

**Wil Hernandez, PhD, Obl. OSB**, Visiting Lecturer  
Vancouver School of Theology  
Phone: 1-626-318-6696  
Email: [wil@nouwenlegacy.com](mailto:wil@nouwenlegacy.com)

**SP5/730 - SPIRITUALITY OF EVERYDAY LIFE:  
Learning from the Celtic, Benedictine, Franciscan, and Ignatian Traditions  
July 3-7, 2023 9am-12pm**

**Course Description**

**PURPOSE:**

This course is about embodying an authentic spirituality that is rooted and lived out in the ordinariness of our daily existence—a life with God that is both human and holy – an everyday spirituality (based on exploring and learning from the varying yet overlapping features of Celtic, Benedictine, Franciscan, and Ignatian spiritualities). It seeks to answer the question “what does spirituality look like when fleshed out amidst the realities of our present life, amidst the simple joys as well as the messiness of it all?”

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:**

**At the end of the course, students should be able to:**

1. Acquire a working definition of everyday spirituality that is practical and all-encompassing;
2. Learn certain distinct features of grounded, everyday spirituality from the Celtic, Franciscan, Benedictine, and Ignatian traditions;
3. Apply a more integrated and holistic approach to daily living out of one’s spirituality;
4. Embrace a more sacralized and sacramental view of the world infused by God’s presence;
5. Understand what it means to live the ordinary extraordinarily by recognizing graced encounters in life as portals to God’s altars everywhere in the world;
6. Cultivate the art of navigating one’s journey through the tensional realities we all face;
7. Deepen their capacity to constantly live in the present moment in God’s abiding presence.

**FORMAT AND CONTENT:**

**Monday-Friday July 3-7, 2023, 9:00 am -12:00 nn**

For on-campus students, work in the course consists of classes including lectures, discussions and small group exercises, some prepared before class. Distance students will participate through Zoom either synchronously at the same time as class (required for credit students), or asynchronously (auditors only) through recordings of class. Expectations for distance students will be spelled out in the syllabus.

All courses also include required readings to be completed before the course starts. As well various assignments may include papers or exercises during the week, and one or more final papers for Certificate and Degree students. All papers will be submitted to the instructor via email or as the instructor specifies.

**Due date: July 31<sup>st</sup> (Certificate, Diploma, MA, MDIV); August 28<sup>th</sup> (Th.M, GDTS)**

**TEXTS:**

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

*All readings must be completed before course starts. Students are responsible to purchase their own books.*

(Note the title abbreviations in parenthesis)

Wilkie, Au. *The Enduring Heart: Spirituality for the Long Haul.* (EH)

Benner, David G. *Presence and Encounter: The Sacramental Possibilities of Everyday Life.* (PE)

Hernandez, Wil. *Accidental Monk: A Chronicle of Faith, Struggle, and Surrender.* (AM)

Note: There will be other supplementary sources (audio/video, short articles and essays).

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS:**

Chittister, Joan. *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today.* (WDD)

DeHaan, Peter. *Bridging the Sacred-Secular Divide: Celebrating the Spirituality of Everyday Life.* Grand Rapids, MI: Rock Rooster Books, 2019, 2022.

Edwards, Tilden. *Living in the Presence: Spiritual Exercises to Open Our Lives to the Awareness of God.* New York: HarperOne, 1995.

**EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA**

**For all students:**

- ***Attendance and Class Participation:*** All students taking the course for Certificate or Degree credit must actively participate in all class sessions (on site or via Zoom. Auditors are encouraged to participate synchronously, but may request to watch class recordings asynchronously. 100% attendance is required of Certificate and Degree students.
- ***Readings:*** All students including auditors are expected to do all the required readings.

**For Credit students:**

- ***God Hunt (Sacred Expedition) Journal:*** An Ordinary Day Exercise (1 page).
- ***Interactive Journal Analysis*** (3 pages) - Read *Accidental Monk* and submit a short analysis following a prescribed format.
- ***Focused Research Paper***  
This represents the main paper requirement for this course. Choose one particular spirituality focus (Celtic, Benedictine, Franciscan, Ignatian) and write a paper (double-

spaced, with title page) that synthesizes your own grasp of everyday spirituality featuring your chosen focus in both conceptual and practical fashion. Be sure to connect it directly to the key themes as presented and discussed in class. Provide a concrete title for your paper that reflects your thematic focus and approach. This final paper is a combination of focused research work (minimum of seven sources) and synthesis/integration process that involves a certain measure of theological reflection. The aim is to integrate everything in your thinking philosophically and methodologically based on the class lectures combined with your research readings. Be able to articulate synthetically the concepts which have been discussed in class and which you have gleaned from your readings. Make sure you follow the prescribed **Rubric** accordingly.

**For Certificate-level students:**

- As per above – ‘GodHunt’ and ‘Interactive Journal Analysis’ only: Due July 31<sup>st</sup>

**For Basic-level students (MATS, M.Div, MAPPL, MAIIS)**

- ‘GodHunt’ and ‘Interactive Journal Analysis’
- A 1500-2000-word focused integration paper following the prescribed Rubric. (4-6 pages) Due July 31<sup>st</sup>

**Additional for Advanced-level students (Th.M.):**

- ‘GodHunt’ and ‘Interactive Journal Analysis’
- A 3,750-4,250-word focused integration paper following the prescribed Rubric. (8-10 pages) Due Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

*Further details about assignments will be provided in the classroom.*

**SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Au, Wilkie. *The Enduring Heart: Spirituality for the Long Haul*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2000.
- Benner, David G. *Presence and Encounter: The Sacramental Possibilities of Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2014.
- Brown, James Harlow. *Living Well in the Presence of God: Everyday Spirituality for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2019.
- Butler, Melissa A. *How to Notice: Expand Your Experience of Everyday Life*. Pittsburg, PA: Notice-to-Wonder Books, 2021.
- Carson, Emily. *Holy Everything: Reflections on the Spirituality of Daily Life*. Minnesota: 9-Foot Voice, 2019.
- Chittister, O.S.B., Joan D. *Wisdom Distilled from the Daily: Living the Rule of St. Benedict Today*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.
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- DeHaan, Peter. *Bridging the Sacred-Secular Divide: Celebrating the Spirituality of Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Rock Rooster Books, 2019, 2022.
- Dreyer, Elizabeth A. *Earth Crammed with Heaven: A Spirituality of Everyday Life*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1993.

- Edwards, Tilden. *Living in the Presence: Spiritual Exercises to Open Our Lives to the Awareness of God*. New York: HarperOne, 1995.
- Ford, David F. *The Shape of Living: Spiritual Directions for Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997, 2004.
- Groeschel, CFR, Benedict and Bert Ghezzi. *Everyday Encounters with God: What Our Experiences Teach Us About the Divine*. Ijamsville, MD: The Word Among Us Press, 2008.
- Holt, Simon Carey. *Heaven All Around Us: Discovering God in Everyday Life*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2018.
- Humphreys, Carolyn. *Everyday Holiness: A Guide to Living Here and Getting to Eternity*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2018.
- Jackson, Mary G. *Presence: Recognizing the Divine in Your Everyday Life*. Hellertown, PA: Bright Communications, 2021.
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- Otto, Andy. *God Moments: Unexpected Encounters in the Ordinary*. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 2017.
- Paintner, Christine Valters. *Earth, Our Original Monastery: Cultivating Wonder and Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature*. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2020.
- Peterson, Eugene H. *Leap Over A Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.
- Rahner, SJ, Karl. *The Mystical in Everyday Life: Sermons, Prayers, and Essays*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2010.
- Silf, Margaret. *Compass Points: Meeting God at Every Turn*. Chicago, IL: Loyola Press, 2009.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. New York: HarperOne, 2009.
- Wellwood, John, ed. *Ordinary Magic: Everyday Life as Spiritual Path*. Boston, MA: Shambhala Publications, Inc., 1992.
- Wicks, Robert J. *Availability: The Challenge and the Gift of Being Present*. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 1986, 2000, 2015.
- Wiederkehr, Macrina. *A Tree Full of Angels: Seeing the Holy in the Ordinary*. New York: HarperCollins, 1988.