

TYNDALE SEMINARY COURSE SYLLABUS

"The mission of Tyndale Seminary is to provide Christ-centred graduate theological education for leaders in the church and society whose lives are marked by intellectual maturity, spiritual vigour and moral integrity, and whose witness will faithfully engage culture with the Gospel."

Semester, Year	SPRING/SUMMER, 2026	
Course Title	HENRI NOUWEN'S LIFE OF THE BELOVED: EXPLORING SPIRITUAL AND IDENTITY FORMATION	
Course Code	SPIR 0615 1P & 1S	
Date	From May 12, 2026 to June 11, 2026 EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY	
Time	From 6:30pm to 9:20pm	
Delivery Format	IN-PERSON WITH SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE OPTION	
Class information	The classes will be in-person with synchronous online option on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6:30pm to 9:20pm.	
Instructor	SAMUEL LEE, DMin Email: samuellee@tyndale.ca	
Office Hours	By appointment only.	
Course Materials	Access course material at <u>classes.tyndale.ca</u> or other services at <u>Tyndale</u> <u>One</u> . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.	

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Examines Henri Nouwen's understanding of spiritual formation and spiritual identity as the Life of the Beloved. Students will explore the four movements of Nouwen's "Life of the Beloved" and the biblical and theological foundations that guide Nouwen's understanding.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Revised: December 16, 2025

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. Recognize the value of their personal spiritual identity and discover how to express it in their daily lives.
- 2. Outline Henri Nouwen's concept of spiritual formation and spiritual identity.
- 3. Describe and evaluate the biblical and theological foundations of Nouwen's four movements of the "Life of the Beloved" as taken, blessed, broken, and given.

- 4. Articulate the different spiritual practices that shape identity as the beloved and incorporate it into their lives and ministry.
- 5. Integrate their understanding of Nouwen's description of spiritual identity so they can assist others to experience it deeply.
- 6. Put into practice at least three of Nouwen's spiritual practices described in his writings

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

- Nouwen, Henri J. M. Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World. New York: Crossroad Pub. Co., 2002. Pp. 158
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life. New York: Image Books, 1975/1986. ISBN: 038523682. Pp. 160
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. The Way of the Heart. 1st Ballantine Books ed. Epiphany. New York: Ballantine Books, 1983. ISBN: 0345463358 Pp.112
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society. 1st Image ed. New York, NY: Image Books, 2010. Pp 109.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M., Michael J Christensen, and Rebecca Laird. Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2015. Pp. 162
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. and Duccio. With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2016. Pp. 127
- O'Laughlin, Michael. God's Beloved: A Spiritual Biography of Henri Nouwen. New York: Orbis, 2004. ISBN: 1570755612. Pp. 197

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

- Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us. 2nd ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2017.
- Hernandez, Wil. Mere Spirituality: The Spiritual Life According to Henri Nouwen. Woodstock, VT: Christian Journeys/from SkyLight Paths Publishing, 2015.
- Manning, Brennan. Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2015.

- Mulholland, M. Robert. The Deeper Journey: The Spirituality of Discovering Your True Self. Expanded Edition. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2016. ISBN: 0830846182. Pp188.
- Nouwen, Henri J. M. In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership with Study Guide for Groups and Individuals. New York: Crossroad Pub. Co, 2002. Pp. 101
- Snodgrass, Klyne R. Who God Says You Are: A Christian Understanding of Identity. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2018.
- Smith, Mandy, and David Hansen. The Vulnerable Pastor: How Human Limitations Empower Our Ministry. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015.
- Volf, Miroslav. After Our Likeness: The Church as the Image of the Trinity. Sacra Doctrina. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans, 1998.
- Zizioulas, John D. Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church. Contemporary Greek Theologians; No. 4. Crestwood, NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1985.

Tyndale recommends STEPBible – a free and reputable online resource developed by Tyndale House (Cambridge, England) – for word searches of original-language texts, as well as for topical searches, interlinear texts, dictionaries, etc. Refer to the library for other online resources for Biblical Studies.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Class participation: 15%

- a. Classroom attendance and participation
- **b.** Students will respond to a question that is posted online before the beginning of each class with a response that is no more than one paragraph. Moreover, students will comment on one response by a class member.

This assignment is related to Learning Outcomes #1-6.

2. Critical book review on Life of the Beloved: 6-8 pages; 20%, due May 30

a. Provide a short summary of the book LOTB. Considering Nouwen's four movements, engage with one other author from the supplementary reading list. How does their understanding interface with Nouwen's? What are some areas that you find you agree with and why? What are some areas you find difficult or disagree with and why? This assignment is related to Learning Outcomes #2 and #5.

3. Reflection paper on spiritual exercises: 7-8 pages; 25%, due June 21

a. Students will have opportunity to practice three different spiritual exercises which will be discussed in class. The student will have two weeks to practice each exercise. At the

end of their experience, the student will reflect on how each spiritual exercise related to Nouwen's concept of spiritual identity. How can each exercise speak against the three lies of identity? How might these spiritual exercises speak into your life and ministry? This assignment is related to Learning Outcomes #'s 1, 4, and 6

4. Final project: 40%, due July 12

a. Integrated project on how Nouwen's movements can be applied in the context of their ministry. Students can choose themes from one specific movement or from all of the movements. Students will show how their project relates to the chosen movement(s) and how their project can help others into a deeper understanding and experience of the LOTB. For example: Creative project such as a retreat, bible study series, sermon series, mentoring program, etc. 10-15 pages depending on the project. The student will speak with the instructor for approval of their project before commencing.

Or

b. A Research paper on one of the 4 movements of Life of the Beloved Student will select one of the four movements of becoming the Beloved. What are the biblical and theological underpinnings of the chosen movement? Reflect biblically and theologically on how Nouwen's movement relates to Nouwen's understanding of spiritual identity. What would be the implication of this understanding on you and others? 10-15 pages.

This assignment is related to Learning Outcomes #1-6.

D. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Due	%
Class Participation		15 %
Critical Book Review	May 30	20 %
Reflection Paper on Spiritual Exercises	June 21	25 %
Final Project	July 12	40 %
Total Grade	100 %	

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

Pre-reading is expected prior to the start of class. Late registrants are responsible for the consequences of partial preparation.

- Overview of content for class session of each day (e.g. Day 1, Day 2, etc.)
- Readings due for each class
- Specific due dates for course requirements

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
May 12	Introduction to Henri Nouwen	Nouwen, Life of the Beloved: Prologue O'Laughlin, God's Beloved: Intro, Chapter 1 (pp. 1-56) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Introduction	8
May 14	The Life of the Beloved	Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: One (pp. 2-15) Nouwen, Life of the Beloved: Being the Beloved (pp. 29-40) O'Laughlin, God's Beloved: Chapter 2 (pp. 57-85)	
May 19	Three lies of Identity	Nouwen, Way of the Heart (pp. 1-22) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Two (pp. 16-34)	
May 21	Becoming the Beloved	Nouwen, Life of the Beloved: Becoming the Beloved (pp. 43-49) O'Laughlin, God's Beloved: Chapter 4 (pp. 110-126) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Five (pp. 72-86)	
May 26	Taken	O'Laughlin, God's Beloved: Chapter 3 (pp. 86-109) Nouwen, Reaching Out (1-62) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Six (pp. 88-102)	
May 28	Blessed	Nouwen, The Way of the Heart (pp. 35-95) O'Laughlin, God's Beloved: Chapter 5 (pp. 127-160) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Four (pp. 57-70)	Paper due on LOB
June 2	Broken	Wounded Healer (1-52) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Three (pp. 36-56)	
June 4	Given	Nouwen, Reaching Out (pp. 65-109) Nouwen, Spiritual Formation: Seven	

		Wounded Healer (52-106)	
June 9	Biblical Foundations on the Life of the Beloved	Nouwen, Reaching Out (pp. 113-162) O'Laughlin, God's Beloved: Chapter 6 (pp. 161-187)	
June 11	Theological Foundations on the Life of the Beloved	Nouwen, With Burning Hearts (whole book)	
June 21			Reflection Paper Due
July 12			Final Project Due

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources on Henri Nouwen

Major Books

Nouwen, Henri J.M. <i>Adam: God's Beloved</i> . Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.
, and Walter J. Gaffney. <i>Aging: The Fulfillment of Life</i> . New York: Image Books, 1990.
Behold the Beauty of the Lord. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1987.
Bread for the Journey: A Daybook of Wisdom and Faith. San Francisco:
HarperSanFrancisco, 1997.
Beyond the Mirror: Reflections on Death and Life. New York: Crossroad, 2001.
Can You Drink the Cup? Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1996.
Clowning in Rome: Reflections on Solitude, Celibacy, Prayer, and Contemplation. New
York: Image Books, 2000.
, Donald P. MacNeill, and Douglas A. Morrison. <i>Compassion: A Reflection of the Christian Life</i> . New York: Image Books, 1983.
Creative Ministry. New York: Image Books, 1978.
. A Cry for Mercy: Prayers from the Genesee. New York: Image Books, 2002.
. Encounters with Merton: Spiritual Reflections. Second Edition. New York: Crossroad,
1972, 1981.
The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery. New York: Image Books,
1989.
Finding My Way Home: Pathways to Life and the Spirit. New York: Crossroad, 2001.
. ¡Gracias!: A Latin American Journal. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993.
. Heart Speaks to Heart: Three Prayers to Jesus. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press,
1989.
Here and Now: Living in the Spirit. New York: Crossroad, 1994.
. In Memoriam. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1980.
The Inner Voice of Love: A Journey Through Anguish to Freedom. New York: Image Books, 1998.

In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership. New York: Crossroad,
2000.
Intimacy. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1969.
In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership. New York: Crossroad,
1989.
Jesus and Mary: Finding Our Sacred Center. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger
Press, 1993.
A Letter of Consolation. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1982.
Letters to Marc About Jesus: Living a Spiritual Life in a Material World. San Francisco
HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.
Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World. New York: Crossroad, 1992.
Lifesigns: Intimacy, Fecundity, and Ecstasy in Christian Perspective. New York:
Doubleday, 1986.
Love in a Fearful Land: A Guatemalan Story. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria Press, 1985
The Living Reminder: Service and Prayer in Memory of Jesus Christ. San Francisco:
HarperSanFrancisco, 1977.
Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life. San Francisco:
HarperSanFrancisco, 1981.
Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Death and Dying. New York: HarperCollins, 1995
Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life. Notre Dame, IN: Ave Maria
Press, 1974.
Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life. New York: Doubleday,
1975.
. The Return of the Prodigal Son. New York: Image Books, 1994.
. The Road to Daybreak. A Spiritual Journey. New York: Doubleday, 1988.
Sabbatical Journey. New York: Crossroad, 1998.
. Thomas Merton: Contemplative Critic. Liguori, MO: Liguori/Triumph, 1991.
. Walk With Jesus: Stations of the Cross. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1990.
. The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry. New York:
HarperCollins, 1991.
. With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis
Books, 1994. With Open Hands: Bringing Prayer into Your Life, New York: Pallanting Books, 1995.
. With Open Hands: Bringing Prayer into Your Life. New York: Ballantine Books, 1985 The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society. New York: Image Books,
1979.
17/3.

Collections/Anthologies/Readers

Bence, Evelyn, comp. Mornings with Henri J.M. Nouwen: Readings and Reflections. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1997.

Dear, John, ed. The Road to Peace. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.

Durback, Robert, ed. Seeds of Hope: A Henri Nouwen Reader. New York: Bantam Books, 1989.

- , ed. and comp. *In My Own Words*. Liguori, MO: Liguori, 2001.
- Ford, Michael, ed. Eternal Seasons: A Liturgical Journey with Henri J.M. Nouwen. Notre Dame, IN: Sorin Books, 2004.
- Garvey, John ed. Henri Nouwen, The Modern Spirituality Series. Springfield, IL: Templegate Publishers, 1988. (Originally published as Circles of Love: Daily Readings with Henri J.M. Nouwen. London: Darton, Longman and Todd, 1988).
- Greer, Wendy Wilson, ed. The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life. New York: Crossroad, 1999.
- Johna, Franz, ed. Show Me the Way: Readings for Each Day of Lent. New York: Crossroad, 1992.
- Jonas, Robert A., ed. Henri Nouwen: Writings Selected with an Introduction by Robert A. Jonas. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.
- Jones, Timothy, comp. and ed. Turn My Mourning into Dancing: Finding Hope in Hard Times. Nashville: Word Publishing, 2001.
- Laird, Rebecca, and Michael J. Christensen, eds. The Heart of Henri Nouwen: His Words of Blessing. New York: Crossroad, 2003.
- O'Laughlin, Michael, ed. Jesus: A Gospel. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.
- Olfson, Lewy, ed. The Primacy of the Heart: Cuttings from a Journal. Madison, WI: St. Benedict Center, 1988.

Secondary Sources on Henri J.M. Nouwen

Books

- de Vinck, Christopher, ed. Nouwen Then: Personal Reflections on Henri. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.
- Durback, Robert. A Retreat with Henri Nouwen: Reclaiming Our Humanity. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2003.
- Glaser, Chris. Henri's Mantle: 100 Meditations on Nouwen's Legacy. Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2002.
- Phillips, Vera, and Edwin Robertson. The Wounded Healer. London: SPCK, 1984.
- Porter, Beth with Susan M. S. Brown and Philip Coulter, eds. Befriending Life: Encounters with Henri Nouwen. New York: Doubleday, 2001.
- Ringma, Charles. Dare to Journey with Henri Nouwen. Metro Manila: OMF Literature, 1995.
- Waldron, Robert. Walking with Henri Nouwen: A Reflective Journey. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2003.

Biographical Works

- Beumer, Jurjen. Henri Nouwen: A Restless Seeking God. New York: Crossroad, 1997.
- Ford, Michael. Wounded Prophet: A Portrait of Henri J.M. Nouwen. New York: Doubleday, 1999.
- Higgins, Michael W. Genius Born of Anguish: The Life & Legacy of Henri Nouwen. Toronto, ON: Novalis, 2012.
- LaNoue, Deirdre. The Spiritual Legacy of Henri Nouwen. New York: Continuum, 2000.
- O'Laughlin, Michael. God's Beloved: A Spiritual Biography of Henri Nouwen. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2004.

VI. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL COURSES

A. EQUITY OF ACCESS

Students with permanent or temporary disabilities who need academic accommodations must contact the Accessibility Services at the Centre for Academic Excellence to register and discuss their specific needs. New students must self-identify and register with the Accessibility Office at the beginning of the semester or as early as possible to access appropriate services. Current students must renew their plans as early as possible to have active accommodations in place.

B. REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVESTREAM INTERACTION (SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE COURSE ONLY)

- Livestream attendance for the entire duration of the class at announced times
- Headphones (preferred), built-in microphone, and web-camera
- Well-lit and quiet room
- Stable high-speed internet connection, preferably using an Ethernet cable over Wi-Fi
- Full name displayed on Zoom and Microsoft Teams for attendance purposes*
- A commitment to having the camera on to foster community building*

C. GUIDELINES FOR INTERACTIONS

Tyndale University prides itself in being a trans-denominational community. We anticipate our students to have varied viewpoints which will enrich the discussions in our learning community. Therefore, we ask our students to be charitable and respectful in their interactions with each other, and to remain focused on the topic of discussion, out of respect to others who have committed to being a part of this learning community. Please refer to "Guidelines for Interactions" on your course resource page at <u>classes.tyndale.ca</u>.

D. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

Grading Rubric

Please consult the rubric provided for each assignment on your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca.

Academic Integrity

Integrity in academic work is required of all our students. Academic dishonesty is any breach of this integrity and includes such practices as cheating (the use of unauthorized material on tests and examinations), submitting the same work for different classes without permission of the instructors; using false information (including false references to secondary sources) in an

^{*}exceptions with permission from professor

assignment; improper or unacknowledged collaboration with other students, and plagiarism (including improper use of artificial intelligence programs). Tyndale University takes seriously its responsibility to uphold academic integrity, and to penalize academic dishonesty. Please refer to the Academic Integrity website for further details. Students must review the policies and procedures regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) outlined in Academic Calendar and consult guidance from their course instructors.

For proper citation style, consult Citation Guides for different styles. Students are encouraged to consult Writing Services.

Students should also consult the current Academic Calendar for polices and expectations on Attendance and Classroom Expectations, Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Late Papers and Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

Turnitin Text-Matching Software

Tyndale has a subscription to Turnitin, a text-matching software that ensures the originality of academic writing and verifies the proper citation of all sources. The instructor for this course will use Turnitin for assignments submitted through your course resource page at classes.tyndale.ca. Upon submission, you will receive a summary that includes your submitted files along with a similarity report generated by Turnitin. Please be aware that Turnitin can also detect AI-generated content from tools like Grammarly, so students should be mindful of when using such software. It's advisable to confirm with your instructor before using any AI tools into your assignments. Below are some useful resources:

- Student Guides for Turnitin via classes.tyndale.ca course resource page
- Interpreting Similarity (Guide, Video, Spectrum)

Research Ethics

All course-based assignments involving human participants requires ethical review and may require approval by the Tyndale Research Ethics Board (REB). Check with the Seminary Dean's Office (seminaryoffice@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

Late Papers and Extensions Policy

All papers and course assignments must be submitted by the due dates indicated in the course syllabus. Unless the instructor already has a policy on grading late papers in the course syllabus, grades for papers submitted late without an approved extension will be lowered at the rate of two-thirds of a grade per week or part thereof (e.g., from "A+" to "A-," from "B" to "C+"). Please note that some programs, such as cohort-based or intensive courses, may follow a different policy due to the nature of the program.

Faculty may not grant an extension beyond the last day of exams for the semester. Requests for extensions beyond this date must be addressed in writing to the Registrar by filling out the Extension Request Form. The application will be considered only in cases such as a death in the family, medical emergency, hospitalization of oneself or immediate family member or prolonged illness requiring treatment by a physician. Factors such as assignments for other courses, holidays, and technology-related difficulties are insufficient grounds for requesting an extension.

A temporary grade of incomplete ("I") may be granted by the Registrar. Once an extension is granted, it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor and make satisfactory arrangements to complete the outstanding work. A grade of "F" will be recorded for students who do not complete the outstanding work by the deadline.

E. COURSE EVALUATION

Tyndale Seminary values quality in the courses it offers its students. End-of-course evaluations provide valuable student feedback and are one of the ways that Tyndale Seminary works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. Student involvement in this process is critical to enhance the general quality of teaching and learning.

Before the end of the course, students will receive a MyTyndale email with a link to the online course evaluation. The link can also be found in the left column on the course page. The evaluation period is 2 weeks; after the evaluation period has ended, it cannot be reopened.

Course Evaluation results will not be disclosed to the instructor before final grades in the course have been submitted and processed. Student names will be kept confidential, and the instructor will only see the aggregated results of the class.

F. LIBRARY RESOURCES

Tyndale Library supports courses with e-journals, e-books, and the mail delivery of books and circulating materials. See the Library FAQ page.

G. GRADING SYSTEM & SCALE

For each course's grading rubric, please refer to your course syllabus or classes.tyndale.ca. For general grading guidelines, refer to Seminary Grading System & Scale.