

**Methods in Christian Spirituality -- SP 4754**  
**Fall 2006 -- Thursday 2:10-5pm -- JSTB 216**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is a seminar directed to MA, MTS, ThM, STL, and other advanced masters students intending to write a thesis in the academic discipline of Christian Spirituality --MDiv's are welcome with faculty permission. Topics include: What is Christian Spirituality? What sorts of topics are studied under this rubric? What research tools are available? What role is there for scripture, theology, history, and hermeneutics? Course readings and discussion include examination of published texts in this field of study. In addition, a portion of weekly class time will focus upon research methods and the mechanics of writing a thesis. Evaluation is based on active class participation, writing assignments, oral presentations, and a final research paper.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This is a seminar class, with some lecture and a great deal of reading, research, and class discussion. Evaluation for the course is based on

- Completing all assigned readings in preparation for class.
- Actively participating in class discussions.
- Weekly writing assignments.
- Writing a research paper (15-20 pages), the topic of which is to be determined in consultation with the professor. Paper length and content is appropriate to degree program.
- Offering occasional oral presentations on one's research.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

- (1) To offer a graduate level introduction to the academic discipline of Christian Spirituality.
- (2) To equip the student with tools for successfully engaging in graduate level research.
- (3) To enable the student to write a graduate level research paper in the academic discipline of Christian Spirituality.

**EVALUATION**

40%	Research Paper
30%	Response Papers
30%	Class Participation and Presentations

**TEXTS**

- **Dreyer**, Elizabeth A. and Mark S. Burrows, eds. *Minding the Spirit: The Study of Christian Spirituality*. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005. ISBN: 0-8018-8077-7. REQUIRED.
- **Huff**, Anne Sigismund, *Writing for Scholarly Publication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1999. ISBN 07-8091-3680-5. REQUIRED.
- **Lescher**, Bruce and Elizabeth Liebert, *Exploring Christian Spirituality: Essays in Honor of Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM*. New York: Paulist Press, 2006. ISBN: 0809142163. REQUIRED. [July 2006 publication date]
- **Sheldrake**, Philip. *Spirituality and History: Questions of Interpretation and Method*, Revised edition. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1995. ISBN: 1-57075-203-6. REQUIRED.
- **Turabian**, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Sixth Edition. Revised by John Grossman and Alice Bennett. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996. ISBN: 0-226-81627-3. REQUIRED.
- **Wiseman**, James A. *Spirituality and Mysticism: A Global View (Theology in Global Perspective)* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2006. ISBN: 1570756562. REQUIRED