

SYLLABUS
The Search for Ultimate Meaning

Term:	Fall 2018
Course Number:	THEO 230A
Instructor:	Daniel Lowery, Ph.D., Professor
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Hours Available:	9:30-10:15 Monday through Thursday, 1:30-3:00 Monday through Thursday or by Appointment, or by appointment
Instructor Background:	B.A., Valparaiso University M.S.B.A., Indiana University Northwest Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago M.A.P.S. Catholic Theological Union
Course Times:	Tuesday and Thursday 12:00-1:30
Prerequisites:	EWPC 103 and EWPC 204

**Required Books
and Materials:**

Viktor Frankl. *Man's Search for Meaning*, Boston, MA: Beacon Press, 2006.

Ronald Rolheiser. *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality*, New York, NY: Doubleday, 2014.

Supplemental materials will be provided or recommended over the course of the semester.

Course Description:

Calumet College of St. Joseph's General Education Program culminates in *The Search for Ultimate Meaning*. In this course, students gain a broad overview of the academic study of Christian theology and its articulation within the Catholic tradition. Topics include the human search for meaning, human nature and human destiny, the nature of God, faith and reason, divine revelation, biblical interpretation, the person of Jesus Christ and the Trinity, worship, theology of Church, and sacramental spirituality for a post-modern world.

This capstone experience serves two purposes: first, it provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate proficiency with respect to the six learning objectives associated with the College's General Education Program; and second, it encourages individual development with respect to the "five pillars" that define an undergraduate education at Calumet College of St. Joseph. *The Search for Ultimate Meaning* focuses on the spiritual life and empowers students of diverse religious identities to discover and to live

out their own beliefs more fully.

**Learning Outcomes/
Competencies:**

Upon completion of this course:

Undergraduate Learning Objectives	Bloom's Taxonomy Level	Formative and Summative Assessment Methods
Students will read analytically, synthetically, and critically in a variety of genres.	Analysis and Synthesis	Discussions based on lectures and assigned readings, 2 nd research paper, and 2 nd speech
Students will write in a variety of forms using valid logic, persuasive rhetoric, and correct grammar, usage, and punctuation.	Application, Analysis and Synthesis	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd research papers and journal
Students will be able to deliver an oral presentation with a clear central idea that is logically developed, supported by convincing evidence and valid reasoning, and expressed using language and delivery choices thoughtfully adapted to the audience.	Application, Analysis and Synthesis	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd speeches
Students will represent, apply, analyze, and evaluate relevant qualitative and quantitative mathematical and scientific evidence (i.e. equations, graphs, diagrams, tables, words) to support or refute an argument.	Application, Analysis and Evaluation	1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd research papers and speeches
Students will appreciate, create, and critique the persuasive power of art and media.	Application, Analysis and Evaluation	Discussions based on lectures and assigned readings, 2 nd research paper, 2 nd speech, and journal
Students will be able to apply ethical standards to social issues and analyze their own core beliefs and the origin of these beliefs.	Synthesis and Evaluation	Discussions based on lectures and assigned readings, 3 rd research paper, and 3 rd speech
Students will develop a sense of the meaning, breadth, and depth of the spiritual life.	Comprehension	Discussions based on lectured and assigned readings and journal
Students will develop a sense of their own spirituality and their personal spiritual commitments.	Evaluation	1 st research papers, 1 st speech, and journal

Learning Strategies: The course will be organized around:

- Assigned text readings.
- Lectures and discussions pertaining both to course context and to the research methods and techniques to be employed over the course of the semester.
- Ignatian reflections based on a select set of Gospel readings.
- Three papers pertaining to the application of a qualitative research strategy (i.e., the life story method), first, to the student himself or herself; second, to a biographical account of an historical, cultural, or religious figure; and, third, to the life of a leader in the community.
- Three speeches pertaining to each of the research papers described above.
- A journal that will provide a basis for an ongoing correspondence between the individual student and the instructor.

**Major
Assignments:**

1. Class Participation	10% of grade
2. 1 st Research Paper	10% of grade
3. Speech Pertaining to 1 st Research Paper	10% of grade
4. 2 nd Research Paper	15% of grade
5. Speech Pertaining to 2 nd Research Paper	15% of grade
6. 3 rd Research Paper	15% of grade
7. Speech Pertaining to 3 rd Research Paper	15% of grade
8. Journal	10% of grade

With respect to class participation, students are expected to initiate conversations with questions and comments as well as to respond to questions and other prompts initiated by the instructor. A reading guide will be shared in advance of each class in which one of the assigned texts will be addressed.

The Ignatian reflections embedded in a number of the class sessions will be based on Gospel readings specified by the instructor. A structured format for these conversations will be provided.

Research papers will be typed on a word processor, double-spaced using a 12-point Times New Roman font with 1-inch margins. Length will be specified in advance of each writing assignment. All three research papers will be graded using a rubric employed in the College's General Education Program.

Each of the assigned speeches will be structured as an empirical truth claim. Length will be specified in advance of each speech. All three speeches will be graded using a rubric employed in the College's General Education Program.

Time for journaling will be provided in class. One or more writing prompts will be provided in each instance. The student's journal will be shared with the instructor at the close of each class session. To engender an ongoing dialogue, feedback will then be provided when the journal is returned at the start of the following class.

Except as indicated, the second research paper and speech will be based on one of the following biographical texts.

- *Madam Secretary: A Memoir* by Madeleine Albright
- *Confessions* by Augustine of Hippo
- *Black Elk Speaks* by John G. Neihardt
- *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Erik Metazas
- *A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership* by James Comey
- *The Long Loneliness* by Dorothy Day
- *The Life and Death of Mahatma Gandhi* by Robert Payne
- *Hammarskjöld: A Life* by Roger Lipsey
- *Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit* by Chris Matthews
- *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* edited by Clayborne Carson
- *Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life* by C.S. Lewis

- *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kerns Goodwin
- *Autobiography of Values* by Charles A. Lindbergh
- *Young Man Luther: A Study in Psychoanalysis and History* by Erik H. Erikson
- *Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela*
- *John McCain: American Maverick* by Elaine S. Povich
- *The Seven Mountains of Thomas Merton* by Michael Mott
- *Dreams from My Father* by Barack Obama
- *Mother Teresa: An Authorized Biography* by Kathryn Spink
- *John Wesley: A Biography* by Stephen Tomkins

Students who are absent from class for any reason will provide written responses to the assigned text questions for that class and the several questions posed for the supplemental reading associated with that class. Copies of all of the supplemental readings for the semester can be found on Blackboard.

Grading Scale:	A:	92 – 100	C:	72 – 77
	A-:	90 – 91	C-:	70 – 71
	B+:	88 – 89	D+:	68 – 69
	B:	82 – 87	D:	62 – 67
	B-:	80 – 81	D-:	60 – 61
	C+:	78 – 79	F:	59 and below

A minimum grade of “C” (72-77) must be achieved in order to demonstrate minimal proficiency with respect to the College’s General Education Program’s learning objectives.

Course Schedule:

1. Introduction: Syllabus and Course Requirements
2. Introduction: Alternative Perspectives on Spirituality
 - Discussion (Rolheiser Chapters 1 and 2)
 - Ignatian Reflection (Mark 10:17-31, The Rich Man)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Introduction in *Secular Age* by Charles Taylor, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2017)
3. Introduction: Research Project Designs
 - Lecture: The Life Story Method
 - Key Assignments: 1st Research Paper and Speech: A Hermeneutic of the Self; 2nd Research Paper and Speech: A Hermeneutic of Another as Revealed in a Text; and 3rd Research Paper and Speech: A Hermeneutic of the Another as Revealed in an Interview
 - Ignatian Reflection (John 4:4-29, The Samaritan Woman)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Life Story Exercise
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 1 *The Life Story Interview* by Robert Atkinson, Sage Publications, 1998)
4. An Existential Perspective: An Introduction

- Discussion (Frankl Chapter 1)
 - Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 16:13-20, Peter's Confession About Jesus)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 1 "The Existentialist Style of Philosophizing" in *Existentialism* by John MacQuarrie, Penguin Books, 1972)
5. An Existential Perspective: Work and Creative Acts
- Discussion (Frankl Chapter 1, continued)
 - Career interest/aptitude assessment
 - Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 25:14-30, The Parable of the Talents)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 3 "Being and Doing" and Chapter 4 "Vocation" in *No Man Is an Island* by Thomas Merton, Shambhala Publications, 1983)
6. An Existential Perspective: Relationships
- Discussion (Frankl Chapter 1, continued)
 - Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 5:21-26, Teaching About Anger)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading ("First Part" in *I and Thou* by Martin Buber, Touchstone Book, 1996)
7. An Existential Perspective: Responding to Circumstances Over Which We Have No Control
- Discussion (Frankl Chapter 1, continued)
 - Ignatian Reflection (Mark 2:1-12, The Healing of the Paralytic)
 - Workshop on Upcoming Oral Presentations
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 2 "Being, Nonbeing and Anxiety" in *The Courage to Be* by Paul Tillich, Yale University Press, 1980)
8. An Existential Perspective: Oral Presentations (1st Research Paper Due)
- Presentations
 - Journaling Opportunity
9. An Existential Perspective: Oral Presentations (continued)
- Presentations
 - Discussion Pertaining to "Findings"
 - Journaling Opportunity
10. Christian Spirituality: An Introduction
- Discussion (Rolheiser Chapter 3)
 - Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 26:6-13, The Anointing in Bethany)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Introduction in *Spiritual Formation: Following the Movements of the Heart* by Henri Nouwen, HarperOne, 2010)
11. Christian Spirituality: An Incarnational Perspective
- Discussion (Rolheiser Chapters 4 and 5)

- Workshop on Upcoming Oral Presentation
 - Ignatian Reflection (John 20:24-29, Thomas)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 19 “Jesus’ Sovereign Claim” in *Is Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was* by Gerhard Lohfink, Liturgical Press, 2012)
12. An Existential Perspective: Oral Presentations (2nd Research Paper Due)
- Presentations
 - Journaling Opportunity
13. An Existential Perspective: Oral Presentations (continued)
- Presentations
 - Discussion Pertaining to “Findings”
 - Journaling Opportunity
14. An Existential Perspective: Interviewing with a Purpose
- Lecture: Interviewing as a Qualitative Research Technique
 - Lecture: Interviewing Norms and Ethics
 - Ignatian Reflection (John 3:1-21, Nicodemus)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 6 *Qualitative Interviewing: The Art of Hearing Data* by Herbert J. Rubin and Irene S. Rubin, Sage Publications, 1995)
15. Christian Spirituality: Sin
- Discussion
 - Ignatian Reflection (Luke 4:1-13, The Temptation of Jesus)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 1 “What Is the ‘True Self?’” and Chapter 2 “What Is the ‘False Self?’” in *The Immortal Diamond* by Richard Rohr, Jossey-Bass, 2013)
16. Christian Spirituality: Judgment and the Afterlife
- Discussion
 - Ignatian Reflection (Mark 12:18-27, The Questions About the Resurrection)
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Supplemental Reading (Part 4, Chapter 1 “The Ultimate Encounter with God” in *Is That All There Is? On Resurrection and Eternal Life* by Gerhard Lohfink, Liturgical Press, 2017)
17. Christian Spirituality: Grace and Gifts
- Discussion
 - Journaling Opportunity
 - Strengths Assessment
 - Ignatian Reflection (Luke 6:37-45, Judging and Good Fruit)
 - Supplemental Reading (Chapter 5 “The Invitation of Grace” by John P. Galvin in *A World of Grace* edited by Leo J. O’Donovan, Georgetown Press, 1995)
18. Christian Spirituality: The Virtues
- Discussion

- Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 5:1-12, The Beatitudes)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (Chapter 1 “The Sermon on the Mount” and Chapter 2 “The Beatitudes” in *The Pursuit of Happiness: Living the Beatitudes* by Servais Pinckaers, Wipf & Stock, 1998)

19. Christian Spirituality: Human Suffering t

- Discussion (Rolheiser Chapter 7)
- Ignatian Reflection (John 9:1-41, The Man Born Blind)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (Chapter 4 “Discipleship and the Cross” in *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Simon & Schuster, 1995)

20. Christian Spirituality: the Community (i.e., the Church)

- Discussion (Rolheiser Chapter 6)
- Ignatian Reflection (John 13:1-20, The Washing of the Disciples’ Feet)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (Chapter XII “The Evaluation of Models” in *Models of the Church* by Avery Cardinal Dulles, Image Books, 2002)

21. Christian Spirituality: Liturgy

- Discussion
- Ignatian Reflection (Luke 24:13-35, The Appearance on the Road to Emmaus)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (Chapter 1 “A Palace in Time” in *The Sabbath* by Abraham Joshua Heschel, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2005)

22. Christian Spirituality: Social Justice, Reconciliation and Peacemaking

- Discussion (Rolheiser Chapter 8)
- Ignatian Reflection (John 8:1-11, A Woman Caught in Adultery)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (Chapter 1 “Doing the Right Thing” in *Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?* by Michael J. Sandel, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2009)

23. Christian Spirituality: Human Sexuality

- Discussion (Rolheiser, Chapter 9)
- Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 5:27-32, Teachings About Adultery and Divorce)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (“Man and Woman: A Gift for Each Other” by Pope John Paul II, General Audience, Wednesday, February 6, 1980)

24. Christian Spirituality: Spiritual Practices I

- Discussion: Prayer Fasting and Almsgiving
- Ignatian Reflection (Matthew 6:1-18, Teachings About Almsgiving, Prayer and Fasting)
- Journaling Opportunity
- Supplemental Reading (Chapter 5 “Growing to Maturity in Prayer” in *Prayer: Our Deepest Longing* by Ronald Rolheiser, Franciscan Media, 2013)

25. Christian Spirituality: Spiritual Practices II

- Discussion (Rolheiser, Chapter 10)
- Spirituality Self-assessment
- Workshop on Upcoming Oral Presentation
- Ignatian Reflection (John 20:11-18, The Appearance to Mary Magdala)
- Supplemental Reading (“Prayer” by John H. Wright in *The New Dictionary of Catholic Spirituality*, edited by Michael Downey, 1986)

26. An Existential Perspective: Oral Presentations (3rd Research Paper Due)

- Presentations
- Journaling Opportunity

27. An Existential Perspective: Oral Presentations (continued)

- Presentations
- Discussion Pertaining to “Findings”

28. Course Assessment

- Institutional assessment
- Assessment against course objectives
- Impact assessment: (1) What implications does this course hold for my development or formation as a person? (2) What implications does this course hold for my understanding of my place in the “community”? (3) What implications does this course hold for my life’s work, vocation, or calling?

The instructor reserves the right to modify the above schedule in order to meet the overall requirements of the course.

Class Attendance:

Students cannot succeed in this course if they do not attend class. Intellectual growth and success in higher education take place through interaction in the classroom. Only two absences of any kind – excused or unexcused – will be permitted over the course of the semester with no adverse impact on the student’s overall grade.

When a student misses a class because of a college-sponsored event (i.e., an excused absence), the student must give advance notice of his or her absence.

Students are responsible for all work missed due to an excused or unexcused absence.

- If a lecture is missed, the student will be required to view the lecture on a video that will be provided for this purpose and to submit notes for the session annotated on a notebook page designated for this purpose;
- If a discussion or project-based class is missed, the student will be required to submit answers to all of the questions associated with any reading addressed in the class and, if pertinent, to complete a theological reflection worksheet for any assigned video.

These makeup opportunities must take place within two class sessions of

the missed class. PLEASE NOTE: the class missed will still count as an absence. A participation grade of zero will be assigned in these instances. There is less benefit in submitting make-up work completed on one's own than there is in participating fully in a class.

Timeliness of Work: Students are expected to be fully prepared for each class session. They are also expected to submit all assigned work on time.

As noted above, makeup work described must be completed within two class sessions of the missed class in order to receive credit. If late, however, this makeup work must still be completed. If it is not completed, a grade of "incomplete" will be assigned for the course.

Using Electronic Devices: Electronic devices can only be used in class for course-related purposes. If a student texts or accesses the internet for any other purpose, he or she may be asked to leave the class. In this instance, the student will be recorded as having been absent.

Participating in Class: Students are expected to be on time and to stay through the entire class.

As noted above, students are expected to initiate questions and comments during and immediately following lectures as well as to respond to questions and other prompts provided by the instructor. Students are also expected to participate fully in class discussions organized around specific incidents and stories as well.

Cheating and Plagiarism: A determination that a student has submitted work that is not his or her own will be subject to judicial review, the procedures for which can be found in the College Catalog and in the Student Planner. The maximum penalty for any form of academic dishonesty is dismissal from the College.

Using the MLA format to document sources helps avoid incidences of plagiarism. The Library makes MLA checklists available to students and it is provided in the Student Handbook and Planner as well.

PLEASE NOTE: Papers may be electronically checked for plagiarism.

Withdrawing from Class: After the last day established for class changes has passed, a student can only withdraw from this course by following the policy outlined in the CCSJ Course Catalog. See College calendar.

CCSJ Book Rental Program: The CCSJ Book Program ensures that everyone has the right course materials on the first day of class to be successful. You pay a book rental fee each semester, and in return, receive all the materials for all your classes prior to the beginning of classes. At the end of the semester, simply return the books. For traditional students, the Book Rental Program is conveniently located in the library, where students can pick up and return their books. For students in accelerated programs and graduate programs, books will be delivered to their homes and they can return them by mail. For more information, see <http://www.ccsj.edu/bookstore>. All books must be returned at the end of the semester or you will incur additional fees, which will be charged to your student account.

Student Success The Student Success Center provides faculty tutors at all levels to help

- Center:** students both to master specific subjects and to develop effective learning skills. It is open to all students at no charge. Contact the Student Success Center at (219) 473-4287 or stop by the Library.
- Disability Services:** Disability Services strives to meet the needs of all students by providing academic support in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. If a student believes that he or she might need a “reasonable accommodation” because of a disability, the College’s Disability Services Coordinator can be reached at (219) 473-4349.
- Student Assistance Program:** Through a partnership with Crown Counseling, Calumet College of St. Joseph provides a free Student Assistance Program (SAP) to current students. The SAP is a confidential counseling service provided to students for personal and school concerns which may be interfering with academic performance and/or quality of life. The SAP counselor is available on campus once a week and off-site at the Crown Counseling offices in Crown Point or Hammond. For more information, contact Kerry Knowles SAP Counselor, at 219-663-6353 (office), 219-413-3702 (cell), or kerryk@crowncounseling.org.
- CCSJ Alerts:** Calumet College of St. Joseph’s emergency communications system alerts student about emergencies, weather-related closings, and other incidents via text, email, and/or voice messages. Student should sign up for this service annually. See the College’s website at: <http://www.ccsj.edu/alerts/index.html>.
- In addition, students can check other media for important information, such as school closings:
- Internet: <http://www.ccsj.edu>
 - Radio: WAKE – 1500 AM, WGN – 720 AM, WIJE – 105.5 FM, WLS – 890 AM, WZVN – 107.1 FM, WBBM NEWS RADIO 78
 - TV Channels: 2, 5, 7, 9, 32