

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT.

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TITLE: Historical Models of Christian Prayer

TERM: Spring 2018-2019

PROFESSOR: Gary Hansen

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: _____
AUDITORS: Unlimited

UNLIMITED X
NO AUDITORS _____

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Evagrius of Pontus said “If you are a theologian, you will pray truly. And if you pray truly, you are a theologian.” This course will explore influential approaches to prayer from across the Christian traditions through theological analysis of primary sources and through practical experience. As Christians we will broaden our practice and understanding of prayer, and as pastors we will become better equipped to guide others in their spiritual lives.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will develop skills in theological and historical analysis of primary sources.
2. Students will grow in their personal practice of prayer by studying, applying, and reflecting on approaches from diverse traditions.
3. Students will become better equipped for ministry by learning a spectrum of Christian approaches to prayer that have proven helpful to different Christians over the centuries.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS/READING:

Hansen, Gary Neal, *Kneeling with Giants: Learning to Pray with History's Best Teachers*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2012. ISBN: 978-0830835621, \$17 paper/\$6.99 Kindle.

Hansen, Gary Neal, *Love Your Bible: Finding Your Way to the Presence of God with a 12th Century Monk*. Dubuque: Climacus Publishing, 2015. ISBN: 978-0986412400, \$5.99.

Other readings will be in the syllabus, most of which will be available as free downloads.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING:

Participation, annotated bibliography and essay on one historical model of prayer, and a self-assessment of prayer practices with plan for integration of prayer in life and ministry.

ATTENDANCE:

Required.