

CHTH G105-C06 MS 6ZP6 SYLLABUS

The Pastoral Theology of Henri Nouwen

McMaster Divinity College
Phil C. Zylla, D.Th.
Office #: 215 Ext. 20104

Winter Term 2012
Monday 3:30 – 5:20 p.m.
6 units

Biography:

Dr. Phil Zylla is Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology at McMaster Divinity College. Prior to this, Dr. Zylla served for six years as Principal of the Associated Canadian Theological Schools of Trinity Western University. Dr. Zylla was active in pastoral ministry in the Canadian context for 17 years as a Senior Pastor in three different cities. Dr. Zylla's research interests are in pastoral theology, theology of suffering, spiritual formation and theopoetics.

Course Description:

Henri Nouwen published over 40 books and is notably one of the most important and widely read spiritual writers in recent years in North America. He taught at Notre Dame, Yale Divinity School and Harvard Divinity School but spent the last decade of his life as the pastor of the Daybreak Community of L'Arche in Toronto. Nouwen was influenced by early pioneers in pastoral theology including Anton Boisen and Seward Hiltner. These roots allowed him to integrate spiritual ideas with their counterparts in pastoral psychology and psychology of religion. He had extensive training in the field of pastoral theology though little is written on his explicit methods of exploring pastoral theological themes. This course seeks to mine the writings of Henri Nouwen for his approach to pastoral theological exploration as it pertains to contemporary issues in the field.

“Ministry must be fueled by genuine spirituality to be effective. For spirituality to be authentic, it must give birth to actual practice of ministry. Nouwen embraced the conviction that communion with God results in deep community with others and that true community leads to creative ministry. Spirituality and ministry go hand in hand.” – Will Hernandez, “A Spirituality of Imperfection” in Turning the Wheel.

“In practically all priestly functions, such as pastoral conversation, preaching, teaching and liturgy, the minister tries to help people to recognize the work of God in themselves. The Christian leader, minister or priest, is not one who reveals God to other people...but one who helps those who are searching to discover reality as the source of their existence.” – Henri Nouwen, The Wounded Healer

“Many ministers today are excellent preachers, competent counselors, and good program administrators, but few feel comfortable giving spiritual direction to people who are search for God's presence in their lives. For many ministers, if not for most, the life of the Holy Spirit is unknown territory . . . There is an increasing need for diagnosticians of the soul who can distinguish the Holy Spirit from the unholy spirits and so guide people to an active and vital transformation of soul and body, and of all their personal relationships.” – Henri Nouwen, The Living Reminder

Course Objectives:

Knowing

1. To become familiar with the root ideas and integrative pastoral theology of Henri Nouwen's works.
2. To explore the pastoral theological themes introduced by Henri Nouwen's corpus.
3. To deepen resources for the expansion of pastoral theology in the 21st century.

Being

1. To be shaped in the inner person through spiritual integration of course materials.
2. To inspire a personal sense of mission and calling to the work of integrative pastoral theology.
3. To experience the themes and ideas expressed by Nouwen through spiritual practices.

Doing

1. To evaluate and use methods developed in the pastoral theology of Henri Nouwen.
2. To gain facility in research in the field of pastoral theology by exploring Henri Nouwen's pastoral theological methods.
3. To develop new themes in pastoral theology which are derived from a careful exploration of Henri Nouwen's corpus.

Required Course Textbooks:

Books by Henri J. M. Nouwen

- _____. *Intimacy: Pastoral Psychological Essays*. Fides, 1969; Harper and Row, 1981.
- _____. *Creative Ministry: Beyond Professionalism in Teaching, Preaching, Counseling, Organizing and Celebrating*. Doubleday, 1971.
- _____. *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society*. Doubleday, 1972.
- _____. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Doubleday, 1975.
- _____. *Genesee Diary; Report from a Trappist Monastery*. Doubleday, 1976.
- _____. *The Living Reminder: Service and Prayer in Memory of Jesus Christ*. Seabury, 1977; Harper and Row, 1983.
- _____. *Clowning in Rome: Reflections on Solitude, Celibacy, Prayer and Contemplation*. Doubleday, 1979.
- _____. *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry*. Seabury, 1981.
- _____. *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*. Harper San Francisco, 1981.
- _____, with Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. Doubleday, 1982.
- _____. *Lifesigns: Intimacy, Fecundity, and Ecstasy in Christian Perspective*. Doubleday, 1986.
- _____. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons*. Ave Maria, 1987.
- _____. *The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journal*. Doubleday, 1988; 1990.
- _____. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. Crossroad, 1989.
- _____. *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Doubleday, 1992.
- _____. *With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on Eucharistic Life*. Orbis, 1994.
- _____. *Here and Now: Living with the Spirit*. Crossroad, 1994.
- _____. *Can You Drink the Cup? The Challenge of the Spiritual Life*. Ave Maria, 1996.
- _____. *The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom*. Doubleday, 1996.
- _____. *Adam: God's Beloved*. Orbis, 1997.
- _____. *Peacework: Prayer, Resistance, Community*. Orbis, 2005.
- _____. *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit*. Harperone, 2010.

Supplemental Required Books:

O'Laughlin, Michael. *Henri Nouwen: His Life and Vision*. Orbis, 2005.

Bengston, Jonathan and Earnshaw, Gabrielle, eds. *Turning the Wheel: Henri Nouwen and Our Search for God*. Orbis, 2007.

Course Outline Mondays 3:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

n.b. Works indicated by [] are not required readings but supplemental readings for these weeks.

- January 9th ***Introduction to Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
Readings: Intimacy; Lifesigns; The Wounded Healer; Creative Ministry; The Living Reminder; [Our Greatest Gift]
- January 16th ***The Integrative Nature of the Spiritual Life in Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
Readings: Here and Now; Compassion; Making All Things New; The Way of the Heart; [The Path of Waiting; Letters to Marc; Life of the Beloved; The Only Necessary Thing; Out of Solitude; Heart Speaks to Heart]
- January 23rd ***The Use of the Bible in Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
Readings: In the Name of Jesus; Return of the Prodigal; Can You Drink the Cup?; The Living Reminder; With Open Hands; With Burning Hearts
- January 30th ***Spiritual Theology and Pastoral Theology – Synergies and Conflicts***
Readings: Spiritual Formation Henri Nouwen with M. Christensen and R. Laird; Reaching Out The Living Reminder; Lifesigns; Compassion; Here and Now; Peacework
- February 6th ***Spiritual Practices and Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
Readings: Peacework; Compassion; Clowning in Rome; With Open Hands; Reaching Out; The Way of the Heart; [Parting Words: A Conversation with Henri Nouwen; The Path of Peace; Seeds of Hope; Bread for the Journey]
- February 13th ***The Emotional Life and the Pastoral Theology of Henri Nouwen***
Readings: The Inner Voice of Love; Intimacy; Wounded Healer; Lifesigns; Making All Things New; Spiritual Formation with M. Christensen and R. Laird; [The Dance of Life; Aging: The Fulfillment of Life; A Letter of Consolation; In Memorium]
- February 20th ***Reading Week***
- February 27th ***The Catholic Roots of Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
Readings: Genesee Diary; Behold the Beauty of the Lord; [Jesus and Mary; A Cry for Mercy; Walk with Jesus; Stations of the Cross; A Letter of Consolation; Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey with Henri J.M. Nouwen]
- March 5th ***The Use of Autobiography and Journaling in Pastoral Theology***
Readings: The Genesee Diary; The Road to Daybreak; Adam; The Inner Voice of Love; [Sabbatical Journey; Our Second Birth; Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen; Love in a Fearful Land: A Guatemalan Story]
- March 12th ***Guest Lecture: The Legacy of Henri Nouwen***
- March 19th ***Class Presentations: Core Themes in Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
- March 26th ***Class Presentations: Core Themes in Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***
- April 2nd ***Class Presentations: Core Themes in Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology***

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Weekly Course Readings

25%

The course is designed as a reading course for M.A./Ph.D. students in Ministry Studies at McMaster Divinity College. I ask that you carefully prepare the assigned readings for each class session and come prepared to discuss the issues that emerge from these readings. The course depends on the quality and depth of the reading of its participants. I

strongly urge you to purchase your own reading copies of the course textbooks - mark them up, deliberate, plan your comments, and enter the class time eager to engage your colleagues on the themes of each session. The marking of these course readings does not require a submitted paper but will be evaluated on four criteria: the level of participation, critical engagement, conceptual integration and facility with the texts under review.

2. Class Presentation

20%

Negotiate a theme for class presentation on one aspect of Henri Nouwen's pastoral theology. Using course texts and additional material of at least 10 volumes, develop an outline for an academic article on the pastoral theology of Henri Nouwen to present in class. The presentation will be graded on the following criteria:

- a. originality
- b. contribution to the course objectives
- c. documentation and support for core ideas
- d. clarity of presentation
- e. integration with pastoral theological methods

3. Academic Article on Henri Nouwen's Pastoral Theology

40%

Write a 6000 word essay on one core theme in Henri Nouwen's pastoral theology. The paper should explore in careful detail elements of the pastoral theological approach used by Henri Nouwen and how this is worked out in his corpus. The theme should contribute to a heightened understanding of the underlying approach that Henri Nouwen used in developing his pastoral theology. The strength of the paper will be measured by:

- a. careful attention to his working assumptions about human nature, theology, spiritual life and ministry.
- b. thoroughness of exploring the core theme in the Henri Nouwen corpus.
- c. integration of the methods explored as they contribute to discussions of method in pastoral theology.
- d. originality of thought and importance of contribution.

4. Write a spiritual retreat for lay leaders

15%

One aim of this course is to develop insight that will be of wider benefit to ecclesial communities. The goal of this exercise is to establish a spiritual experience that integrates the insight of core themes developed by course participants in a way that is accessible to the spiritual community of which one is a part. Develop a guided spiritual retreat using the core theme established as your primary focus for the course. Using Nouwen's ideas, develop ways of accessing those ideas that would be useful for lay leaders who are in search of deeper integration in their spiritual journey. The format for the retreat schedule should incorporate these elements:

- a. a Friday night and all day Saturday retreat.
- b. spiritual exercises that are appropriate to the theme.
- c. incorporation of Nouwen's ideas as the guiding framework for theological reflection.
- d. clear objectives for the retreat and measures for testing outcomes.

Late Papers: Late assignments will be docked 1% each late day . (Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances such as extended illness, etc.)

Spacing and Styleguide: All assignments are to be double-spaced and follow the McMaster Divinity College Styleguide.

Hard Copy Submission: All assignments are due in hard copy by the end of office hours on that day (5 p.m.) Permission to submit electronic papers may be granted but must be secured from the course professor beforehand.

Contacting the Professor: Dr. Phil C. Zylla

Mailing Address:

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Consultation with Professor: by appointment [contact me directly by email zyllap@mcmaster.ca or my Executive Assistant, Nina Thomas thomn@mcmaster.ca]

College Style for Submission of Written Work:

All written work—unless informed otherwise by the professor—is to be submitted in accordance with the *McMaster Divinity College Style Guide for Essays and Theses*, available on the McMaster Divinity College website.

Statement on Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty is a serious offence that may take any number of forms, including plagiarism, the submission of work that is not one's own or for which previous credit has been obtained, and/or unauthorized collaboration with other students. Academic dishonesty can result in severe consequences, e.g. failure of the assignment, failure of the course, a notation on one's academic transcript, and/or suspension or expulsion from the College.

Students are responsible for understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Divinity College Statement on Academic Honesty at www.macdiv.ca/regs/honesty.php.

Gender Inclusive Language:

McMaster Divinity College uses inclusive language for human beings in worship services, student written materials, and all of its publications. In reference to biblical texts, the integrity of the original expressions and the names of God should be respected. The NRSV and TNIV are examples of the use of inclusive language for human beings. It is expected that inclusive language will be used in chapel services and all MDC assignments.

READ ON Bookstore: Textbooks are available from READ ON Bookstore, Room 218 at MacDiv. Books may also be ordered from other sources such as READ ON Bookstore, 100 – 304 The East Mall, Etobicoke, ON M9B 6E2; Phone: 416-622-2934; Fax: 416-622-2308; Email: books@readon.ca

Disclaimer: This syllabus is the property of the instructor and is prepared with currently available information. The instructor reserves the right to make changes and revisions up until the first day of class.

COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
The Pastoral Theology of Henri Nouwen

Books by Henri J. M. Nouwen

- _____. *Henri J. M. Nouwen*
_____. *Intimacy: Pastoral Psychological Essays*. Fides, 1969; Harper and Row, 1981.
- _____. *Creative Ministry: Beyond Professionalism in Teaching, Preaching, Counseling, Organizing and Celebrating*. Doubleday, 1971.
- _____. *With Open Hands*. Ave Maria, 1972.
- _____. *Thomas Merton: Contemplative Critique*. Fides, 1972; Harper and Row, 1981.
- _____. *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society*. Doubleday, 1972.
- _____. with Walter Gaffney. *Aging: The Fulfillment of Life*. Doubleday, 1974.
- _____. *Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life*. Ave Maria, 1974.
- _____. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*. Doubleday, 1975.
- _____. *Genesee Diary; Report from a Trappist Monastery*. Doubleday, 1976.
- _____. *The Living Reminder: Service and Prayer in Memory of Jesus Christ*. Seabury, 1977; Harper and Row, 1983.
- _____. *Clowning in Rome: Reflections on Solitude, Celibacy, Prayer and Contemplation*.

- Doubleday, 1979.
- _____. *In Memoriam*. Ave Maria, 1980.
- _____. *The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry*. Seabury, 1981; Harper & Row, 1983.
- _____. *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*. Harper San Francisco, 1981.
- _____. *A Cry for Mercy: Prayers from the Genesee*. Doubleday, 1981.
- _____. Donald P. McNeill and Douglas A Morrison. *Compassion: A Reflection on the Christian Life*. Doubleday, 1982.
- _____. *A Letter of Consolation*. Harper & Row, 1982.
- _____. *Gracias! A Latin American Journal*. Harper & Row, 1983.
- _____. *Love in a Fearful Land: A Guatemalan Story*. Ave Maria, 1985.
- _____. *Lifesigns: Intimacy, Fecundity, and Ecstasy in Christian Perspective*. Doubleday, 1986.
- _____. *Behold the Beauty of the Lord: Praying with Icons*. Ave Maria, 1987.
- _____. *Letters to Marc about Jesus*. Harper & Row, 1988.
- _____. *The Road to Day Break: A Spiritual Journal*. Doubleday, 1988; 1990.
- _____. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. Crossroad, 1989.
- _____. *Heart Speaks to Heart: Three Prayers to Jesus*. Ave Maria, 1989.
- _____. *Beyond the Mirror: Reflections on Death and Life*. Crossroad, 1990.
New title: *Our Second Birth: Christian Reflections on Death and New Life*. Crossroad, 1998, 2006.
- _____. *Walk with Jesus: Stations of the Cross*. Illustrations by Sr. Helen David. Orbis, 1990.
- _____. *The Return of the Prodigal Son*. Doubleday, 1992.
- _____. *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. Crossroad, 1992.
- _____. *Jesus and Mary: Finding our Sacred Center*. St Anthony Messenger Press, 1993.
- _____. *Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring*. Harper Collins, 1994.
- _____. *With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on Eucharistic Life*. Orbis, 1994.
- _____. *Here and Now: Living with the Spirit*. Crossroad, 1994.
- _____. *Path Series: The Path of Waiting/The Path of Freedom/The Path of Power/The Path of Peace*. Crossroad: 1995.
- _____. *Ministry and Spirituality: Three Books in One*. Continuum, 1996.
- _____. *Can You Drink the Cup? The Challenge of the Spiritual Life*. Ave Maria, 1996.
- _____. *The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom*. Doubleday, 1996.

_____. *Bread for the Journey: Thoughts for Every Day of the Year*. Harper San Francisco, 1997.

_____. *Spiritual Journal: Three Books in One*. Continuum, 1997.

_____. *Adam: God's Beloved*. Orbis, 1997.

_____. *Sabbatical Journey: The Final Year*. Crossroad, 1998.

_____. *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*. Harperone, 2006.

_____. *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit*. Harperone, 2010.

Edited Books of Nouwen's Writings

Bauer, Judy. *Advent and Christmas Wisdom from Henri J.M. Nouwen*. Liguori Publications, Liguori, Missouri, 2004.

Durback, Robert. *Seeds of Hope: A Henri Nouwen Reader*. Bantam Books, 1989.

Durback, Robert. *A Retreat with Henri Nouwen: Reclaiming our Humanity*. St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2003.

Ford, Michael, ed. *Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey*. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2003.

Garvey, John. *Henri Nouwen Arranged for Daily Reading*. Templegate, 1988.

Greer, Wendy W. ed. *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*. New York: Crossroad, 1999.

Johna, Franz. *Show Me the Way: Readings for Each Day of Lent*. Crossroad, 1992.

Jonas, Robert A ed. *The Essential Henri Nouwen*. Shambala, 2009.

_____. *Henri Nouwen*. Orbis, 1998.

Olfson, Lewy. *The Primacy of the Heart: Cutting from a Journal*. St Benedict Center, 1988.

Books about Henri Nouwen

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Beumer, Jerjen. *Henri Nouwen: A Restless Seeking for God*. Crossroad, 1997.

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Hernandez, Wil. *Henri Nouwen and Soul Care*. Paulist Press, 2008.

_____. *A Spirituality of Imperfection*. Paulist Press, 2006.

LaNoe, Deirdra. *The Spiritual Legacy of Henri Nouwen*. Continuum, 2000.

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_____. *God's Beloved: A Spiritual Autobiography of Henri Nouwen*. Orbis, 2004.

O'Rourke, Michelle. *Befriending Death: Henri Nouwen and a Spirituality of Dying*. Orbis, 2009.

Porter, Beth, Susan M.S. Brown and Philip Coulter eds. *Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen*. Doubleday, 2001.

Roderick, Philip. *Beloved: In Conversation with Henri Nouwen*. Book and CD. Canterbury Press, 2007.

Twomy, Gerald S. and Claude Pomerleau eds. *Remembering Henri*. Orbis, 2006.

Waldron, Robert. *Walking with Henri Nouwen: A Reflective Journey*. Paulist Press, 2003.

Website

www.henrinouwen.org

Dissertations and Theses on Henri Nouwen

Henderson, Kyle. *The Reformation of Pastoral Theology in the Life and Works of Henri Nouwen*. Ph.D. diss., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 1994.

Huang, Hui-Chueh. *Spiritual Life and Educational Ministry in the Life of Henri Nouwen*. Ph.D. diss., Presbyterian School of Christian Education, 1995.

Yang, Byung-Mo. *A Study of Pastoral Identity in Light of the Works of Henri J.M. Nouwen and its Implication for the Korean Pastoral Context*. Ph.D. diss., Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2002.

Video

Pascal, Karen [Producer] *Straight to the Heart: The Life of Henri Nouwen*. Windborne Productions, 2001