DS9207W  Leading Contemplative Groups: Exploring the work of Parker J. Palmer

This unit will critique both the work of Parker J Palmer and the contemplative group approach to spiritual development. The focus of the unit will be on the principles and practices that lead to spiritual growth and authentic action. The student will be introduced to and taught to use, the resources of narrative, poetry, art and personal and group reflection with a goal to spiritual growth and wellbeing.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Examine and evaluate their personal approach to the spiritual enterprise through a written journal and a critical essay
2. Analyse and critique the writings of Parker J Palmer and other spiritual writers both classic and contemporary as to their effectiveness in contemplative group processes
3. Design a contemplative group process, practice leading such a group and explore ways of evaluating the effectiveness of a contemplative group. This will be presented to the class in oral and written form.

Pre-requisites: Nil

Class Time: Intensive: 4 x 1 day sessions, plus a live-in weekend retreat

Assessment:
- One critical essay (3,000 words) (50%)
- One tutorial paper (1,500 words) (25%)
- One report on a Contemplative Circle observing and critiquing a contemplative circle in which the student has participated (25%)

Faculty: Peter Bentley

Offered: 2016: Intensive January-February (through WellSpring)

Select Bibliography:
* = set texts recommended for purchase