

DS0002W Experiencing God

Offered: 2018: NEXT Program Semester 1 – 2 (whole year unit)
[For students in the NEXT Program only]

This unit engages students in the investigation and practice of personal and corporate spirituality. Spirituality is approached both broadly as the human exploration of personal meaning and transcendence as well as more specifically in the Christian tradition of the human experience of God in Christ through the Holy Spirit and in the communal life of the Church. Attention is given to assisting students toward developing spiritual practices and supportive contexts that can sustain their ongoing journey that may both personal and communal experiences and practices.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Appreciate the breadth of experiences, expressions and emphases evident in the Christian encounter of God within Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant traditions;
2. Develop a biblical and theological appreciation of Christian spirituality and the process of spiritual formation;
3. Reflect upon their own encounter with God;
4. Thoughtfully engage new practices of spirituality.

Prerequisites: Nil

Class Time: NEXT Program: equivalent to 1½ hours per week

Teaching Methods:

The unit will also utilise the practice of spirituality as well as field trips and excursions to provide students with the opportunity to explore various expressions and contexts of spirituality.

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| Assessment: | Four 250 word journal entries of reflections | (25%) |
| | One 750 word tutorial paper | (25%) |
| | One 1,500 word essay | (50%) |

Faculty: Stephen Said

Recommended Reading:

* = set texts recommended for purchase

Benner, D. *Sacred companions: The gift of spiritual friendship and direction*. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity, 2002.

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan, 2001.

Calhoun, A. A. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us*. Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Cunningham, Lawrence., and Keith J. Egan. *Christian Spirituality: Themes From the Tradition*. New York: Paulist Press, 1996.

Foster, R. J. *Celebration of discipline: The path to spiritual growth*. (Rev.). San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1988.

Foster, R.J. *Streams of living water*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1999.

Holt, B.P. *Thirsty for God: A brief history of Christian spirituality*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1993.

Thomas, G. *Sacred pathways: Discover your soul's path to God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2000.

Tyson, John R. *Invitation to Christian Spirituality: An Ecumenical Anthology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Willard, D. *The spirit of the disciplines: Understanding how God changes lives*. San Francisco, CA: Harper and Row, 1998.