

Course Unit Outline	
Unit Code	S7260
Unit Name	Formation in Prayer and Prayerfulness
Unit Weighting	9
Type of Unit	Intermediate
Prerequisites, corequisites or exclusions	Pre-requisite: S7102 Introduction to Christian Spirituality
Academic Staff	David Ranson Theol.M (MCD, 1998), PhD (ACU, 2009), Senior Lecturer
Curriculum Objectives	This course unit focuses on the understanding and experience of prayer as a core element within the study of Christian Spirituality in a systematic and comprehensive way from a denominational perspective. The student will be introduced to the classic methods of Christian prayer.
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this unit students will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Access and critically evaluate both historical and contemporary expressions of the literature on prayerfulness; 2) Determine key foundations of the Christian practice of prayer from anthropological, a biblical and theological perspectives; 3) Survey and discuss the classic methods of the practice of prayer, and interpret the theological and historical contexts of their emergence; 4) Express the inter-relationship between personal prayer and prayer in common 5) Discern the factors that both encourage and impede growth in prayer; 6) Apply the themes of the course unit to evaluate and extend their own practice of prayer.
Threshold concept to be acquired in this unit	Prayer as a Christian experience requiring its own deconstruction and hermeneutic
Content	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Theological and Scriptural Foundations of Prayer 2) Types and Schools of Prayer 3) Prayer and the Community 4) Praying Personally 5) Meditation 6) Iconography 7) Praying Scripture 8) Prayer and Justice] 9) Discernment in Prayer
Learning Activities	Lectures, Tutorials, Student Presentations
Required Specialist Facilities or Equipment	Nil
Assessment Profile	<p>In this unit, the assessment tasks will involve students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using primary and secondary sources to trace the nature of prayer in the experience of Jesus or the themes outlined in the classic Christian formulation of prayer, "The Lord's Prayer"(e.g. by way of a research essay) (Outcomes 1 and 2); 2. Using primary and secondary sources to outline, analyse and evaluate an historical school, or particular practice of prayer, within the Christian Tradition (e.g. by way of a research essay) (Outcomes 1, 3 and 4); 3. Reflecting in a personal way on the learning gained from undertaking the course unit (e.g. in a Personal Review) (Outcome 5 and 6)

Representative References

- 1) Asti, Francesco, *Teologia della Vita Mistica: Fondamenti, Dinamiche, Mezzi*. Città del Vaticano: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2009.
- 2) Del Nevo, Matthew. *The Valley Way of the Soul: Melancholy, Poetry and Soul Making*. Strathfield, NSW: St. Pauls Publications, 2008.
- 3) Funk, Mary Margaret. *Tools Matter for Practicing the Spiritual Life*. New York/London: Continuum, 2004.
- 4) Funk, Margaret Mary. *Lectio Matters: Before the burning bush: Through the revelatory texts of scripture, nature and experience*. New York: Continuum, 2010.
- 5) Hammerling, Roy (ed). *A History of Prayer: The first to the fifteenth century*. Brill's Companions to the Christian Tradition 13. Leiden: Brill, 2008.
- 6) Heiler, Friedrich. *Prayer: A Study in the History and Psychology of Religion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1932.
- 7) Laird, Martin, *Into the Silent Land: a guide to the Christian practice of contemplation*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
- 8) Matthew the Poor. *Orthodox Prayer Life: The interior way*. New York: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2003.
- 9) Merton, Thomas. *The Inner Experience: Notes on Contemplation*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 2003.
- 10) Perrin, David. *Studying Christian Spirituality*. New York and London: Routledge, 2007.
- 11) Rossini, Claudio e Patrizio Sciadini (eds), in collaborazione con Luigi Borriello, Edmondo Caruana, Maria Rosario Del Genio. *Enciclopedia della preghiera*. Città del Vaticano : Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2007.
- 12) Schmidt, Joseph F. *Praying our Experiences*. 20th Anniversary Edition. Winona, Minnesota: Saint Mary's Press, 2001.
- 13) Sheldrake, Philip, (ed). *The New Westminster Dictionary of Christian spirituality*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.