

“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.”

Course	PRAYER AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD SPIR 0609 1S
Date, Time, and Delivery Format	SEPTEMBER 21 – NOVEMBER 16, 2024 5-SATURDAYS (SEPT 21, OCT 5, 19, NOV 2 & 16); 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM SYNCHRONOUS ONLINE
Instructor	CHRIS WALKER, DMin Email: cwalker@tyndale.ca
Class Information	The classes will be via Zoom on the above 5 Saturdays from 9AM to 4PM. Students will participate via Zoom. Office Hours: Contact professor for appointment.
Course Material	Access course material at classes.tyndale.ca or other services at Tyndale One . Course emails will be sent to your @MyTyndale.ca e-mail account only.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An interdisciplinary course about biblical, theological and historical models of individual and corporate prayer. The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the theology and practice of prayer in the Judeo-Christian tradition. This course will help us to discover the richness of our heritage in the understanding and practice of prayer. This will happen through the exploration of the experience of prayer in both the Old and New Testaments, as well as the history of the Church. It will also examine the place of prayer in both the life of the individual and the community.

Prerequisite: SPIR 0700.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Examine and practice many different expressions of individual and corporate prayer from Church history and from a variety of Christian traditions.
2. Construct a biblically-based expression of the theology and practice of prayer.
3. Engage with their fellow students in theological reflection and the practice of prayer.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED READING

Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg. *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices that Transform Us (Revised and Expanded)*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2015. [ISBN 978-0830846054]

Carson, D.A. (ed.). *Teach Us to Pray: Prayer in the Bible and the World*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2002. [ISBN 978-1592440498]

Tiessen, Terrance. *Providence and Prayer: How Does God Work in the World?* Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000. [ISBN 978-0830815784]

Willard, Dallas. *Hearing God: Developing a Conversational Relationship with God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012. [ISBN 978-0830835690]

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING AND TOOLS

Tyndale recommends www.stepbible.org – 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. INTERACTIVE LIVESTREAM COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 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*
- *exceptions with permission from professor

D. 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 classes.tyndale.ca.

E. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

1. Prayer Practice and Reflection: Due on Friday Oct 18 2024; 30% of final grade.

Read Calhoun’s *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, paying special attention to “Part 7: Pray.” Choose 3 modes of prayer from this section that are new to you, or at least are **not** part of your Christian tradition and/or typical prayer life. Over a 4-week continuous stretch from the beginning of the term, experiment with integrating these novel modes of prayer into your regular prayer time. Feel free to invite others into the experimentation if you like. Once completed, write a paper reflecting on the experience, critically evaluating both the theology and the practical experience of these modes of prayer, reflecting on the strengths and challenges of each mode explored. The reflection should be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced. This assignment is related to Outcome 1.

2. Reflection Paper: Due on Friday, Nov 8 2024; 30% of final grade.

Read Tiessen’s *Providence and Prayer*. After examining the 11 models that he explores, select 1 model that is closest to how you personally understand God, His will, His interaction with Creation, and the role that prayer plays. Do not worry about finding a model that matches your views perfectly; the purpose of this exercise is to use 1 model as a tool to help you reflect on your own views of Providence and prayer. Write a reflection paper in which you defend and critique the model you chose. This paper should include biblical and theological reflection, as well as explore the practical implications of how this model affects one’s approach to prayer. The paper should be 8-10 pages in length, double-spaced. This assignment is related to Outcome 2.

3. Theological Paper: Due on Friday, December 6 2024; 40% of final grade.

Write a 15-20 page double-spaced paper that reflects your personal theology of prayer, and your thoughts on the best ways to practice it. It is a big question, so you will need to be concise. Imagine you were asked, “What is prayer to you?” How would you respond biblically, theologically, and practically to that question? How does your view of

Providence fit in? How does your faith tradition affect your view? What are ways that prayer should be practiced, in your opinion? What modes of prayer are most important to your views? Although a big question, the answer to it is crucial for each of us, and it will be an important exercise to give some intentional thought and reflection to answering the question, both for your spiritual journey, and for your ministry context. This assignment is related to Outcome 2.

F. 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.

G. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Prayer Practice and Reflection	30 %
Reflection Paper	30 %
Theological Paper	40 %
Total Grade	100 %

H. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

For proper citation style, consult the [tip sheet, “Documenting Chicago Style”](#) (Tyndale e-resource) or the full edition of the [Chicago Manual of Style Online](#), especially ch. 14. For citing scripture texts, refer to sections 10.44 to 10.48 and 14.238 to 14.241 from the *Chicago Manual of Style* or reference the [tip sheet, “How to Cite Sources in Theology”](#).

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 10% of the final grade per week. Exceptions may be granted in cases of illness or crisis; in such cases, contact the instructor as soon as possible to request an extension.

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 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 are encouraged to consult [Writing Services](#). Citation and other [tip sheets](#).

Students should also consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for academic policies on Academic Honesty, Gender Inclusive Language in Written Assignments, Extensions, Return of Assignments, and Grading System.

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 (aau@tyndale.ca) before proceeding.

I. 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.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

- Zoom Class Schedule and Overview
 - Saturday Sept 21 2024
 - Session 1. Exploring a Theology and Practice of Prayer
 - Session 2. Modes of Prayer Throughout the Church
 - Saturday Oct 5 2024
 - Session 3. Providence and Prayer
 - Session 4. Prayer in the Old Testament

- Saturday Oct 19 2024
 - Session 5. Prayer in the Life and Teaching of Jesus
 - Session 6. Prayer in the New Testament
- Saturday Nov 2 2024
 - Session 7. Praying Through the Scriptures
 - Session 8. The Art of Discernment
- Saturday Nov 16 2024
 - Session 9. Praying with God's People
 - Session 10. Prayer and God's Presence
- All required texts should be read by the end of the course and integrated into course assignments.
- Course Assignment Due Dates
 - *Prayer Practice and Reflection: Friday Oct 18 2024*
 - *Reflection Paper: Friday Nov 8 2024*
 - *Theological Paper: Friday Dec 6 2024*

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

([Tyndale Library](#) supports this course with [e-journals](#), [e-books](#), and the [mail delivery of books](#) and circulating materials. See the [Library FAQ page](#).)

Balentine, Samuel E. *Prayer in the Hebrew Bible: The Drama of Divine-Human Dialogue*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1993.

Barton, Ruth Haley. *Invitation to Solitude and Silence: Experiencing God's Transforming Presence*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2010.

Boa, Kenneth. *Face to Face, Volume Two: Praying the Scriptures for Spiritual Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Volume 5: Life Together / Prayerbook of the Bible*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2005.

Bounds, E.M. *The Complete Works of E.M. Bounds on Prayer: Experience the Wonders of God Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1990.

Brueggemann, Walter. *Spirituality of the Psalms*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2002.

- Foster, Richard. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 2002.
- Fryling, Alice. *Seeking God Together: An Introduction to Group Spiritual Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2009.
- Jones, Tony. *The Sacred Way: Spiritual Practices for Everyday Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.
- Keller, Tim. *Prayer: Experiencing Awe and Intimacy with God*. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2014.
- Liebert, Elizabeth. *The Way of Discernment: Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.
- Longenecker, Richard N. (ed.) *Into God's Presence: Prayer in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2001.
- McKnight, Scot. *Praying with the Church: Following Jesus Daily, Hourly, Today*. Brewster, MA: Paraclete Press, 2006.
- Merton, Thomas. *Contemplative Prayer*. New York, NY: 1969.
- Nouwen, Henri (with Michael J. Christensen and Rebecca Laird). *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2013.
- Smith, Gordon T. *Listening to God in Times of Choice: The Art of Discerning God's Will*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 1997.
- Smith, Gordon T. *The Voice of Jesus: Discernment, Prayer, and the Witness of the Spirit*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.
- Spangler, Ann and Lois Tverberg. *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus Can Transform Your Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2009.
- Whitney, Donald S. *Praying the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
- Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.
- Wilhoit, James C. and Evan B. Howard. *Discovering Lectio Divina: Bringing Scripture into Ordinary Life*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.