Course: THEO 580  Introduction to Spirituality  
Fall session 2012  
Aug. 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4  
(Thurs.  5:30pm - 8:30pm)

Instructor: Dr. Karin Posdal  
(920) 739 7124  
kposdal@sbcglobal.net

Course Description:  
This is an introductory course in Christian spirituality.  The goal is to 
develop an appreciation for spirituality, its meaning and many dimensions.  
Attention will be to the place of spirituality in history, its relationship to the 
Christian life, and the spiritual charismas of the spiritual masters.  Focus 
will be given to our individual spirituality.

Course texts:  
*The Holy Longing: the Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald  
*The Essential Spirituality Handbook* by Wendy Wright.  Ligouri  

Suggested books:  
*The God Instinct:  Heeding Your Heart’s Unrest* by Tom Stella.  Sorin Books,  
*Christian Prayer Though the Centuries* by Joseph A. Jungmann.  Paulist  

Course Requirements:  
1. Students are expected to attend and be prepared for all six classes.  
2. All readings and papers are due as assigned.  
3. Quizzes maybe given at the discretion of the instructor.
4. Class discussions are a part of the class format.
5. Written work must be of graduate level. (Papers must be typed and double spaced with the pages numbered. Basic mechanics, such as: grammar, spelling and punctuation are important. All written work must follow the general format outlined in the *MLA Style Manual and Guide to Scholarly Publishing (Third Edition)* (ISBN-13:978-08735229977).
6. Oral presentation are a part of our learning. (An outline must accompany the oral presentation. A list of references if used are to be given to the instructor.)

**Evaluation and Grading:**

Evaluation:
- Papers - 25%
- Class Participation - 25%
- Readings - 25%
- Final Paper - 25%

Grading: St. Norbert College System:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>High Pass</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Pass</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>Withdrew (also includes date last attended class)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ct</td>
<td>Continuing course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>Audit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Academic Honor Code Statement:**
The learning process succeeds only when students perform honestly on assignments and examinations. All students are expected to abide by the Academic Honor Code. It defines academic dishonesty and sets forth the responsibilities of faculty and students in the event of alleged dishonesty. Possible penalties for dishonesty include reduction of grade, failure in the course, failure and suspension, or failure and dismissal. Please refer to the current *St. Norbert College Student Handbook* for the text of the Academic Code.
Academic Accommodations:
In keeping with the St. Norbert College mission to help students develop their full potential, and in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the College provides supportive services to students with disabilities. For enquiries and further details, please visit the Academic Support Services Office located in Todd Wehr Hall Room 211, contact Karen Goode-Bartholomew, Coordinator of Services to Students with Disabilities (920-403-1326), or visit the website www.snc.edu/academicsupport/disabilities.html.

*****************************************************************************

COURSE AGENDA

IMPORTANT:
Pre Assignment (to be completed before the first class on August 30th)
1. Read: Holy Longing (Rolheiser) pages 3-41
   (be prepared for discussion on these pages)
   Read: The Essential Spirituality Handbook (Wright) pages 3-11)
2. Written: write a critique comparing these two readings (five pages in length)
   - How is spirituality defined by each writer Rolheiser and Wright?
   - How have these readings affected your idea of spirituality personally?

**********

August 30th
- Welcome and introduction
- Prayer
- Difference between religion and spirituality
- Discussion on material read from Rolheiser and Wright
- The Stages of Faith
- Lecture on “Forming and Living a Spiritual Life”
- Questions/comments

-4-
*** assignment for Sept. 6\textsuperscript{th}

- **read** *Holy Longing* (Rolheiser) pages 43-70
- **read** *The Essentials for a Christian Spirituality* (Wright) pages 13-33
- **write** a five page paper “My Experience of Pluralism in Spirituality”

**********

**September 6\textsuperscript{th}**

- Prayer
- Discussion on *Holy Longing* pages 43-70
  *The Essentials Spirituality Handbook* pages 13-33
- Sharing of paper “My Experience of Pluralism in Spirituality”
- Lecture “Spirituality Through the Ages of History”
- Importance of conversion and discipleship
- Questions/comments

*** assignment for Sept. 13\textsuperscript{th}

- **read** *Holy Longing* (Rolheiser) pages 43-70
- **read** *The Essential Spirituality Handbook* (Wright) pages 33-97
- **write** a five page paper “How I Can Live an Incarnational Life”

**********

**September 13\textsuperscript{th}**

- Prayer
- Discussion and activity relating to readings for today
- How the spiritual masters lived an incarnational life
- Lecture “Living an Incarnational Life in Today’s World”
- Questions/comments

-5-
*** assignment for Sept. 20th
- **write** a five paper “How I Can Live an Incarnational Life in Today’s World”
- **read** *Holy Longing* (Rolheiser) pages 71-107
- **read** *The Essential Spirituality Handbook* (Wright) pages 99-199

************

**September 20th**
- Prayer
- Sharing written assignment
- Discussion “How Can Christ be the Center of Our Life Today”
- Review of the readings for today
- Lecture “Importance of Prayer in our Daily Life”
- Questions/comments

*** assignment for Sept.27th
- **write** a five page paper “How Prayer is Found in My Life”
- **read** *Holy Longing* (Rolheiser) pages 109-166
- **read** *The Essential Spirituality Handbook* (Wright) pages 154-205

************

**September 27th**
- Prayer
- Discussion on reading from Rolheiser pages 109-166
- Prayer practices
- Spiritual Direction
- Group Activity
- Questions/comments

*** assignment for October 4th
- **write** an eight/nine page paper summarizing materials read, class discussions, what spoke to you and why

-6-
- read *Holy Longing* (Rolheiser) pages 167-241
- read *The God Instinct* (Stella)

**********

October 4th

- Prayer
- Spiritual Charisms/Spiritual Masters
- Sharing of final paper
- Discussion of *Holy Longing* pages 167-241
- Review of Stella’s book *The God Instinct*
- Questions/comments

**********

Thank You for taking part in this class and sharing your spirituality and expertise.

GOD BLESS