

# RGP3687HF

## INTEGRATION FOR MINISTRY I: PRACTICUM AND SEMINAR

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**Course Number:** RGP3687HF

**Course Name:** INTEGRATION FOR MINISTRY I: PRACTICUM AND SEMINAR

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**Phone calls:** 416-922-5474, ext 250 (Note: Fr. Shano is hearing-impaired. This is especially problematic on the phone. Please use e-mail.)

**Meetings:** The class meets Tuesdays, from 4:30-6:30 p.m., beginning on September 13, 2016

**Prerequisites:** None

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Through the development of the skill of theological reflection, the participants learn to reflect on their personal, ministerial, service and work experiences to discern the call of transformation and integration in the midst of the Christian tradition, specifically the Ignatian tradition, and our cultural realities. This theological reflection process takes place in a peer faith setting.

The reflection methodology uses the dynamics of Ignatian spirituality (the spirituality rooted in the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola). This method of theological reflection will then be used in subsequent sessions to look at theological, spiritual and cultural topics, always seeking to look at them from the personal experience of the participants.

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### **READINGS:**

Assigned readings are from three required texts.

Kathleen McAlpin, *Ministry that Transforms - A Contemplative Process of Theological Reflection*, Novalis, 2009

Philip Sheldrake, *Befriending Our Desires*, Novalis 2001

Margaret Silf, *Inner Compass - An Invitation to Ignatian Spirituality*, Loyola Press, 1999

Other readings will be distributed.

## **TOPICS:**

The following topics will be considered:

1. Theological reflection, themes of integration for ministry and conversion
2. Group processes, contemplative prayer, adult transformative education
3. Theological reflection on a story at the heart of your ministry or work
4. Ignatian prayer, Ignatian discernment and other dynamics of Ignatian spirituality
5. Engaging a variety of prayer forms e.g. Gospel contemplation, *lectio divina*, meditation
6. Spirituality
7. Reconciliation and forgiveness; mysticism of the everyday; the place of desire; conversation and listening; pilgrimage; change.
8. Faith sharing in small groups, contemplative listening skills, contemplative conversation skills.

## **METHODOLOGY AND EVALUATION:**

The following teaching methods and formats will be used: lectures, seminar discussions, and small faith sharing groups.

The following written and oral assignments and exercises will demonstrate students' achievement of the intended learning outcomes:

- Weekly one page paper, based on the assigned reading
- Spiritual conversation in small groups
- One in-class presentation (to be explained at the October 4 class)
- Student's personal choice of readings, related to your desire for integration

The course grade is *pass/fail* and will be calculated on the following basis: attendance at classes, weekly one page paper, the in-class presentation, and participation.

## **Presentations:**

Participants in RGP3687HF (Integration for Ministry I) are required to offer one in-class presentation.

Topics: The choice of topic is up to you. It can be one of the themes in the course or any other theme you choose. Perhaps there is a favourite author that you think we could all benefit from, someone whose writings/thinking deals with the kind of material we've been covering. Whatever you choose to cover should deal in some way with theological reflection and Ignatian methodologies. If in doubt, check with Fr. Shano.

Length: We will devote thirty or so minutes to this part of the weekly session. That includes a ten-minute presentation from you, followed by a group conversation about your topic. It's not required, but it will be helpful if you end your presentation with a couple of questions for our time of conversation.

Method: You may use any medium you desire. The room is equipped with audiovisual equipment if you plan to use that. Or, a verbal presentation is sufficient.

Dates:

November 22: two presentations

November 29: two presentations

December 6: two presentations

### **COURSE ITINERARY:**

**Sessions:** The class will meet on Tuesday from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., on the following Tuesdays: September 13, 20, 27; October 4, 11, 18 (Reading week means there is no session on October 25); November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; December 6.

#### ***Class #1: September 13, 2016***

Introduction: Overview and Business

Who is Ignatius of Loyola and what are the basics of his spirituality of discernment?

#### ***Class #2: September 20, 2016***

Ignatian Discernment and Contemplative Theological Reflection

#### ***Class #3: September 27, 2016***

Eliciting Great Desires: "What are you looking for?"

#### ***Class #4: October 4, 2016***

Ignatian Discernment: Part One

#### ***Class #5: October 11, 2016***

Mysticism of the Everyday

#### ***Class #6: October 18, 2016***

Reconciliation and Forgiveness: The Challenge of Empowerment

***Class #7: November 1, 2016***

Contemplation and Epiphany: A Long and Loving Look at the Real

***Class #8: November 8, 2016***

The Ministry of Conversation: The Place of Listening

***Class #9: November 15, 2016***

"Were not our hearts burning within?" - Pilgrimage as an Outward and Inward Journey

***Class #10: November 22, 2016***

Ignatian Discernment: Part Two

***Class #11: November 29, 2016***

Finding Stability and Security in Change

***Class #12: December 6, 2016***

Appropriation

**COURSE OUTCOMES:**

Students successfully completing this course will be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes.

(A) In Respect of General Academic Skills

1. To practice a contemplative method of theological reflection (TR)
2. To deepen experiences of reflection and engaging forms of contemplative prayer, which assist in discerning responses to theological reflection
3. To read theological and spiritual texts while attending the call to conversion
4. To critically consider the context of experiences: who is burdened; who benefits?

(B) In respect of the Understanding of the Content of one or more Theological Disciplines

1. To grow in an understanding of a method of Theological Reflection
2. To grow in an understanding of foundational skills for pastoral ministry and

community service

2. To grow in an understanding of Ignatian spirituality and forms of Ignatian prayer

(C) In Respect of Personal and Spiritual Formation

1. To understand new theological insights for a deeper integration with life/ministry
2. To integrate life experiences through holistic self-awareness, prayerful contemplation, individual journaling, and communal dialogue
3. To discern the call of the Spirit to transformation and integration in everyday life

(D) In Respect of Ministerial and Public Leadership

1. To grow in the capacity to listen contemplatively and share in faith sharing groups and give leadership to small faith sharing groups
2. To discern the call to leadership within their faith or service community