Spiritual Foundations For Social Justice

⏹SUMMER 2019⏹Monday-Friday, 12-16 August 2019 @ 12.30P-4P⏹ Iliff School of Theology

JENNIFER S. LEATH, Ph.D.

**office hours:** by appointment on tuesdays

[jleath@iliff.edu](mailto:jleath@iliff.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course introduces students to modern social justice activists with deep spiritual roots, inviting students to not only learn from the spiritual practices of social justice activists, but also to *learn* some of the practices of social justice activists. Through this course, students will meet local social justice activists, read the spiritual writings of some of the most noted leaders in movements for social justice, and practice spiritual grounding techniques in order to strengthen their own social justice work. Students who take this class will cultivate and nurture their own spiritual foundations and spiritual grounding practices; students will develop their content knowledge of modern social justice leaders with strong spiritual foundations; students will identify the qualities, characteristics, and values of the spiritual practices of these modern leaders of social justice; students will begin discerning what best builds their own spiritual foundations – and why and how.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. To cultivate and nurture spiritual foundations and spiritual grounding practices.
2. To discern what best builds one’s own spiritual foundations – and why and how.
3. To develop content knowledge of modern social justice leaders with strong spiritual foundations – including, but not limited to their social context.
4. To learn how some contemporary, local social justice leaders are practicing their spirituality through their justice work.
5. To identify the qualities, characteristics, and values of the spiritual practices of these modern and contemporary leaders of social justice.
6. To develop spiritual practice teaching skills.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

* **Journal. (DUE 12-16 AUGUST 2019, DAILY)**
  + Each class session will present an opportunity for journaling. This journal can take any creative format. It must be presented to the instructor at the end of each day’s class session. These journals will be graded according to the quality of the (1) integration of course readings, (2) effort to discern and articulate the writer’s own spiritual location, areas for growth and development, and manifesting development, (3) incorporation of guest and lecture resources, and (4) journal presentation.
* **Presentations. (DUE 23 AUGUST 2019)** 
  + Each student will be required to post a five to ten minute spiritual practice teaching video that introduces a spiritual practice of their own choosing. These videos will be evaluated according to (1) creativity, (2) demonstrated depth of experiential knowledge of the spiritual practice being taught, (3) demonstrated depth of social and contextual knowledge of the spiritual practice being taught, (4) clarity about the value of this spiritual practice for social justice, and (5) engagement.

**EVALUATION**

* You will be graded according to Iliff School of Theology standards on a letter grading scale. For more information see: [www.iliff.edu](http://www.iliff.edu)
* Your grade will be determined as follows:
* Preparedness, Participation, Attendance: 15%
* Completion of daily journal assignments: 50%
  + Each daily opportunity will be worth 10% of your class grade
* Presentations: 15%

**OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS**

1. **DO NOT plagiarize!** If you have any questions about whether or not what you are doing is plagiarism, ask. NO ASSIGNMENTS FOUND TO REFLECT COMPROMISED ACADEMIC INTEGRITY WILL RECEIVE *ANY* CREDIT.
2. If you are unable to complete the assignments due to physical or mental health reasons, please notify me prior to the due date for the assignment.
3. Pick a form of citation. Indicate which form you will use. Use it consistently.
4. All course assignments should be emailed or physically submitted to the instructor by the designated time at [jleath@iliff.edu](mailto:jleath@iliff.edu).
5. I am glad to meet to discuss your written work. I will not be able to review full drafts of written assignments.

**Required Texts**

Parachin, Dr Janet. *Engaged Spirituality: Ten Lives of Contemplation and Action*. St. Louis, Mo: Chalice Press, 1999.

Holmes, Barbara A. *Race and the Cosmos: An Invitation to View the World Differently*. 1 edition. Harrisburg, Pa: Bloomsbury T&T Clark, 2002.

Vennard, Jane. *Embracing the World*. 1 edition. Jossey-Bass, 2002.

**Recommended Texts**

brown, adrienne maree. *Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds*. Reprint edition. Chico, CA: AK Press, 2017.

Joseph D. Driskill. *Protestant Spiritual Exercises: Theology, History, and Practice*. Harrisburg, PA: MOREHOUSE PUBLISHING, 1999.

Judith, Anodea. *Wheels of Life: A User’s Guide to the Chakra System*. 1st edition. St. Paul, Minn: Llewellyn Publications, 1987.

Farrington, Debra K. *Living Faith Day by Day: How the Sacred Rules of Monastic Traditions Can Help You Live Spiritually in the Modern World*. 1st edition. New York: TarcherPerigee, 2000.

Nangle, Joseph. *Engaged Spirituality: Faith Life in the Heart of the Empire*. Maryknoll, N.Y: Orbis Books, 2008.

Palmer, Parker J. *Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation*. 1 edition. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

Rohr, Richard. *The Naked Now: Learning To See As the Mystics See*. 1st edition. New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2009.

Thurman, Howard. *Disciplines of the Spirit*. Reprint edition. Richmond, Ind: Friends United Press, 1963.

**Class Time Layout**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time/Day** | **Monday**  **12 August 2019** | **Tuesday**  **13 August 2019** | **Wednesday**  **14 August 2019** | **Thursday**  **15 August 2019** | **Friday**  **16 August 2019** |
| **12.30 – Centering / Writing** | Crafting (BYOC – knitters welcomed) | Walking Meditation | Text Reading & Study | Yoga | Jumma at Masjid Taqwa |
| **13.30 – Local Activists** | Dr. CheyOnna Sewell – UC Boulder | Kriste Peoples – (Formerly of) Outdoor Afro Colorado |  | Lakshmi Nair – Satya Yoga Co-op  (Confirmation Pending) | Dr. Carroll Watkins-Ali – Northeast Islamic Center |
| **14.00** | **BREAK** | **BREAK** | **BREAK** | **BREAK** | **BREAK** |
| **14.30 – Lecture** | Water | Fire | Love | Sound | Light |
| **15.00 – Reading Discussion** | Parachin, Thurman & Weil  Holmes, Preface, Introduction & Chapter 1  Vennard, Preface & Chapter 1 | Parachin, Wiesel & Edelman  Holmes, Chapters 2 & 3  Vennard, Chapters 2 & 3 | Parachin, Hahn & Menchú  Holmes, Chapters 4 & 5  Vennard, Chapters 4 & 5 | Parachin, Deloria & Macy  Holmes, Chapters 6 & 7  Vennard, Chapters 6 & 7 | Parachin, Tangore & Day  Holmes, Chapter 8 & Conclusion  Vennard, Afterword |
| **Notes:** | There will be a pre-gathering lecture on “Earth” |  |  |  | There will be a post-gathering lecture on “Thought” |