

## **Certificate in Spirituality Studies**

### *Boston University School of Theology*



The Certificate in Spirituality Studies signifies a student's concentrated development of research and/or practical competencies in spirituality as an area of academic reflection, an avenue of lived religious expression and engagement, and a locus of formation and practice. The goal of the certificate program is to prepare students to meaningfully and effectively engage and strengthen the spiritualities of individuals and communities across a wide range of contexts and to explore the religious, contextual, and personal resources for such work.

In pursuing a Certificate of Spirituality Studies, students are invited into academic engagement with the historical, theological, anthropological, and practical dimensions of spirituality as both an area of academic study and a mode of relating to the sacred within history. The courses familiarize students with a variety of spiritual practices engaged by people across history, culture, and religious traditions and foster sustained reflection on the relationship of spirituality to various theological, ethical, and practical concerns. The program encourages students to explore spirituality across historical-cultural contexts and traditions and enables students to tailor their academic study of spirituality to their specific interests and vocational paths. Students are able to select from a broad range of courses that provide various opportunities for: 1) deep and sustained reflection on the religious resources and historical-contextual expressions of spirituality; 2) understanding of and competence in the facilitation and guidance of spiritual practices; and 3) personal spiritual growth and vocational discernment.

Learning aims for the Certificate in Spirituality Studies:

1. Become **familiar with diverse expressions of spirituality** within and across religious traditions and cultures, both historically and in contemporary settings
2. Develop a **nuanced, historically attentive understanding of specific spiritual movements, spiritual practices, and approaches to spiritual formation**, as well as the theological,

- philosophical, and cultural influences that shape such expressions
3. **Articulate one's own theological and/or philosophical conception of spirituality**, identifying key elements that inform your study, leadership, or personal practice of spirituality
  4. **Critically yet appreciatively examine and analyze possibilities for facilitating and guiding communities in spiritual practices and spiritual growth**, with attentiveness to contextual issues facing specific contemporary communities
  5. **Explore the relevance of specific spiritual practices for one's own spirituality**, with a view towards personal spiritual growth and vocational discernment

**For Masters degree students**, completion of the Certificate in Spirituality Studies requires five courses, following the requirements below.

**Ph.D. student requirements** involve successful completion of:

- at least two approved courses in spirituality studies at STH or in the BTI courses
- two Teaching or Research Fellowship placements in a spirituality-related course or research project
- one approved practicum, non-credit training, or spiritual formation activity tailored to the Ph.D. student's academic and vocational concerns (e.g. spiritual direction training, PhD spiritual companioning group; interfaith spiritual companioning group; 19<sup>th</sup> annotation of the Ignatian *Spiritual Exercises*; etc.)

In addition to these requirements, we will hold regular colloquia each semester to build community, reflect together, and share resources among students pursuing the Certificate in Spirituality Studies and across STH.

The certificate can be earned in conjunction with degree program requirements or as a stand-alone certificate. It is broadly designed for students across traditions and several degree programs. If a student wants to substitute other courses including those from one of the other schools in the Boston Theological Institute, they may consult with Dr. Claire Wolfeich, Professor of Practical Theology and Spirituality Studies, and request approval by petition to the academic dean. Students wanting more information about the Certificate in Spirituality Studies or the value of such certification may contact Dr. Wolfeich at [cwolftei@bu.edu](mailto:cwolftei@bu.edu).

### **Certificate in Spirituality Studies Requirements**

**Masters Students must complete five of the following courses (Ph.D. students complete two in conjunction with other requirements above):**

- TF 700 First Year Formation
- TA811 Book of Common Prayer
- TC815 Travel Seminar: Acadia National Park, Listening to Spirit in Nature
- TC 823 Spiritual Guidance in the Christian Tradition
- TC 825 Prayer and Social Engagement
- TC 829/909 Spiritual Autobiographies
- TC 837/937 Vocation, Work, and Faith
- TC 844/912 Classics in Christian Spirituality
- TC 852 Spirituality and Leadership
- TC 857 Anglican Formation
- TC 878 Sabbath: Theology and Practice

- TC978 Sabbath: Theology and Practice (DMin)
- TC893 Practicum in Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction
- TC 819/919 The Sacraments: Rites and Theologies
- TC 871 Spiritual Foundations for Peace Building
- TF808 R1 Travel Seminar: Camino de Santiago - Pilgrimage in the History of Spirituality
- TH 820 Spirituality in Historical Perspective
- TH860 A1 Female Medieval Mystics
- TH 927 Early Modern Piety
- TH 915: Radical Christian Spiritualities (DMin)
- TO 821 The Book of Psalms
- TS 808 Spirit and Ethic
- TS 857 Ethics, Spirituality & Technology
- TT 818 Development of Christian Thought: The Holy Spirit
- TT811 Mysticism and Philosophy: Jewish and Islamic Perspectives
- TY704 Intro to Spiritual Care
- TY833 Reading Lives: Story, Autobiography, and Identity
- TY 806/906 Theories of Human Development
- TY. Social Sciences Approaches to Religion and Spirituality
- TX 818 Jewish Mysticism
- MR710 Spirituality and Public Life

**In addition to these course offerings at BUSTH, students may include (with approval) one or more BTI courses in spirituality studies to fulfill certificate requirements. Examples of eligible BTI courses include:**

- ☐ Boston College, TMST8043 Historical Spiritual Classics in Theological Perspective
- ☐ Boston College, TMHC7027 History of Western Christianity II, 850-1650
- ☐ Boston College, TMHC7218 Introduction to Ignatian Spirituality
- ☐ Boston College, TMPS8034 Introduction to the Practice of Spiritual Direction
- ☐ Boston College, TMST8041 Theological Anthropology and the Body
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, SF/CH591 Dynamics of Spiritual Life
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, CH/SF 616 Spiritual Autobiographies of Women
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, CH/SF 618 Medieval Spirituality
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, SF/CH/TH 619 Reformation Era Spirituality
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, SF/CH 623 Spiritual Awakenings: Great Revivals from Edwards to Graham
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, CH/SF667 HA C.S. Lewis' Life, Works, and Spirituality
- ☐ Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, SF/TH 962 Reading and Research: The History of Christian Spirituality
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 3019 Buddhist Chaplaincy: Spiritual Foundations in Caregiving Practice
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 3171 Spiritual Cultivation in Islam Part I: The Classical Era
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 3172 Spiritual Cultivation in Islam Part II: The Modern Era
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 2220 Teresa of Avila
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 2083 Neurospirituality
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 2003 Mystical Theology

- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS 2610 Contemplative Prayer in Christianity
- ☐ Harvard Divinity School, HDS Seeking God: A History of Christian Spirituality in Twelve Live
- ☐ Hellenic College Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology, CHST 6252 Lives of the Saints
- ☐ Hellenic College Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology PATR 7312 Orthodox Monasticism
- ☐ Hellenic College Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology PATR 7755 The Philokalia
- ☐ Hellenic College Holy Cross Orthodox School of Theology DOGM 7121 Experiential Theology of the Elders