

Spiritual Formation Curriculum Course Syllabus

3MMM, Inc. Seminary Sponsored

Sponsor: 3MMM, Inc.

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Rationale: This curriculum in Spiritual Formation, offered through 3MMM, Inc. is an introductory, yet intensive program designed to assist your personal growth, to provide initial training for ministry in the local church, and to give you an opportunity to understand your giftedness to determine whether the Lord is calling you to more training and preparation for ministry as well as participate in Christian ministry as a leader, stakeholder, and gatekeeper.

This curriculum climaxes with a certificate for coursework designed to orient you to the praxis of personal-individual spiritual care/ stewardship, including opportunities for you to foster and participate in group/ social spiritual formation organizing and or mentoring of others.

I. Ecologies of Christian (Spiritual) Formation

Course Description

This course will examine an ecological model of spiritual formation that attends to the role of God's people, the body of Christ in fostering individual and corporate growth. It will also include an analysis of the function of Christian Social networks in promoting and practicing Christian Church vision, mission, and objectives.

Rationale

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a model of spiritual formation that will guide them as Christian leaders in facilitating the spiritual growth of themselves and others. It will provide instruction in biblical and theological principles that inform Christian leadership practices/ personal stewardship.

Course Assignments:

1. Write and Introduction and Overview on Spiritual Formation--identify the salient issues and concepts that one needs to address when developing a biblical model of spiritual growth for Christians (2-3 pages). Use sound academic sources.
2. Write a summary of biblical texts that support your research report. Use sound hermeneutical, homiletical, and apologetical methods. (3-5 pages).
3. Write a research paper on the salient and sine que non elements of Spiritual growth, personal and corporate. Use sound academic sources. 3-5 pages.

4. Write an opinion paper on contemporary Spiritual Formation pedagogy. Include analysis and your opinion. Use sound academic sources. (3-5 pages).
5. What are the diverse objectives of various Spiritual Formation pundits? What should be the goal of spiritual growth praxis? Write a 2–3-page summary, analysis, and recommendations.
6. What is the role of the individual's and corporate church's Spiritual Formation as it relates to outreach, evangelism, and community impact? (2-3 pp.).
7. Write your philosophy and praxis for sharing Spiritual Formation doctrine with family, friends, and other non-believers? What tactics and tools would you use? (2-3 pages).
8. How would you implement a Spiritual Formation pedagogy using current digital modalities? 2-3 pages. Use sound academic sources.

II. Biblical Theology of Spiritual Formation

Course Description

This course traces the biblical theme of spiritual formation in both Old and New Testaments. Students also explore the place of spiritual formation within the larger purposes of the mission of God's Church/ Ministry.

Rationale

The purpose of providing students an opportunity to develop a biblical basis and frame of reference for their understanding of spiritual formation. Assist students in developing practical applications of biblical concepts about spiritual formation as an integral part of Christian Church ministry praxis.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ecologies of Christian (Spiritual) Formation course.

Course Assignments:

1. Research and write a theology of your Old Testament Spiritual Formation discoveries (10-15 pages, with citation).
2. Research and write a theology of your New Testament Spiritual Formation discoveries (10-15 pages, with citation).

3. Research and write a theology of your Pauline Spiritual Formation discoveries (10-15 pages, with citation).
4. Research and write on the role of worship and preaching in spiritual formation (8-10 pages, with citation).
5. Research and write on the role of evangelism, mission, and church growth in spiritual formation (8-10 pages, with citation).

III. History of Spiritual Formation

Course Description

This course focuses on examining the historical development of spiritual formation praxis. It will focus on the salient materials, themes, and practices related to spiritual formation.

Rationale

A broad understanding of spiritual formation as a discipline includes introducing students to the historical and contemporary practices and seminal works within the field—writings, and major pundits (i.e., Augustine, Owen, and Edwards, among others).

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ecologies of Christian (Spiritual) Formation, and Biblical Theology of Spiritual Formation courses.

Course Assignment:

1. Research and write summaries on 5-7 sources concerning the history of spiritual formation as a church discipline/ practice.
2. Write a compilation on the major theologians and practices of spiritual formation from the Apostolic era to Middle Ages. Include citations, 3-5 pp.
3. Write a compilation on the major theologians and practices of spiritual formation since the Medieval era until today. Include citations, 3-5 pp.
4. Research and summarize the Five *Solas*—*Christus, Fide, Scriptura, Gratia, and De Gloria*. Explain their relationship to spiritual formation practice, 3-5 pp.
5. Select and write on two philosophers and or theologians who have fostered/ promoted spiritual formation as a practical discipline for personal and corporate growth throughout church history, 3-5 pp.

IV. Facilitation of Spiritual Formation

Course Description

This course focuses on the corporate aspect of spiritual formation. The course fosters an analysis of the facilitation of spiritual formation for the Christian community. The course will climax the prior courses of spiritual formation as a way of conceptualizing and designing for the application of spiritual formation growth and formation praxis, in a group or organization of believer-practitioners.

Rationale

The purpose of this course is to provide the student with sound models for personal and corporate application of spiritual formation praxis for the Christian community. The course focuses the student on how to lead others to engage, embrace, and be empowered by spiritual formation praxis.

Prerequisite: The student for this course should have completed the Ecologies of Christian (Spiritual) Formation, and Biblical Theology of Spiritual Formation, History of Spiritual Formation courses.

Course Assignment:

1. **The Definition of the Human Person**--Write an opinion paper (3-5 pages) on what it means to be a human being and God's purpose for the individual and sociality. Use Genesis 1:26-28 as your starting point and basis, "Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness,"... .
2. **The Dynamic and Objective of Holiness**—Write an essay (3-7 pages) by considering the fundamentals of anthropology and relate them to divine beatitude of holiness. What does the bible say to these concepts as it relates to personal and corporate growth and spiritual maturity.
3. **The Role and Application of Spiritual Direction/ Leadership**—Write a report (4-7 pages) of yourself and or another Believer who followed a structured and consistent guideline for spiritual growth and progress. Map and summarize the essential stages used to grow in and toward holiness--the purgative stage, the illuminative stage, and the unitive stage.
4. Write an opinion paper (3-5 pp.) on Facilitation and Spiritual Formation.
5. Write a plan for implementing Spiritual Formation in a Christian Church context (3-5 pp.). The plan should contain a model of spiritual formation which includes a biblical rationale, an assessment strategy, and a deployment plan.

6. Write a comparative report on Spiritual Formation—pick a Pauline Church epistle and then an actual contemporary Christian Church sample (5-10 pages). The student will provide an understanding of Paul’s treatment of community or corporate formation in that epistle compare it with the actual Church sample. Include conclusions and recommendations.
7. Write and analytical report of your existing ministry context—spiritual formation history, practice, and future forecasting. The student should consider personal, leader, and group growth, connections, disconnections, and growth/ maturation measurement and impact (3-5 pages).
8. Write a comprehensive (descriptive) design/ model that is grounded in the elements learned during this course. This assignment will reflect a strategic plan for engaging a ministry context and measuring its impact (3-5 pages). The plan should contain the following:
 - a. A biblical rationale for spiritual formation
 - b. The Know-how and Do-how for implementing a spiritual formation plan.
 - c. An assessment strategy