DP9205W  Action and Contemplation: The Art of Christian Engagement

Offered:  2017: Intensive – August / September / October  
[Unit offered alternatively as DS9205W]

This unit explores the art of engaging in Christian life and ministry with a contemplative awareness. It will examine the Biblical, theological and practical foundations for a Christian contemplative spirituality, and the implications of this posture of union with God for one’s personal life, relationships, ministry and involvement in wider society.

Particular focus will be given to:
- The Biblical, theological and practical issues of reconciling one’s active and contemplative life with the personal and social dimensions of ministry;
- A theological understanding and critical engagement with the dynamics of forgiveness and reconciliation in ministry from a contemplative awareness;
- Spiritual and practical exercises to increase their awareness of being present to themselves, the Holy Spirit, and to others.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:
1. Articulate the Biblical and theological foundations for a contemplative spirituality in Christian life and ministry;
2. Identify the challenges and resources to live with a contemplative awareness in daily life;
3. Evaluate the effect of a contemplative practice and vision on a person’s engagement in ministry;
4. Analyse their theological and practical understanding of forgiveness, reconciliation and non-violent social action for a particular cultural and social context;
5. Critically self-evaluate their growth through personal and peer supervision.
6. Articulate a theological synthesis of theory and practice for a contemplative approach to ministry and social action.

Prerequisites:  DS9201W—The Art of Contemplative Practice; or DS9011S—The Inner Life of a Disciple of Christ; or equivalent

Class Time:  6 days (3 x 2 days)

Assessment:  One self-awareness report (2,000 words) (30%)
One essay (4,000 words) (70%)

Faculty:  Tim McCowan

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase