Formation Cohort
PT508 DA-I-D
UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Spring 2015

Rev. Dan Gildner
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:
With input from readings, case studies and plenary group lectures, MIN groups address professional identity formation and attend a weekly all-campus worship service and communal meal.

II. TEXTBOOKS:
Required Reading:

III. GOALS:
This course will supplement the student’s Formation 2 coursework by offering in-depth learning and teaching experiences in a cohort-style learning environment.

IV. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:
Students will continue their exploration of personal identity and calling. At the end of the course students will be able to:
1. Teach others how to create a Rule of Life for personal spiritual vitality
2. Work with a team to create a retreat focused on spiritual disciplines.
3. Reflect upon one’s personal and professional life at an ever-increasing depth.

V. LEARNING/TEACHING STRATEGIES:
This semester of ministry formation integrates a variety of teaching/learning strategies:

1. Regular cohort meetings.
2. Submission of weekly reflection reports
3. Group Project on spiritual disciplines
4. Opportunities to teach other seminary students

VI. DESCRIPTION OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly Reflection Reports
Description: Each student will submit six weekly reflection reports to Dan Gildner. Each report must be 2-3 pages, double-spaced.
Due Date(s): December 5, 12, 19 (2014). May 8, 15, 22 (2015)
Grading: 12%: Each report is 2% of grade.

2. Rule of Life Paper AND Presentation
**Description:** Using Stephen A. Macchia’s *Crafting a Rule of Life*, students will write a 3-5-page paper (double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1” margins) that covers the following:

- First page: Introduction and Historical Summary of the Rule of Life.
- Second and third pages: Summary of your ‘clarifications’ on roles, gifts, desires, vision and mission from pages 76-77. Each of the five paragraphs should answer, "How is the Lord leading me in these arenas of my personal life?"
- Next page: Include in your paper, your completed Rule of Life Grid (pages 135-136) or personally created document summarizing your working Rule.
- Final page: summary of how you expect your Rule to affect your life and ministry and any conclusions you want to draw from the book.

Each student will share (15 minutes) the process of creating a Rule of Life at the Formation Retreat on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015 and twice during the Spring semester for Formation 2 students.

**Due Date[s]:** Feb. 9.

**Grading:** 35% total: Paper – 25%. Presentation- 10%

### 3. Group Work – Spiritual Disciplines Retreat Planning

**Description:** Using Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline*, students will collaborate to create a weekend (Friday evening-Sunday evening) retreat for laity. The purpose of the retreat would be to both teach the spiritual disciplines mentioned in the book and give ample opportunities for their practice. The following should be included in the plan:

- Hourly schedule
- Teaching outlines for each of the 12 disciplines
- Description of how retreatants will be invited to practice some of the disciplines on the retreat.

**Due Date[s]:** May 15.

**Grading:** 35%

### VII. CALENDAR:

*Normal meeting times are 12:00-3:00 pm unless noted.*

**FALL 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course Overview &amp; Expectations. WRR1 Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.10</td>
<td>Prayer. WRR2 Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec.17</td>
<td>Rule of Life. WRR3 Due</td>
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**SPRING 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Covenant Discipleship. WRR4 Due.</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Case Studies. WRR5 Due.</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>Ending well. WRR6 Due.</td>
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**VIII: SEMINARY STANDARDS:**
A. **Inclusive language:** United Theological Seminary has an official policy regarding the use of Inclusive Language. The policy may be found in the Seminary Catalog and further explained in the Student Handbook. If you have specific questions, please see the instructor.

B. **Academic Integrity:** Student integrity regarding all work assigned in this class is a basic expectation of the Seminary community. A detailed policy regarding what constitutes a violation of academic integrity can be found in the Student Handbook.

C. **Online Confidentiality:** One of the highlights of the online classroom is that students can draw from the experiences shared during class discussions and in written work. However, it is imperative that students do not share information that is confidential, privileged, or proprietary in nature. In addition, students are expected to honor the privacy and confidentiality of their classmates by not disclosing online conversations with those outside of the classroom.

D. **Statement on Disability:** Any student who may need accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Registrar’s office.

**IX: USING ONLINE RESOURCES:**

Information about how to access United Online and where to find help can be found on the seminary website at http://www.united.edu.

**X. EVALUATION:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Component</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Rule of Life Assignment and Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>25% paper</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10% presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Group Project on Spiritual Disciplines</td>
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<tr>
<td>18%</td>
<td>Attendance</td>
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<td>.5% for every hour of the 36 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>12%</td>
<td>Weekly Reflection Reports</td>
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<td>2% for each one</td>
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The total scores determine the grades assigned according to the following scale:

- 100 – 95  A
- 94 – 90   A-
- 89 – 88   B+
- 87 – 84   B
- 83 – 80   B-
- 79 – 75   C+
- 74 – 70   C
- 69 – 00   F

**UW** - Unofficial Withdrawal (A student stops attending prior to semester’s end)

**W** - Withdrawal (A student officially withdraws by the proper date)

**XI. COURSE EVALUATIONS:**

It is very important for students to submit course evaluations toward the end of the semester. Instructors do not see the student evaluations until they have submitted the students’ final, official grades. Students should feel free to evaluate the course without any negative ramifications.