

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: Reading and Writing the Spiritual Life

TERM: Fall 2026-2027

PROFESSOR: Rogers Owens

CREDIT HOURS: 3

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO: #
AUDITORS: #

UNLIMITED
NO AUDITORS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This ministry/spirituality course invites close examination of classic and contemporary nonfiction (personal essay, memoir) and poetry that express the life of faith in order to help students grow in their own craft of writing. Students will explore the factors that make for compelling spiritual writing, write and critique each others’ work, and explore the relationship between writing, ministry, and the public expression of faith. Students will also reflect on the place of creative writing in their own ministry vocations.

CLASS OBJECTIVES:

Students who participate interestedly and actively and complete all assigned readings, will, by the end of the course:

- understand the factors that make compelling spiritual writing, both in creative nonfiction and poetry, and be able to identify those factors in spiritual writing;
- have grown in their own ability to write compellingly about the spiritual life, employing the factors that make for good spiritual writing;
- be able to give and receive critical and constructive feedback on their own writing and the writing of their peers;
- be able to express how creative writing can be a practice of ministry and support the practices of ministry (e.g. preaching, public speaking, leading spiritual formation); and
- be able to reflect on the place of writing in their own call and vocation.

PREREQUISITES: None

REQUIRED TETBOOKS/READINGS:

- Kooser, Ted. *The Poetry Home Repair Manual: Practical Advice for Beginning Poets*, (Bison Books, 2007), ISBN: 978-0803259782, \$8.99
- McEntyre, Marilyn. *Start with a Word: On the Craft and Adventure of Writing*, (Eerdmans, 2026), ISBN: 978-0802883162, \$24.99
- Roorbach, Bill. *Writing Life Stories: How to Make Memories into Memoirs, Ideas into Essays and Life into Literature*, (Penguin Publishing Group, 2008), ISBN: 978-1582975276, \$16.09
- Additional course material will be made available as PDFs (essays, poetry, etc.) by a wide range of authors from diverse backgrounds and experiences.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

To be determined.

ATTENDANCE: Required.