

PT6395 THEOLOGY AND MISSION OF PRAYER

Syllabus for Summer 2025

Professors: Dr. Karen Ellis, Dr. Carl Ellis, Jr.

Contact Dr Karen Ellis via Canvas.

Schedule: Tuesday July 8-Saturday July 12, 2025.

Course hours: 9am – 3:12pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theology and Mission of Prayer is a course on personal and communal renewal, discipleship and evangelization through the discipline of prayer. It is a study in training yourself and others in gospel-centered, missional prayer. Professors will equip the student with the necessary tools, theology, philosophy and historical understanding to introduce prayer as a foundational ministry tool. The ideal candidate for this course is a pastor, ministry/community leader, or lay person who want to disciple their team/church/communities in prayer in various ministry contexts.

The course will form students to train others to (1) pursue personal and communal renewal (2) build a culture of prayer (3) develop praying leaders who in turn, develop praying communities and (4) pray informed by Scripture and local and global contexts, identifying biblical, historical, and cultural connections among them.

Theology and Mission of Prayer features key readings on prayer, the priorities and practices of the New Testament and first century church, and historical renewal movements. Questions and prayer points promote personal reflection and group interaction, and guide our discipline and practice. Students are challenged to come back to the practical heart of prayer, the gospel, and the role of prayer in mission, renewal, and revival. Each lesson contains practical tools in developing new or deeper prayer habits, personally and corporately.

Topics include:

- biblical prayer patterns
- historical renewal movements drive by prayer
- prayer lists
- prayer maps
- prayer walking
- identifying prayer needs of your city
- prayer progress evaluations
- missional prayer accountability groups
- fasting and prayer

COURSE OUTLINE:

The first portion of the course will focus on the prayer life of a leader, confronting personal and cultural idols, and understanding their interaction between idols and a life of prayer. There will be several ‘plug and play’ exercises, including evaluation and training, for personal and organizational application.

The second portion of the course will concentrate on how to bring prayer into the artery of a church/mission/community culture. When leaders ‘lead from the knees’ the church will follow. Again, there will be several ‘plug and play’ exercises, including evaluation and training, for personal and organizational application.

The final section of the course will build on the first two, as we demonstrate how praying leaders may lead healthy, sustainable and multiplying prayer movements. Again, there will be several ‘plug and play’ exercises, including evaluation and training, for personal and organizational application.

REQUIRED READINGS

MAIN TEXT: Prayer Revolution. Copyright 2020 by John F. Smed Published by Prayer Current Vancouver, BC CANADA (272 pages)

The Struggle of Prayer. Copyright 2018 by Donald G. Bloesch published by Helmers and Howard, Colorado Springs. CO. (196 pages)

Reading Focus: In *The Struggle for Prayer*, Daniel Bloesch makes a strong distinction between three types of prayer: primitive prayer, mystic prayer, and prophetic prayer. As the course progresses, note the differences between them, and be ready to compare these ideas with the kinds of prayer that are promoted and prevalent in the church and among Christians in our context today.

Calvin’s Institutes Book III Chapter 20 “On Prayer – A Perpetual Exercise of Faith” *Any edition.*

Reading Focus: Showing familiarity with Calvin’s entire treatment of prayer in Book III chapter xx of the *Institutes*, consider his essential points particularly in light of your readings from Smed on The Lord’s Prayer. It will be helpful for you to outline Calvin’s essential points, and consider them in your present context, church, city and nation. There will be an in-class exercise on this, so having your Lord’s Prayer/Calvin/Smed outline prepared will come in handy.

Persistent Prayer: Blessings of the Faith, Guy Richard. (108 pages)

Why Do We Pray? Copyright 2012 by Stanley D. Gale (32 pages)

Satan Cast Out, A Study in Biblical Demonology by Frederick S. Leahy published by Banner of Truth Trust 1975; pp 22-63 and 160-173.

Westminster Shorter Catechism Project

The Presbyterian Standards by Francis R. Beattie

CHAPTER XXVIII. THE MEANS OF GRACE; PRAYER.

SHORTER CATECHISM, 98-107;

LARGER CATECHISM, 178-196;

CONFESSION OF FAITH, XXI., 3, 4.

https://www.shortercatechism.com/resources/beattie/wsc_be_098-107.html

REQUIRED CLASSROOM WORKBOOKS:

Leading Dynamic Prayer. Copyright 2015, Justine Hwang and John Smed. Published by Prayer Current Vancouver, BC CANADA

There will also be a 5-Day prayer handout/guide for the course, which you will receive in class.

SUGGESTED READING (not required)

Prayer for the City Bootcamp. 2020 edition, Published by Prayer Current Vancouver, BC CANADA. Helpful to own for further study and discipline, but not required.

ASSIGNMENTS:

ATTENDANCE

Classroom presence and participation are done as unto the Lord, and count as 20% of your grade.

FINAL PROJECT: Design a prayer plan that stimulates a multiplying culture of prayer for your current ministry, institution, organization, home life, church, or Bible study. Prepare a 15-minute presentation of your plan for the class. The Final Project counts as 30% of the student's final grade.

FINAL PROJECT DUE DATE: The student will have time to construct, complete, and present this plan on the final day of class.

FINAL PAPER: One 15-20 page paper is assigned, totaling 50% of the student's final grade.

Paper Topic: In *Prayer Revolution*, John Smed argues that with every advance of Christ's kingdom, whether church revival or urban renewal, in biblical or present times, the movement is ignited and sustained by earnest and united prayer. In the sequence of mission expansion, prayer is invariably the first stage. Demonstrating a familiarity with Smed's overall thesis that church revival and renewal start with prayer, turn the thesis into an exhortation for the church in your city. Showing familiarity with readings from Bloesch, Leahy, Calvin, Richard, and Gale is expected. You should add examples and testimony from your present context and draw conclusions on how a return to Kingdom-oriented renewal and prayer may impact/is impacting your own local context.

FINAL PAPER DUE DATE: TBD in class. Typically, the paper is due two weeks after the course's last in-person meeting.

FORMAT FOR ALL PAPERS

- A successful paper will include the following:

Your *introduction* should state your topic *up front* (ie what you will cover), and why it relevant to this course. (25%)

- The *body* of your paper should interact with *at least three theologians covered in class*. (25%)
- The *body of your paper should* thoughtful reflection on the assigned materials (25%) with proper citation (Turabian/U of Chicago).
- Finally, a clear conclusion (at least one page if not more), that ties together the ideas presented in the body of your paper. Your conclusion should be a thoughtful summation of the ideas you've presented. (25%)
- Papers should be uploaded in Microsoft Word format to Canvas, no later than two weeks after the final class date listed.
- Formatting:
 - Paper length should be at least 15 pages, not to exceed 20 pages. This page count does *not* include your bibliography, which should be included at the end.
 - References should be formatted according to Turabian/U of Chicago. For Bible references, consult 17.8.2 in Turabian for formatting.
 - Your research paper should be double spaced, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font, with standard 1" margins all around. Do not include a cover page.
 - Remember to place your name in the saved file, as well as on the paper itself under your title.
 - Upload your paper to the professor via Canvas.

HONOUR

Students are expected to research and compose their own original writing in course papers and to adhere to biblical standards of honor and integrity. **The use of AI writing programs is a violation of academic standards and Godly character. Detection of their use will result in a failing grade.**

FINAL EXAM

There is no final for this course. Your final paper serves as the final exam for this course, and is worth 50% of our grade.

ATTENDANCE

Classroom attendance (both Sync and Live) is for the glory of God and preparation for the gospel ministry. Students therefore are expected to attend class sessions. Excessive unexcused absences will affect the final grade. Consult the RTS Catalogue for further details.

GRADE SCALE

97-100 A	86-87 B-	75-77 D+
94-96 A-	83-85 C+	72-74 D
91-93 B+	80-82 C	70-71 D-
88-90 B	78-79 C	00-70 F

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MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Rubric

In order to measure the success of the Mdiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

Ø Strong

Ø Moderate

Ø Minimal

Ø None

**As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.*

Articulation Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of

STRONG

Mini-Justification

(oral & written)	essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks. Also includes ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	STRONG
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	MINIMAL
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	STRONG
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	STRONG
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	STRONG
Pastoral Ministry	Ability to minister the Word of God to hearts and lives of both church and unchurched, to include preaching, teaching, leading in worship, leading, and shepherding the local congregation, aiding in spiritual maturity, concern for non-Xns.	STRONG

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

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Campus: Atlanta

Extension Policy

All assignments and exams are to be completed by the deadlines announced in this syllabus or in class.

Extensions for assignments and exams due within the normal duration of the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. Extensions of two weeks or less beyond the date of the last deadline for the course must be approved beforehand by the Professor. A grade penalty may be assessed.

Extensions of greater than two weeks but not more than six weeks beyond the last deadline for the course may be granted in extenuating circumstances (i.e. illness, family emergency). For an extension of more than two weeks, the student must request an Extension Request Form from the Student Services Office. The request must be approved by the Professor and the Academic Dean. A grade penalty may be assessed. (RTS Catalog p. 42 and RTS Atlanta Student Handbook p. 14)

Any incompletes not cleared six weeks after the last published due date for course work will be converted to a failing grade. Professors may have the failing grade changed to a passing grade by request. (RTS Catalog p. 42)