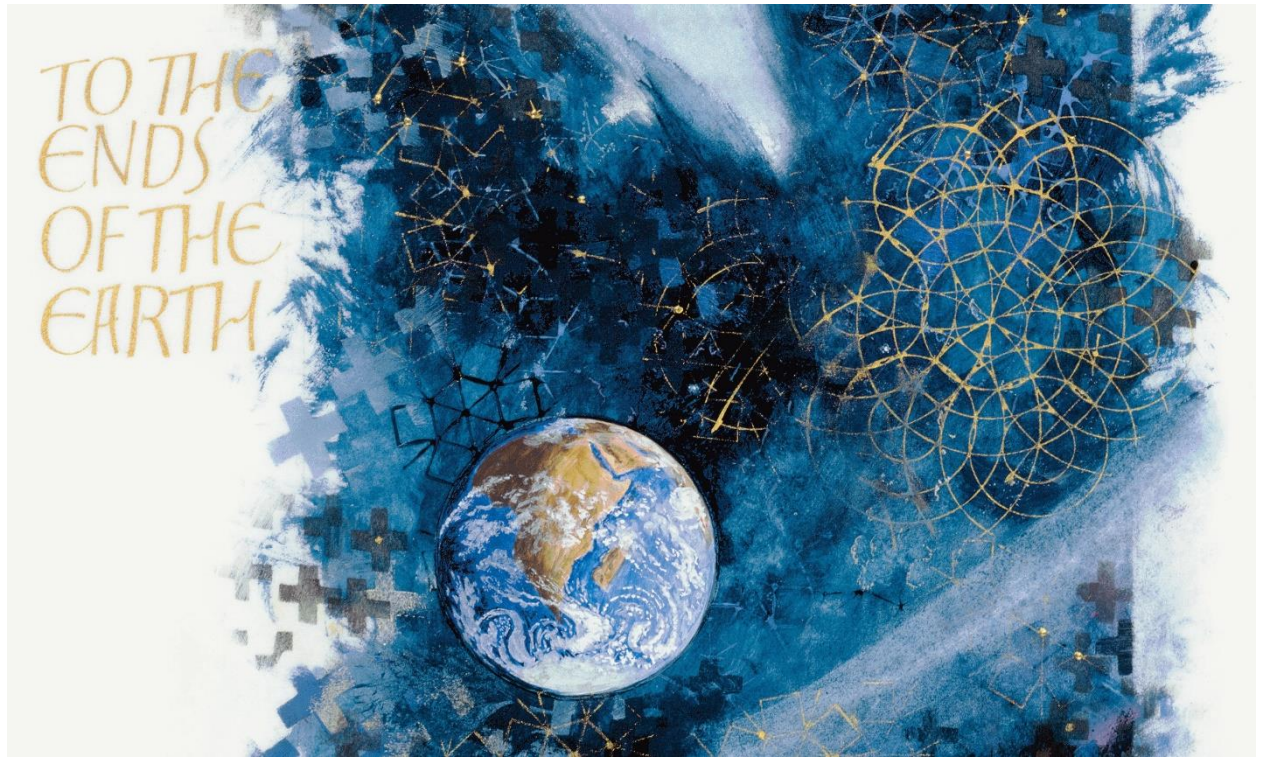


IN520 God's Redemptive Mission (August 2021)
4 credits, Graded



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Introduction to the Course

This four-credit introductory course helps prepare students for their seminary experience and ministry vocations by exploring what it means for the Church to participate in God's redemption of the world through Jesus Christ. We will engage texts, lectures, writing assignments, and activities centered on reading the bible, thinking theologically, the science of learning, and Christian spiritual practices. In addition, this course will include opportunities to explore the science of learning, neuroscience, and ecology, funded by a Science for Seminaries grant.

The course [Moodle page](#) will provide the information and assignments you need to begin working on the course. This course is **six weeks long**: 2 weeks of pre-load assignments, 2 weeks of residential classes, and 2 weeks for the post-load assignment. There is an additional course fee of \$25 for a class day-retreat at Shalom Spiritual Center, August 16.

Pre-load begins Monday, July 26 and is the **required preparation** for our gathering in August. It is not possible to do the pre-load work during the on-campus portion of the course. Please carve out time July 26-August 6 to read, reflect, and complete the assignments by their due dates, before you come to campus.

Order your books now. Do not wait.

Once you have ordered your books, we invite you introduce yourself in the Moodle forum and share a little about your life and your ministry, and one hope, one joy, and one prayer request. Photos are welcome!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email any or all of us. We are here for you!

Christ's grace and peace be with you!

Required Texts

Eric D. Barreto and Michael J. Chan, *Exploring the Bible* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 2016)

Tish Harrison Warren, *Prayer in the Night: For Those Who Work or Watch or Weep* (IVP, 2021).

Howard Stone and James Duke, *How to Think Theologically*, 3rd edition (Augsburg Fortress, 2013).

Randy S. Woodley, *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* (Eerdmans, 2012).

Benjamin Stewart, *A Watered Garden: Christian Worship and Earth's Ecology* (Augsburg Fortress, 2011).

Peter C. Brown, *Make it Stick: The Science of Successful Learning*, (Harvard University Press, 2014)

Pre-load Assignments - July 26 - August 6

Pre-load Assignments

1. Introduce yourself in the Moodle *introductions forum*. Share one joy, one hope, and one prayer request.

2. Writing Assignment #1 (Disciple Formation) – Your Story with God (900 words) - Due in Moodle dropbox by Thursday, July 29, end of day.

Describe what story God and you are currently "writing" with your life. We are all living stories of God's work in the world. You can write prose or poetry, paint a painting (and give me a description), etc. Some helpful questions:

- What event or events set you on this story's path?
- How does God and you relate in this story?
- What is a name for God which resonates with you as you live this story?
- Who is woven into your story as supports or challenges?
- What is your hope for the ending of this particular story?
- What is a scripture story or passages bears resemblance or provides meaning for your current story?

3. Read Tish Harrison Warren, *Prayer in the Night*.

4. Writing Assignment #2 (Disciple Formation) – Book Summary and Reflection (900 words) – Due in Moodle dropbox by Thursday, July 29, end of day.

Use this outline (with bullet points) to organize your summary and reflection:

- **Briefly describe** your current pattern of daily prayer (not what you think it should be--we are all on the journey--but what it actually is).
- **Briefly describe** your use of the psalms in your current life of prayer and worship.
- **Summarize** the main points of Warren's book, *Prayer in the Night*; use parenthetical page numbers for citations. **To summarize is to accurately reflect back what the author says in your own words.** Please do not include personal opinions about the text in this part of the summary assignment.
- **Describe** one question that the book provokes in you about your relationship with God, suffering, and your life of prayer. How might you answer this question in your life as a disciple?

- **Describe** two important insights from the book for your relationship with God, suffering, and the life of a disciple and discuss how you will implement these insights into your daily life.
- **Formatting:** See course formatting requirements ([Click this link.](#))

5. Read Barreto and Chan, *Exploring the Bible*.

6. **Writing Assignment #3 (Engaging Scripture)** - [Click on this link for the assignment description.](#) **Due in Moodle dropbox: Saturday, July 31, end of day.**

7. **Read** Stone and Duke, *How to Think Theologically*.

8. **Writing Assignment #4 (Thinking Theologically)** - [Click on this link for the assignment description.](#) **Due in Moodle dropbox: August 6, end of day.**

9. **Writing Assignment #5 (Reading Theologically)** - [Click on the this link for the assignment description.](#) This assignment uses the book *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision*. **Due in Moodle dropbox: August 6, end of day.**

If you have an emergency and need to request an extension, please email Dr. Forshey at sforshey@dbq.edu at least 24 hours before the due date.

Standard Course Formatting for Writing Assignments

Please use this formatting for course writing assignments, unless otherwise noted:

- "Your First and Last name" as the file name (when you upload it to Moodle).
- Your name and assignment title at the top of the document. Cover sheets are **NOT** necessary.
- Double-spaced
- Page numbers
- Indent the first line of paragraphs; no extra space between paragraphs
- Times New Roman, 12-point type
- 1-inch margins all around
- Use parenthetical citations when citing course texts or scripture, e.g. (Warren, 3) or (John 3:16).
- Use footnotes when citing other resources in this format: name of author, book, (publication city: publisher, year), relevant page numbers

Questions? Please contact Dr. Forshey, sforshey@dbq.edu