

**SEMINARI THEOLOJI MALAYSIA
STM – TEE (Seremban Campus)**

Course Syllabus

**DYNAMICS OF THE SPIRITUAL LIFE: LEGACY OF HENRI NOUWEN
(ELECTIVE MODULE – 3-HOUR CREDIT)**

**APRIL 10-13, 2018 (TUES. TO FRI.)
TUES. (9AM-6PM), WED./THURS. (8AM-6PM), FRI. (8AM-1PM)**

INSTRUCTOR: WIL HERNANDEZ, PhD
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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the spirituality of Henri Nouwen set against the background theme of spiritual journey. The main focus will be threefold: Nouwen's integrated *journey*, his tensional and imperfect *spirituality*, and his integrated *ministry*.

First, the course provides a synthesis of Nouwen's holistic approach to the nature of the *inward, outward, and upward* spiritual journey—one that integrates *spirituality, psychology, ministry, and theology* together in a seamless fashion. Second, it is an exploration of Nouwen's *spirituality of imperfection* which he embodied throughout his lived experience—where the journey toward perfection is through the realities of tension and imperfection. Finally, it is an overview of Nouwen's well-integrated ministry of soul care based upon his integrated yet imperfect spirituality.

II. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. To identify the inward, the outward, and the upward nature of the Christian spiritual journey and appropriate its reality within one's own experience.
2. To explain the integrated dynamics of the journeying experience that incorporates the coinherent realities of spirituality, psychology, ministry, and theology.
3. To analyze the true essence of a spirituality of imperfection and the tension-filled journey that Nouwen embodied and exemplified throughout his lived experience in both theological and practical ways.
4. To articulate Nouwen's integrative approach to the ministry of soul care and spiritual formation—one that goes against the expert-driven, individualistic, and overly specialized approach that is often one-dimensional, hierarchical, and highly institutionalized in focus.
5. To synthesize one's own understanding of Nouwen's integrated journey, his tensional and imperfect spirituality, and his holistic ministry.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. REQUIRED TEXTS

Primary Texts:

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*.

Image Books, 1975. ISBN: 038523682. **[RO] (Pre-Class)**

_____. *In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership*. Crossroad,

1989. ISBN: 9780824512590. **[INJ] (In-Class)**

Choose **one journal text** of Henri Nouwen: **(Post-Class)**

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *The Genesee Diary: Report from a Trappist Monastery*.

Image Books, 1989. ISBN: 038174462.

_____. *iGracias!: A Latin American Journal*. Orbis, 1983. ISBN:

0883448513.

_____. *The Road to Daybreak: A Spiritual Journey*. Image Books, 1988. ISBN:

9780385245531.

Secondary Texts:

Hernandez, Wil. *Henri Nouwen: A Spirituality of Imperfection*. Paulist Press,

2006. ISBN: 9780809144341. **[SOI] (Pre-Class: Part I) / (In-Class: Part II)**

_____. *Henri Nouwen and Soul Care: A Ministry of Integration*. Paulist

Press, 2008. ISBN: 9780809145461. **[MOI] (In-Class)**

_____. *Mere Spirituality: The Spiritual Life According to Henri Nouwen*. SkyLight

Paths Publishing, 2015. ISBN: 9781594735868. **[MS] (Pre-Class Intro Reading)**

B. SUPPLEMENTARY / RECOMMENDED READING:

Nouwen, Henri J. M. *Spiritual Direction: Wisdom for the Long Walk of Faith*.

Michael J. Christensen and Rebecca Laird, eds. HarperOne, 2006.

_____. *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Spirit*.

Michael Christensen & Rebecca Laird, eds. HarperOne, 2010.

_____. *The Return of The Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. Doubleday,
1992.

_____. *The Way of The Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary
Ministry*. Seabury Press, 1981.

_____. *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society*. Doubleday,
1972.

C. ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

THREE SHORT PAPER ASSIGNMENTS

1. Personal Essay

This represents your personal application of one of the main themes of the course. Write a two-page (double-spaced, without title page) paper connecting the whole notion of a spirituality of imperfection with your own journeying experience. Do not philosophize but instead *personalize*. The key word is *application*.

Personal essay is to be shared with your small group. Further details about the mechanics of group sharing time will be discussed in class.

Final Draft Due: April 11 (In-Class)

2. Interactive Journal Analysis

Choose one journal you want to read and analyze out of the four recommended spiritual journals by Nouwen. The three-page (double-spaced, with title page) paper should follow the prescribed format.

- 1st page – **Synopsis:** Sketch the overall theme of the journal. What is the journal specifically all about? Be able to highlight it in such a way that a person who has not read the journal will have a basic grasp of its thrust.
- 2nd page – **Analysis:** Interact personally and directly with the general contents of the journal and analyze “WHY and HOW Nouwen wrote WHAT” in his journal. (Remember, this is meant to be an interactive analysis!).
- 3rd page – **Response:** Why did you choose this particular journal? How do the journal entries grab you personally? Are there any specific elements that relate with your own journeying experience?

Due: Sept. 13 (Post-Class) – To be submitted via email with Word attachment
Note: Aug. 13 is the deadline for graduating students

3. Integration Paper

This represents the main paper requirement for this course. Choose ONE particular focus (*psychology, ministry, or theology*) and write a 10-12 page paper that synthesizes your own understanding of spirituality’s coinherence with your chosen focus. I suggest that you provide a title for your paper that reflects your thematic focus and approach. This is not meant to be a research paper but rather more of a synthesis/integration paper that involves a certain measure of focused theological reflection. Thus, there should be no need to go beyond our course experience here. All you have to do is to integrate everything in your thinking philosophically and methodologically based on the course overview slides, online discussions and course readings. This is not a ‘testimonial’ paper either although you may utilize personal applications within the context of your own journeying reality (just don’t overdo it!). Be able to articulate the concepts which we have

covered and which you have gleaned from your readings *in your own words* (i.e., without ‘slavishly’ rehearsing the covered contents). Use quotes sparingly (only when they substantiate your point or advance your argument). Strive to be “original” in your synthesis work. This is a focused integration work. Use the prescribed Rubric as guide.

Due: Sept. 13 (Post-Class) – To be submitted via email with Word attachment
Note: Aug. 13 is the deadline for graduating students

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1. Style Issues

- a. Follow the prescribed format for each required paper (make sure you double-check the syllabus for the said the format for each paper)
- b. Double space the essay (unless specified otherwise). Use one-inch margins on all sides. Text font should be 12-point, Times New Roman, and boldface or italics should be avoided unless needed for technical accuracy.
- c. Italicize book titles. Be consistent throughout the essay.
- d. Indent paragraphs three-quarters of an inch or eight spaces.
- e. Use only left justification.
- f. The page number for the first page should be centered at the bottom, following pages should be numbered in the upper right hand corner.
- g. For proper citation style, quotations and sources documented as footnotes and references must follow the standard format as stated in the TEE Handbook, Appendix 11 from pages 13-31.
- h. For guidelines for writing assignments, please refer to Appendix II (AR handbook on academic guidelines).

2. Other Writing Issues

Beyond the style issues noted above, be aware of the following suggestions:

- a. Use first-person sparingly; however, you may use “I” when referring to your opinion of a text.
- b. Avoid contractions in formal writing (Do not write “don’t”.)
- c. Be clear and precise. A certain page limit allows no room for wandering from your objective.
- d. Use your spell-checker, but do not trust it. A spell-check will not catch the error in such sentences as “The whole church voted too pass the amendment.” Use your eyes as well as your spell-checker.
- e. Proofread your paper.

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.

6.1.5 How to Avoid the Charge of Plagiarism (page 12)

Be warned – Students are now being failed because lecturers are checking to see if they have simply copied material or have used original ideas without acknowledgment. PLEASE READ ACADEMIC REGULATIONS 2.7 (PAGEs 19-20). All STM academic rules apply to Eng. TEE students.

E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Attendance/Class Participation/Reading	20 pts.
Personal Essay	15 pts.
Interactive Journal Analysis	25 pts.
Focused Integration Paper	40 pts
TOTAL	100 points

F. GENERAL COURSE EXPECTATIONS

1. Attendance

5.3.3 Students must attend all classes for any given course of study. In case of an emergency, the TEE Director must be consulted. In case of any absence, the respective lecturer's permission has to be obtained for missing of any classes. Students are allowed to miss only 15% out of 28-30 hours of classroom hours, subject to the approval of TEE Director or lecturer of the course. Failure to attend classes may result in de-registration as credit for the module.

2. Assignments

6.1.2 Grading of assignments, reading assignments/reports will be in accordance with that which is stated in the Academic Regulations.

6.1.4 All assignments (hard copies) are to be sent to the lecturers concerned via the STM.TEE PJ Office. In cases where the lecturer had made arrangements for soft copies, they are to be sent directly to him/her via email, please cc: a copy to engtee@stm2.edu.my.

3. Deadlines

7.1 Unless otherwise indicated in the course outlines as advised by the lecturer, TEE students are normally given a duration of 5 months (due date from last day of lecture) to hand in their assignments.

7.2 Students may apply for an extension at least 3 days before the deadline. Depending on circumstances two weeks or a one-month extension (only on extenuating circumstances) on the deadline can be granted on approval by the lecturer/TEE Director. Every two weeks extension is subject to an automatic ½ grade downgrade. The TEE director would grant permission for the extension in consultation with the lecturer of the course.

7.3 Should the student fail to submit the assignment(s) on time, the course will be deemed incomplete. No credit will be given. The student may repeat the core course when it is next offered or take another elective course.

7.4 In some cases, subject to the TEE director’s approval, a student may re-register an incomplete course for credit. The student will have 3 months from the date of re-registration to hand in all assignments for the course. The donation for re-registration is RM300.

7.5 Re-registration of any course shall not be accepted 2 years after the course had been offered.

IV. COURSE SCHEDULE, CONTENT AND REQUIRED READINGS

The course will be a mixture of class lectures, student discussion, and small group interaction. There will be pre-class required readings as well as post-class paper requirements.

DATE

SESSION TITLE/REQUIREMENT DUE

April 10 (Tues.)

INTRODUCTION

- **Course Overview /Syllabus Orientation**
- *MS Hernandez, Introduction, Overview – xv-xxvii*

THE INTEGRATED JOURNEY OVERVIEW

- *SOI Hernandez, Preface and Introduction – pp. 1-5*

PSYCHOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY

• The INWARD Journey (SELF)

- *RO pp. 1-62*
- *SOI Hernandez, Chapter One – pp. 9-25*
- *MS Hernandez, Part I*

SPIRITUALITY & MINISTRY I

• A Spirituality of Ministry/A Ministry of Spirituality

- *RO pp. 63-109*
- *SOI Hernandez, Chapter Two – pp. 26-44*
- *MS Hernandez, Part II*

SPIRITUALITY & MINISTRY II

- **The OUTWARD Journey (OTHERS)**
- *SOI Hernandez, Chapter Two – pp. 45-53*
- *MS Hernandez, Part III*

THEOLOGY & SPIRITUALITY

- **The UPWARD Journey (GOD)**
- *RO pp. 111-162*
- *SOI Hernandez, Chapter Three – pp. 54-71*

April 11 (Wed.)

INTEGRATION SESSION

VIDEO SHOWING

- **“Journey of the Heart: The Life of Henri Nouwen”**
- **Response/Discussion**

SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION I

- **The Journeying Reality: Perfection via Imperfection**
- *SOI Hernandez, Chapter Four – pp. 75-94*

SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION II

- **Spiritual Profile of an Imperfect Saint**
- **Small Group SHARING (Personal Essay)**
DUE: Personal Essay (Final Draft)
- *SOI Hernandez, Chapter Five – pp. 95-129*

April 12 (Thurs.)

SOUL CARE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION I

- **Spiritual Nurture of the Soul**
- **Soul Companionship**
- *MOI Hernandez, Introduction, Chapter One – pp. 1-19*

SOUL CARE AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION II

- **Soul Companion: *Friend and Guide***
- *MOI Hernandez, Chapter Two – pp. 20-33*
- **Soul Companion: *Mentor and Director***
- *MOI Hernandez, Chapter Three – pp. 34-47*

April 13 (Fri.)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION DYNAMICS

- **A Ministry of Integration**
- ***Psychological* Dynamics**
- ***Ministerial* Dynamics**
- ***Theological* Dynamics**
- *MOI Hernandez, Chapter Four/Conclusion – pp. 48-72*
- *INJ (Entire Book)*
- **Course Wrap-Up/Sharing**

V. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources on Henri Nouwen

Major Books

Nouwen, Henri J.M. *Adam: God's Beloved*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1997.

_____, and Walter J. Gaffney. *Aging: The Fulfillment of Life*. 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. *Compassion: A Reflection of the Christian Life*. 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.

_____. *iGracias!: 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: Ballantine Books, 1985.

_____. *The Wounded Healer: Ministry in Contemporary Society*. New York: Image Books, 1979.

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, TN: 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, MI: 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.

LaNoe, 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.

Dynamics of the Spiritual Life: Legacy of Henri Nouwen

Name _____

Email : _____

COURSE REPORT / GRADING SHEET

(To be submitted along with the final paper)

1. Course Attendance/Participation/Reading **20 pts.** _____

- Did you attend all the classroom sessions? Yes ___ No ___
- Which particular session did you miss, if any? _____
- Were you always on time for the sessions? *Hardly* ___ *Sometimes* ___ *Almost Always* ___
Everytime ___
- How would you rate your class participation? *Low* ___ *Moderate* ___ *Active* ___
- Did you get to share your Personal Essay in your small group? Yes ___ No ___
- Did you read all the primary texts as scheduled? *Hardly* ___ *Minimally* ___ *Largely* ___
Completely ___
- What journal text did you read? _____
- Did you read all the secondary texts as scheduled?
Hardly ___ *Minimally* ___ *Largely* ___ *Completely* ___

2. Short Papers **80 pts.** _____

- Did you submit the Interactive Journal Analysis Paper on time? 25 pts Yes ___ No ___
- Did you submit the Personal Essay Paper on time? 15 pts Yes ___ No ___
- Did you submit the Focused Integration Paper on time? 40 pts Yes ___ No ___
- What integration focus did you choose? _____
- Did you follow the prescribed format for each of the paper requirements? Yes ___ No ___
- How would you rate the written papers you submitted in accordance to the course standards? *Below Average* ___ *Average* ___ *Above Average* ___

TOTAL Points _____

All of the above information I have provided accurately reflected my work for the course.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____