

Chaplaincy Formation - Stage 1

IDS-1210

0.5 Unit

Starr King School for the Ministry – Graduate Theological Union
Fall 2021

Instructor Information:

Taught by: Rev. Pamela D. Hancock

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Virtual Office Hours: By appointment on Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays—please use this link to schedule: <https://calendly.com/revpamelahancock>

Meeting Dates and Times: Online content and forums. One ZOOM meeting per month. Our ZOOM Class will last from an hour to an hour and a half depending on the needs of the group. We will meet on the 2nd Friday of the Month, at 2pm PST (Sept 10, Oct 8, Nov 12, & Dec 10)

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://sksm-edu.zoom.us/j/86490582956>

Meeting ID: 864 9058 2956

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,86490582956# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,86490582956# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

Meeting ID: 864 9058 2956

Find your local number: <https://sksm-edu.zoom.us/j/86490582956>

Course Description:

Chaplaincy concentration at SKSM. Taken every semester, for 6 semester if you are in the MDiv program (for a total of 3 units)—this class will provide the container for pastoral and professional formation, in preparation for ordination and future service as a chaplain. Topics over the course of the 6 semesters will include: focus on one's own spiritual path and formation as a chaplain; the requirements of working as a chaplain in multiple settings; how to function pastorally with boundaries and using pastoral authority; group dynamics and organizational behavior; as well as organizational culture, system and relationships. Depending on where you are at in the program will determine the content you will be studying. The monthly meetings will allow you to

explore where you are at in your personal formation process along with your peers on the same journey.

Learning Objectives:

During this course, students will:

- Focus on the first stage (of 6) of the Chaplaincy Formation process.
- The first stage (as well as the sixth) will focus on personal spiritual formation and will include developing your own understanding of how you connect to the Divine and what practices, texts, art, ways-of-knowing (etc.) inspire and support your journey.
- Determine the best choice of a person to assist them in their formation process by choosing a Spiritual Advisor (i.e.: Spiritual Director, Analyst, Elder, Pastor, Rabbi, Priest, Priestess, Guru, etc.) by the end of the semester.

Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate what their spiritual path is, including: what practices keep them engaged in their tradition; what texts/art/ways-of-knowing they look to for inspiration and guidance; and who the Divine is to them, or what they consider sacred.
- Explain who they have chosen for their Spiritual Advisor for the remainder of the Formation process. Meeting with this person regularly (at least 4 times per year, moving forward) will be required for the remainder of the Formation process.

Course Policies:

- **Credit Hour Policy:** <https://www.sksm.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Credit-Hour-Policy-12.15.2020.pdf>
- **Academic Conduct:** <https://www.sksm.edu/current-students/statement-academic-integrity-misconduct/>
- **Plagiarism:** <https://www.sksm.edu/plagiarism/>
- **Notice to Students About Your Privacy (FERPA):** <https://www.sksm.edu/academics?policy-statements/ferpa-family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act/>
- **Disability Policy:** <https://www.sksm.edu/resources/student-handbook/starr-king-policies/students-with-disabilities-policy/>
- **ECO Statement:** <https://www.sksm.edu/academics/introducing-our-emergent-educational-design/eco/>

Course Assignments:

A full schedule appears below, which includes assigned reading, work, and when *Your Own Personal Sacred Text - Final Project* is due.

Grading:

- **Participation:** Students are expected to participate in class, via-ZOOM, monthly.
- **Reading the Texts & Conversation:** Students will need to engage with the texts related to that week's theme. Minimal posting required; please try to address areas in which

you are struggling or celebrating in the online forums at least 4 times over the course of the semester. Questions and discussion highly encouraged.

- **Your Own Personal Sacred Text - Final Project:** Students will create and submit their own *Personal Sacred Text*, which will include: scriptures, writings by others, ways-of-knowing, spiritual practices, art and so on—that support them in your spiritual path; as well as a concise description of their spirituality and how they practice it. Art is welcome in this project. There is no required page count. This process will develop over the course of the semester, and will be revisited and refined as necessary in the sixth stage of the Formation course.

Required Texts (Including Notes on Why We are Reading them):

- Creating Your Personal Sacred Text: Develop and Celebrate Your Spiritual Life by: Bobbi Parish, ISBN: 978-0767903684, \$19.00. *This text is being used for the final project, which will make up the majority of your grade for Stage 1 of the Formation Process.*
- A Religion of One’s Own: A Guide to Creating a Personal Spirituality in a Secular World by: Thomas Moore, ISBN: 978-1592408849, \$17.00. *This text is being used in order to stimulate your thoughts, and spark conversation in our monthly meeting—where we will have honest conversation around what your spirituality and/or religion actually is.*

Suggested Reading:

Please choose additional readings according to what you need to gather for **Your Own Personal Sacred Text - Final Project**. There will be a list of interesting titles in our MOODLE shell.

Schedule:

Please refer to Moodle for dates. Each Week is listed there, with the Week # and Theme.

Week/THEME	Class Work	Reading Assigned for this Week
Week 1 INTRODUCTIONS	+Come to ZOOM Class on September 10th at 2pm (PST) Link is provided at the beginning of this syllabus.	Please read the following: * Moore, <u>A Religion of One’s Own</u> , “Introduction” & Chapter 1 “The Spiritual Traditions Today”
Week 2 STARTING THE JOURNEY	+Please submit your remarks (struggles or celebrations) or questions to the Week 2 Forum, if you have any.	Please read the following: * Parish, <u>Create Your Personal Sacred Text</u> , “Introduction”, “Part One: An Overview of the Creation Process”: One, Two, Three & Four.

Week/THEME	Class Work	Reading Assigned for this Week
Week 3 DIVING IN	<p style="text-align: center;">SAME AS ABOVE</p> <p>+Begin the process of thinking about who you would like to work with as a Spiritual Advisor in the following Stages of your Formation work.</p>	<p>Please read the following:</p> <p>* Moore, <u><i>A Religion of One's Own</i></u>, Chapter 2 “The Natural Mystic”, Chapter 3 “Dream Practice” & Chapter 4 “Therapy at Home”</p>
Week 4 DEVELOPING THE CANON <i>Part 1</i>	<p style="text-align: center;">SAME AS ABOVE</p> <p>+Begin to determine if there is anything from major sacred texts that you want to include in your <i>Final Project</i>. Begin formatting your document.</p>	<p>Please read the following:</p> <p>* Parish, <u><i>Create Your Personal Sacred Text</i></u>, “Part Two: Assembling Your Personal Sacred Text”: Five, Six, & “Part Three: Making Selections from Existing Material”: Seven.</p>
Week 5 SPIRITUALITY & SENSUALITY (or: Do We Leave the Body Out of It?)	<p>+Come to ZOOM Class on September 10th at 2pm (PST) Link is provided at the beginning of this syllabus.</p>	<p>Please read the following:</p> <p>* Moore, <u><i>A Religion of One's Own</i></u>, Chapter 5 “Pleasure, Desire, and the Deeply Erotic” & Chapter 6 “Spiritual Secularity”</p>
Week 6 DEVELOPING THE CANON <i>Part 2</i>	<p>+Please submit your remarks (struggles or celebrations) or questions to the Week 6 Forum, if you have any.</p> <p>+Begin to determine if there is anything from other spiritual or secular sources that you want to include in your <i>Final Project</i>.</p>	<p>Please read the following:</p> <p>* Parish, <u><i>Create Your Personal Sacred Text</i></u>, “Part Three: Making Selections from Existing Material”: Eight, Nine, & Ten.</p>
Week 7 LOOKING TO THE ARTS	<p style="text-align: center;">SAME AS ABOVE</p>	<p>Please read the following:</p> <p>* Moore, <u><i>A Religion of One's Own</i></u>, Chapter 7 “Art as a Spiritual Practice” & Chapter 8 “Muses and Angels”</p>

Week/THEME	Class Work	Reading Assigned for this Week
READING WEEK	<p>+No required class work for this week. But it is highly recommended to work on your <i>Personal Sacred Text - Final Project</i> - primarily focusing on the compiling, copying and so forth of the works reviewed in Week 4 & 6.</p> <p>+Also start reaching out to prospective Spiritual Advisor choices. You may not find the right person, right away—so take the time to contact several choices.</p>	No assigned reading this week.
Week 8 DEVELOPING THE CANON <i>Part 3</i>	<p>+Please submit your remarks (struggles or celebrations) or questions to the Week 8 Forum, if you have any.</p> <p>+Begin the process of writing your personal content for your <i>Final Project</i> including personal scripture, art, descriptions of the Divine, and personal sacred practices which are part of your spiritual life.</p>	Please read the following: * Parish, <u>Create Your Personal Sacred Text</u> , “ Part Four: Writing Your Own Scripture ”: Eleven, Twelve, & Thirteen.
Week 9 SELF & NATURE ARE VALID SOURCES OF WISDOM	<p>+Come to ZOOM Class on September 10th at 2pm (PST) Link is provided at the beginning of this syllabus.</p>	Please read the following: * Moore, <u>A Religion of One’s Own</u> , Chapter 9 “Skills for an Intuitive Life” & Chapter 10 “Natural Magic”
Week 10 YOUR PERSONAL SACRED TEXT AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT	<p>+Please submit your remarks (struggles or celebrations) or questions to the Week 10 Forum, if you have any.</p> <p>+Continue the process of writing your personal content for your <i>Final Project</i> including personal scripture, art, descriptions of the Divine, ways-of-knowing, and personal sacred practices which are part of your spiritual life.</p>	Please read the following: * Parish, <u>Create Your Personal Sacred Text</u> , “ Part Five: Using Your Personal Sacred Text ”: Fourteen & Fifteen.

Week/THEME	Class Work	Reading Assigned for this Week
HOLIDAY WEEK	<p>+No required class work for this week. But it is highly recommended to work on your <i>Personal Sacred Text - Final Project</i></p> <p>+You will also want to start the final part of the process to secure your Spiritual Advisor.</p>	No assigned reading this week.
Week 11 SOUL & SPIRIT	<p>+Please submit your remarks (struggles or celebrations) or questions to the Week 11 Forum, if you have any.</p> <p>+Continue the process of writing your personal content for your <i>Final Project</i> including personal scripture, art, descriptions of the Divine, ways-of-knowing, and personal sacred practices which are part of your spiritual life.</p>	<p>Please read the following:</p> <p>* Moore, <u><i>A Religion of One's Own</i></u>, Chapter 11 "The Cloister in the World", Chapter 12 "A Sacred Way of Life" & Postlude "Living Your Bliss"</p>
Week 12 SPIRITUAL ADVISOR AND MOVING FORWARD	<p>+Come to ZOOM Class on September 10th at 2pm (PST) Link is provided at the beginning of this syllabus. Please come prepared to talk about your Spiritual Advisor choice.</p> <p>+Upload the details of your Spiritual Advisor choice to Moodle.</p> <p>+Submit your Personal Sacred Text - Final Project to the Moodle Dropbox by 5pm (PST) on Sunday, December 13th.</p>	No assigned reading this week.