

DSLE 541 118

Foundations of Biblical Spirituality

Spring 2023

Scott R. Ward, D. Min.

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location:	Burman University, Canada
Class Pre-Work:	Jan 10- Mar 4, 2023
Class Post Work:	Mar 10- May 4, 2023
Class meeting times:	Sunday-Thursday, March 5-9, 2023 Sunday: 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. Monday – Thursday: 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Course Website:	learninghub.andrews.edu
Instructor Telephone:	269-471-6186 (office)
Instructor Email:	sward@andrews.edu
Office location:	Seminary Building, Discipleship and Religious Education Suite, N218
Office hours:	By appointment only

CLASS ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

1. Class attendance and participation is required and vital due to the intense and interactive nature of the course. If a student must miss more than three hours of class, the final grade will be lowered by one full letter.

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Study and practice of Christian spiritual growth designed to lead students to grow in their personal spiritual lives. This course invites students to develop their understanding and practice of the Christian life so that their life and ministry may more intentionally take place in the context of God's presence and the transforming work of the Holy Spirit.

PROGRAM & COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This course supports the 'mission' of the Andrews University Seminary by:

- Creating a "worshiping community" within the class.
- Helping to prepare "faithful and effective leaders" who have a deep relationship with God.
- Teaching students how to "make disciples" by enriching their own discipleship to Jesus.

It also develops in students, the core values espoused by the Seminary:

Faithfulness with expectation
Christlikeness with humility
Discipleship with wholeness
Service with passion
Respect with justice
Community with joy

Prerequisite: This course is open to all students enrolled in the Seminary.

Program Learning Outcomes (PO)

MA Pastoral Ministry Program Learning Outcomes

1. Engages consistently in biblical devotional habits to be open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in his or her life.
2. Engage in biblical and theological reflection as the basis for ministry.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO) The student should be able to:

The primary objectives of this class are to:

1. Articulate a Seventh-day Adventist perspective on discipleship and Christian spirituality.
2. Understand the biblical/theological, psychological, and sociological foundations for growth in the Christian life.
3. Understand and integrate 'devotional habits' into their own life and ministry.
4. Understand that the depth of their relationship with God will be expressed in their ministry, family, and relationships with others.
5. Discern truth from counterfeit as a means of both personal and corporate protection in light of the growing number of non-biblical "spiritualities".

Secondary objectives include progress toward:

1. Abiding in Christ
2. Identifying areas of their life where growth is needed

3. Humbly implementing basic Adventist Christian practices (devotional habits)

Attitudes, Values, and Commitments

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Desire to love God completely, themselves correctly, and others compassionately
2. Value their devotional habits.
3. Make a commitment to maintain an intentional devotional life
4. Be committed to participation in a ‘community building’ small group for support, accountability, and encouragement.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows (topics and assignments are subject to change):

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
	Mar 5	Pre-Intensive Assignments Due: Please read the books in the listed order and turn in all Reports before class begins on March 5.	Reading Report #1: <i>Authentic</i> (3 pages) Reading Report #2: <i>Steps to Christ</i> (3 pages) Reading Report #3: <i>Deep Calling</i> (3 pages) Reading Report #4: <i>The Soul of Desire</i> (3 pages)	
1	March 5	Day 1: Syllabus and Personal Spiritual Journey Reflecting on Scripture: Devotional Time vs Study Time and <i>Authentic</i> Overview	Perception Check 1 Daily Devotional Journal	
	March 6	Day 2a: <i>Authentic</i> Part 2 Discussion and Psalm 23 Day 2b: <i>Steps to Christ</i> Discussion and Psalm 23	Perception Check 2a Perception Check 2b Daily Devotional Journal	
	March 7	Day 3a: <i>Deep Calling</i> and Discussion and Psalm 23 Day 3b: Spiritual Disciplines	Perception Check 3a Perception Check 3b Daily Devotional Journal	
	March 8	Day 4a: You Are What You Love and Revelation 1 Day 4b: <i>The Soul of Desire</i>	Perception Check 4a Perception Check 4b Daily Devotional Journal	

Week	Date	Topic	Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
	March 9	Day 5a: TBA Day 5b: TBA	Perception Check 5a Perception Check 5b Daily Devotional Journal	
2	March 13	Devotional Journaling	Weekly Devotional Journal (3 page minimum)	
3	March 20	Devotional Journaling	Weekly Devotional Journal (3 page minimum)	
4	March 27	Devotional Journaling	Weekly Devotional Journal (3 page minimum)	
7	April 3	Devotional Journaling	Guided Journaling from Authentic Chapter 22 (3 page minimum)	
8	April 10	Devotional Journaling	Guided Journaling from Authentic Chapter 23 (3 page minimum)	
9	April 17	Devotional Journaling	Guided Journaling from Authentic Chapter 24 (3 page minimum)	
10	April 24	Devotional Journaling	Guided Journaling from Authentic Chapter 25 (3 page minimum)	
13	May 1	Devotional Journaling	Devotional Plan Paper (6 page minimum overview of Annual, Monthly, Weekly and Daily Connections with God)	

ATTENDANCE

(Adapted from the AU bulletin)

Regular attendance is required at all classes and other academic appointments. When the total number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may assign a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Course Materials

1. Ward, Scott. *Authentic: Where True, Life-Changing Christianity Begins*. Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2012
2. White, Ellen G. *Steps to Christ*. Pacific Press Publishing Association, 1892.
3. VinCross, Tara J. *Deep Calling: on being and growing disciples*. Lincoln, NE: AdventSource, 2020
4. Thompson, C. (2021). *The Soul of Desire: Discovering the Neuroscience of Longing, Beauty, and Community*. InterVarsity Press.

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

US Credit-Hour Regulations

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

- **Courses for professional masters' degrees (e.g. MDiv)** include 15 instructor contact hours and 30 hours of independent learning activities.
- **Courses for academic masters' (e.g. MA [Religion]) and all doctoral degrees** include 15 instructor contact hours, and 45 hours of independent learning activities.

The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student. Students weak in these skills: 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

Professional Masters' Programs		
3 Credits		
Instructor Contact Hours	Face to Face Instructional Time	35 hrs
	Other Instructor-Directed Activities	5 hrs
Independent Learning Activities	Weekly Reading Assignments	55 hrs
	Weekly Devotional Journaling	30 hrs
	Daily Perception Checks	5 hrs
	Devotional Plan Paper	5 hrs

Total Hours:	135 hrs
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SDATS GUIDELINES FOR CALCULATING ASSIGNMENT LOADS

Average reading speed: 15-20 pages/hour for light reading not to be tested on
10-15 pages/hour for heavy reading for exams
Writing time: 2.5 – 3 hours/double spaced page, from start to finished product
Reflective Writing Assignment: 0.5 hour per page
An Online Assignment Load Calculator is available at: www.cte.rice.edu/workload/

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates are given in the Course Overview above.

1. WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL EXERCISES

Weekly Devotion Exercises are **to be uploaded to LearningHub by 11:59pm each day they are due.**

As an important class assignment the student will spend 3 hours each week (half an hour each day for 6 days) in the practice of devotional habits. Factors that should be kept in mind are:

- A. Make notes on your time spent with God and how you felt about it. (weekly Reading Assignments do not count as time spent with the devotional habits). This is an excellent opportunity to strengthen your times of meeting with God. Since prayer is so crucial to the Christian walk, we urge that students spend at least 1 to 2 hours weekly in prayer.
- B. The 3-hour time period should be spread out over at least six days during the week.
- C. You should keep a careful log of your time with God. Make sure for each time you engage in devotional habits you have recorded:
 - Date:** (i.e. month and day)
 - Time:** (duration), i.e. 7:00a.m. – 7:45a.m.
 - Journal:** record your reflections, insights, things that resonate with your journey, ways in which you are drawn to God, any new awareness of God’s presence. This should be at least 6 lines per day.
Please note that email submissions are not acceptable (upload to LearningHub only).
- D. At the end of the week the total time spent is to be calculated and recorded.

NOTE: The above practice of devotional habits is to be carried out as a class assignment, just as assignments in other classes. It is not intended to replace your normal planned personal devotional time. This course does not seek to tell you how to spend your

devotional time with God. However, if you choose to use these activities as part of your devotional time, it is certainly permitted.

2. READING ASSIGNMENTS

Reading Reports are **to be uploaded to LearningHub before class begins March 5.**

Each report includes a 1 page overview of the book and then 2 pages of reflections and reactions on each chapter as you read the book. Reflection in this context suggests a cognitive and personal context process. Consider the text in the light of your values, experiences, ideas, and hopes. The result is your “reflection” on this. Give deliberate and intentional attention to how the text relates to your life. The report will also include a statement (at the beginning) that you have read the entire pages assigned or stating the percentage of assigned pages that you have read.

Reading report format is three pages in length each and typed (double-spaced, 12 font, Times New Roman, not including name and title - See AU Standards of written Work), will be uploaded via LearningHub.

Note: The weekly reading assignment is IN ADDITION to the devotional habits report and cannot substitute for the other.

3. DAILY PERCEPTION CHECKS

Weekly Perception Checks are **to be uploaded to LearningHub by 11:59pm the day of class.**

Perception Checks provide evidence of your understanding of the concepts presented in class. Write a ½ page for every 3 hours of class. By 11:59 pm submit a one-page Perception Check. Your responses are to be recorded in your notes and uploaded to LearningHub. **Perception checks are not able to be submitted when students are absent from class.**

4. DEVOTIONAL PLAN PAPER.

Devotional Plan Papers are **to be uploaded to LearningHub by 11:59 pm on due date.**

Each student is to write a Devotional Plan paper, which is informed by his or her semester-long spiritual experience. This paper is to be **no less than 6 pages in length**, typed, and doubled-Spaced. The paper will be a personal devotional plan similar to the outline and topics in section 5 of *Authentic*.

Formatting: Papers are to be submitted with a title page and be typed in 11/12 point font double spaced

5. CLASS PARTICIPATION

Class attendance and participation is required and vital due to the intense and interactive nature of the course (whether face-to-face, or via Zoom). Students are required to have their cameras turned on for the entire duration of the lesson. If a student must miss more than three hours of class, the final grade will be lowered by one full letter.

Assignments Description & Weighting

Assignment Description	Weighting
Reading Assignments	30%
Weekly Devotional Exercises	30%
Daily Perception Checks	20%
Devotional Plan Paper	20%
Total	100%

* For grading rubrics that specify grading criteria in more detail, see assignment description above

In order to make grading fair for everyone, grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements alone. No individual arrangements will be made for those requesting last minute grade adjustment or extra credit.

(The AU Bulletin states that: "An Incomplete (I) indicates that the student's work is incomplete because of illness or unavoidable circumstances and not because of negligence or inferior performance. Students will be charged an incomplete fee for each incomplete grade issued." DGs are not an option for most types of courses.)

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be turned in on LearningHub according to the description above.

Late Submission

Because student assignments are an essential part of class activities, assignments turned in after July 1, 2022, will lose 10% per day it is late. **Any requests for extra time on an assignment must be made in advance with the professor.** Such requests should be a rarity and should be accompanied by a valid reason why the work cannot be done by the date due.

Resubmission of Assignments

No resubmissions possible

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Scott R. Ward completed his DMin in Discipleship and Biblical Spirituality in 2014. He is passionate about helping his students understand and pursue a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.



OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments. Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations Please see your student handbook.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted.

Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Student e-mail, and LearningHub alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews' username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with LearningHub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol *(this AU statement is required in all syllabi)*

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu .

APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

Letter Grades and Percentages

95-100%	A	80-84%	B	65-69%	C
90-94%	A-	75-79%	B-	60-64%	C-
85-89%	B+	70-74%	C+	55-59%	D

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed.

APPENDIX 2: ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC(S)

- See in the assignment descriptions
- Further Rubrics will be provided later

APPENDIX #: PROGRAM LEARNING OUTCOMES

MASTERS PROGRAMS

1. MA in Pastoral Ministry (MAPM)

- 1) Deliver effective biblically based sermons
- 2) Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills
- 3) Understand the historical-theological development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- 4) Exhibit capability for training church members for evangelism
- 5) Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership
- 6) Exhibit capability for reaching specific social groups

2. Master of Divinity (MDiv)

- 1) (Character) Models spiritual humility, maturity and integrity grounded in a living experience with God in joyful assurance of His salvation, nurtured by the sanctifying presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- 2) (Scholarship) Manifests the practices of a Biblical scholar-theologian engaging the Bible, Christian/Adventist heritage and professional resources with theological maturity for personal growth and for facilitating the theological competence of others.
- 3) (Discipleship & Evangelism) Demonstrates personal commitment, passion and essential skills for discipleship and evangelism, while equipping members to carry out ministry within the scope of the local and global mission of the Seventh-day Adventist church.
- 4) (Leadership) Exercises creative and visionary leadership as a minister and servant of Christ, discerning the needs, spiritual gifts and potential of others, in order to equip and engage in their God-given ministries.
- 5) (Worship) Facilitates enriching corporate worship that brings diverse peoples into the transforming presence of God.
- 6) (Administration/Management) Engages the abilities of self and others to strategically steward personal and corporate resources including time, health, finances, property and service in areas of spiritual giftedness.
- 7) (Relationships) Models effective relationships with people of diverse cultures, backgrounds, character, and persuasions, reflecting the wisdom, compassion, and discernment of Jesus through the work of the Spirit.