SPIRITUALITY (SPGR)

SPGR 6702. History of Christian Spirituality I. (3 Credits)
This course will explore a number of the significant figures and themes that characterized the development of Christian Spirituality from its beginnings until the Reformation. Readings will be drawn from classical spiritual texts and relevant secondary literature.

SPGR 6703. History of Christian Spirituality II. (3 Credits)
This course provides a solid grounding in the historical-critical, hermeneutical, and theological engagements with Christian Mysticism/Spirituality from the sixteenth through twentieth centuries. In addition to focusing upon representative Catholic, Protestant, Reform and Orthodox traditions, we examine recent expressions of globally contextualized Christian spiritualities. Course readings draw from classical spiritual texts and relevant secondary literature. Authors typically considered include Ignatius of Loyola, Martin Luther, Teresa of Avila, Madame Guyon, Francis de Sales, George Herbert, the author(s) of The Pilgrim’s Tale, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Howard Thurman, Gustavo Gutierrez, C.S. Song, and Desmond Tutu. Additionally, selected themes in Christian spirituality are considered, including feminist, ecological, and social justice spiritualities. In addition to weekly 1-page papers, the course capstone requirements adjust to student’s degree programs: MA and Certificate students write either a research paper or project; doctoral students write a 20-page research paper.

SPGR 6720. Sacramental Spirituality. (3 Credits)
An exploration of present-day theological reflection, contemporary spirituality, and pastoral practice for ministry of the sacraments of initiation (RCIA) and the healing sacraments (reconciliation and anointing). The study and discussion will be biblical and ecumenical, interdisciplinary and multicultural.

SPGR 6740. Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry. (3 Credits)
This course examines the life and writings of St. Ignatius Loyola, offering (a) historical-critical and hermeneutical engagements with primary texts and (b) practical, contemporary, and diverse appropriations of Ignatian/Jesuit spirituality today. We examine especially two important primary sources, the Autobiography and Spiritual Exercises. We also survey some of the other writings that have come down to us: excerpts from his Spiritual Journal, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and representative letters. Course capstone requirements adjust to student’s degree programs: MA and Certificate students write either a research paper or project; doctoral students write a 20-page research paper.

SPGR 6742. The Ignatian Way. (3 Credits)
"The ministry of Jesuits – and their partners – in pursuing a Christian vision of the world is rooted in the personal experience of the sixteenth-century saint, Ignatius Loyola. In this course we shall study the life and work of that saint against the back-ground of the times in which he lived. We shall examine especially two important primary sources, his Autobiography, dictated to a fellow Jesuit near the end of his life, and his Spiritual Exercises, a remarkable and influential handbook for personal and spiritual renewal. We shall also survey his other writings that have come down to us: excerpts from his Spiritual Journal, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and some of his Letters."

SPGR 6746. Franciscan Spirituality: Francis, Clare and Bonaventure. (3 Credits)
Explores the religious experiences of Francis and Clare from their own writings as well as biographical materials and examines the spiritual teachings that Clare and Francis bequeathed to the religious orders they founded. Special emphasis is placed on the balance they achieved between the contemplative and active lifestyles and on the evangelical values that characterize the Franciscan approach to ministry. Some consideration will be given to representative Franciscan figures who have exemplified the interplay of theology, spirituality and ministry, suggesting outlines of the same for today.

SPGR 6752. Christian Contemplation and Action. (3 Credits)
This course explores the writings and lives of five representative teachers and themes of contemplative prayer and active ministry: The Way of Discipline, with Thomas Merton; The Contemplative-Mystical Way, with Julian of Norwich; The Way of Practical Action, with Ignatius of Loyola; The Way of Beauty, with Gerard Manley Hopkins; The Prophetic Way, with Dorothy Day. The course considers these sources and traditions as living fonts of and challenges to our contemporary spirituality, and provides a broad overview for more specific studies in Christian spirituality. This course is open to certificate- and master’s-level students from all GRE areas and Fordham University programs. The course’s capstone requirements are adjusted according to student’s degree programs: master’s and certificate students write either a research paper or complete a project.

SPGR 6792. Contemporary Christian Spirituality. (3 Credits)
Contemporary foundations, issues, movements and persons impacting the practice of Christian spirituality in a post-modern context. Issues discussed will include embodiment, prayer, work and sexuality. Movements will include feminism, ecology and compassion/justice.

SPGR 6794. Women Mystics. (3 Credits)
This course will explore the experiences and theologies of women mystics as these have been reported throughout Christian history. Students will read selections from hagiographical texts such as the Acts of Paul and Thecla and the Acts of Perpetua and Felicitas, from the apothegmatic texts such as the sayings of the Desert Mothers, from the historical texts such as the Trial of Joan of Arc, and from the writings of women mystics themselves—such as Hildegard of Bingen, Clare of Assisi, Marguerite Porete, Catherine of Siena, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Margaret Mary Alacoque, Therese of Lisieux, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. History, sociology, psychology, theology, and other disciplines will serve to contextualize the consideration of these readings and will invite a careful comparison with present-day experiences. Students will also be invited to ponder the forces that have shaped our current canon of mystics and saints: whose lives remain invisible to study, and why?.

SPGR 6811. Meditation East/West. (3 Credits)
A Practical theoretical treatment of the tradition of Christian prayer and Eastern Meditation. Included are guided practices, reading and reflection.
SPGR 6830. Discernment in the Christian Tradition. (3 Credits)
This course offers a two-fold introduction to Christian traditions for the discernment of spirits. During the first half of the course, we pursue a historical review of the various articulations of spiritual discernment from New Testament foundations through the 16th century. During the second half of the course, we concentrate on the theory and practice of Christian discernment and decision-making grounded in the writings of St. Ignatius Loyola. We engage in a critical, close reading of Ignatius’ “Rules for the Discernment of Spirits” (weeks 1 and 2) and “The Election,” both texts from “The Spiritual Exercises,” as well as selected letters and other writings by Ignatius. This course also emphasizes each student’s personal appropriation of this material through the discussion of provided discernment case studies. Course capstone requirements are based on each student’s degree program: master’s and certificate students write either a research paper or project; doctoral students write a 20-page research paper.

SPGR 6834. Methods in Christian Spirituality. (3 Credits)
This course introduces graduate students to the academic discipline of Christian spirituality and to methods for researching and writing at the master’s or doctoral level, employing the Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education’s standard stylebook, Turabian (8th. edition). In consultation with the professor, students are free to pursue a research topic of their choosing; however, their research agenda must include a Christian spirituality component. Students already working on a thesis or dissertation may, with the professor’s consent, use a chapter thereof as their research paper for this course. Course topics include defining the academic discipline of Christian spirituality; the relationship between spirituality and theology; experience as an object of study; and the approaches to context, historical consciousness, multidisciplinarity, and hermeneutic theory. In this practical seminar, students collaboratively learn to research and write at the graduate level, as well as explore the rich offerings of Christian spirituality as an academic discipline. Course evaluation is based on active participation, frequent writing assignments, occasional presentations, writing group collaboration, Turabian quizzes, and a 20-page research paper appropriate to each student’s degree program.

SPGR 7702. History of Christian Spirituality I. (3 Credits)
This course will explore a number of the significant figures and themes that characterized the development of Christian Spirituality from its beginnings until the Reformation. Readings will be drawn from classical spiritual texts and relevant secondary literature. This course is for Doctor of Ministry students only and will require doctoral level participation and additional research/writing elements.

SPGR 7703. History of Christian Spirituality II. (3 Credits)
For Doctoral students only. This course provides a solid grounding in the historical-critical, hermeneutical, and theological engagements with Christian Mysticism/Spirituality from the sixteenth through twentieth centuries. In addition to focusing upon representative Catholic, Protestant, Reform and Orthodox traditions, we examine recent expressions of globally contextualized Christian spiritualities. Course readings draw from classical spiritual texts and relevant secondary literature. Authors typically considered include Ignatius of Loyola, Martin Luther, Teresa of Avila, Madame Guyon, Francis de Sales, George Herbert, the author(s) of The Pilgrim’s Tale, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, Howard Thurman, Gustavo Gutierrez, C.S. Song, and Desmond Tutu. Additionally, selected themes in Christian spirituality are considered, including feminist, ecological, and social justice spiritualities. In addition to weekly 1-page papers, the course capstone requirements adjust to student’s degree programs: MA and Certificate students write either a research paper or project; doctoral students write a 20-page research paper.

SPGR 7720. Sacramental Spirituality. (3 Credits)
An exploration of present-day theological reflection, contemporary spirituality, and pastoral practice for ministry of the sacraments of initiation (RCIA) and the healing sacraments (reconciliation and anointing). The study and discussion will be biblical and ecumenical, interdisciplinary and multicultural. Additional Doctoral readings and assignments per instructor.

SPGR 7740. Spiritual Direction Practicum I. (3 Credits)
The Spiritual Direction Practicum I offers participants the opportunity to learn about the dynamics of prayer as a personal relationship with God, the spiritual direction relationship, elements of Ignatian spirituality, and the role of supervision. A grade of pass and an instructor’s evaluation confirming skill development are required to move to Spiritual Direction Practicum II. Ordinarily, the practicum courses are taken at the conclusion of one’s program; however, with the approval of the Spirituality Faculty Committee, a student still needing to fulfill a limited number of course requirements may also apply for admission to the practicum courses. The following courses are ordinarily completed before taking the practicum courses: Old Testament; New Testament; Christology or Theology of the Human Person; and Sacraments or Sacramental Spirituality or Church and Society. With faculty approval, one or more of these courses may be taken concurrently with the practicum courses. Note: This course is pass/fail only. Must be taken before the Spiritual Direction Practicum for all students: Theology of Spiritual Direction; Discernment in the Christian Tradition; and Basic Skills in Pastoral Counseling.

SPGR 7741. Spiritual Direction Practicum II. (3 Credits)
This course is a continuation of SPGR 7740. A grade of pass for SPGR 7740 and an instructor’s evaluation confirming skill development at a successful level is required to register for this course. The course registration must take place with request to the assistant dean after Practicum I grades have been posted. Note: This course is pass/fail only.

SPGR 7746. Franciscan Spirituality: Francis, Clare and Bonaventure. (3 Credits)
Doctoral students only- please see syllabus requirements for doctoral students. Explores the religious experiences of Francis and Clare from their own writings as well as biographical materials and examines the spiritual teachings that Clare and Francis bequeathed to the religious orders they founded. Special emphasis is placed on the balance they achieved between the contemplative and active lifestyles and on the evangelical values that characterize the Franciscan approach to ministry. Some consideration will be given to representative Franciscan figures who have exemplified the interplay of theology, spirituality and ministry, suggesting outlines of the same for today.

SPGR 7751. Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry. (3 Credits)
For Doctoral students only. This course examines the life and writings of St. Ignatius Loyola, offering (a) historical-critical and hermeneutical engagements with primary texts and (b) practical, contemporary, and diverse appropriations of Ignatian/Jesuit spirituality today. We examine especially two important primary sources, the Autobiography and Spiritual Exercises. We also survey some of the other writings that have come down to us: excerpts from his Spiritual Journal, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and representative letters. Course capstone requirements adjust to student’s degree programs: MA and Certificate students write either a research paper or project; doctoral students write a 20-page research paper.
SPGR 7752. Christian Contemplation & Act. (3 Credits)
This course—for doctoral students only—explores the writings and lives of five representative teachers and themes of contemplative prayer and active ministry: The Way of Discipline, with Thomas Merton; The Contemplative-Mystical Way, with Julian of Norwich; The Way of Practical Action, with Ignatius of Loyola; The Way of Beauty, with Gerard Manley Hopkins; The Prophetic Way, with Dorothy Day. The course considers these sources and traditions as living fonts of and challenges to our contemporary spirituality, and provides a broad overview for more specific studies in Christian spirituality. Doctoral students write a 20-page research paper.

SPGR 7760. Christian Spirituality and Leadership. (3 Credits)
This course examines the intersection between classic texts in Christian spirituality and contemporary texts on leadership studies. The oldest corporations in the West are the monasteries and the Catholic Church. Many spiritual treatises are aimed at helping people understand how to lead communities in an effective manner through word and example. Contemporary writers about leadership, such as Jim Collins, stress spiritual qualities such as humility and hope as important for leading companies into greatness. Whereas the spiritual writings have little quantitative evidence associated with them, the leadership studies provide such analysis; however, books on leadership studies tend to lack any depth behind such concepts as humility or even good advice as to how to achieve it, which texts from the history of Christian spirituality provide. By bringing these horizons together, the course will help students to understand the practical value of Christian spirituality in business, administration, and politics.
Attribute: CSGE.

SPGR 7792. Contemporary Christian Spirituality. (3 Credits)
Contemporary foundations, issues, movements and persons impacting the practice of Christian spirituality in a post-modern context. Issues discussed will include embodiment, prayer, work and sexuality. Movements will include feminism, ecology and compassion/justice. This course is for Doctor of Ministry students only and will require doctoral level participation and additional research/writing elements.

SPGR 7794. Women Mystics. (3 Credits)
This course will explore the experiences and theologies of women mystics as these have been reported throughout Christian history. Students will read selections from hagiographical texts such as the Acts of Paul and Thecla and the Acts of Perpetua and Felicitas, from the apothegmatic texts such as the sayings of the Desert Mothers, from the historical texts such as the Trial of Joan of Arc, and from the writings of women mystics themselves such as Hildegard of Bingen, Clare of Assisi, Marguerite Porete, Catherine of Siena, Julian of Norwich, Teresa of Avila, Margaret Mary Alacoque, Therese of Lisieux, and Mother Teresa of Calcutta. History, sociology, psychology, theology, and other disciplines will serve to contextualize the consideration of these readings and will invite a careful comparison with present-day experiences. Students will also be invited to ponder the forces that have shaped our current canon of mystics and saints: whose lives remain invisible to study, and why? This course is for Doctor of Ministry students only and will require doctoral level participation and additional research/writing elements.

SPGR 7811. Meditation East/West. (3 Credits)
A Practical theoretical treatment of the tradition of Christian prayer and Eastern Meditation. Included are guided practices, reading and reflection. DMIN/PHD Students Only.

SPGR 7830. Discernment in the Christian Tradition. (3 Credits)
This course offers a two-fold introduction to the Christian tradition of the discernment of spirits. During the first part of the semester, we pursue a historical review of the various articulations of spiritual discernment within the Christian traditions, from New Testament foundations through today. In the second part of the semester, we concentrate on the theory and practice of Christian discernment and decision-making grounded in the writings of St. Ignatius Loyola. Additional doctoral readings and assignments per instructor.

SPGR 7834. Methods in Christian Spirit.. (3 Credits)
For Doctoral students only. This course introduces graduate students to the academic discipline of Christian Spirituality and to methods for researching and writing at the MA or Doctoral level, employing the GSRRE standard stylebook, Turabian (8th. edition). In consultation with the professor, students are free to pursue a research topic of their choosing; however, their research agenda must include a Christian spirituality component. Students already working on a thesis or dissertation may, with the professor's consent, use a chapter thereof as their research paper for this course. Course topics include defining the academic discipline of Christian spirituality, the relationship between spirituality and theology; experience as an object of study; the approaches to context, historical consciousness, multidisciplinarity, and hermeneutic theory. In this practical seminar, students collaboratively learn to research and write at the graduate level, as well as explore the rich offerings of Christian spirituality as an academic discipline. Course evaluation is based on active participation, frequent writing assignments, occasional presentations, writing group collaboration, Turabian quizzes, and a 20-page research paper appropriate to each student's degree program.

SPGR 7870. Spiritual Direction: Theology and Practice. (3 Credits)
This course explores the experience of spiritual direction from the standpoint of both the director and the one directed. It situates the contemporary ministry of spiritual direction within the history of the Christian tradition, and draws upon interdisciplinary and interreligious perspectives in order to examine critically a diversity of past and present theologies, processes, and models of spiritual direction.
Attribute: CSGE.

SPGR 7888. Special Topics: Spirituality. (3 Credits)
Reserved for special courses in Spirituality.
Attribute: CSGE.

SPGR 7902. Ignatian Spirituality for Ministry. (3 Credits)
Limited to DMin students. Engaging in ministry within an Jesuit/Ignatian spirituality context involves pursuing a Christian vision of the world rooted in the experience and writings of the sixteenth-century Basque saint, Ignatius of Loyola. In this hybrid course, we (1) examine the life of Ignatius against the background of his socio-historical and theological context, (2) engage in a close, critical reading of representative texts, and (3) survey various contemporary approaches to the appropriation of his spiritual tradition, with an emphasis upon ministerial practices. We examine especially two important primary sources, his Autobiography, dictated to a fellow Jesuit near the end of his life, and The Spiritual Exercises, a remarkable and influential handbook for personal and spiritual growth. We also read excerpts from his Spiritual Journal, the Constitutions of the Society of Jesus, and Letters. Capstone requirement: 20-page research paper, which is due later in the spring semester.

SPGR 8500. Comprehensive Exam MA Christian Spirituality. (0 Credits)
Required for completion of the MA in Christian Spirituality concentrations, Generalist and Spiritual Direction.

Updated: 01-24-2020
SPGR 8870. Spir Dir. Theol & Pract. (3 Credits)
(PHD and DMIN students only) This course explores the experience of spiritual direction from the standpoint of both the director and the one directed. It situates the contemporary ministry of spiritual direction within the history of the Christian tradition, and draws upon interdisciplinary and interreligious perspectives in order to examine critically a diversity of past and present theologies, processes, and models of spiritual direction.

SPGR 8998. Special Topics: Spirituality. (3 Credits)
A tutorial in the area of religion.