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- September 17th – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 100% refund
- October 1st – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 80% refund
- October 22nd – Last day to drop Fall course(s) for 50% refund
- December 3rd – Last day to drop Fall course(s) with no refund

Once December 3rd passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an "incomplete" for the course.

When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the

publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. ***An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishmovement.org no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.*** Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at registrar@flourishmovement.org with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.
– 2 Corinthians 3:18*