A Life and Ministry of Prayer (PT704)
Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando

Dr. Don Sweeting
Phone: 407-366-9493
Office Hours: By Appointment

Teaching Assistant: Alex Kirk
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Course Description
One of the glaring weaknesses of the Western church is its powerlessness and prayerlessness. At the same time, survey after survey shows that people are interested in prayer but lack practical instruction. This one-hour class will focus on the basics of developing a life and ministry of prayer. It will not only focus on the importance of prayer, but on prayer related topics, readings, and disciplines. And yes, we will spend time praying in class. It is hoped that you will also establish disciplines of prayer. There will be no tests in this class. The class grade will be based on attendance, class participation, doing the required readings and developing a prayer ministry notebook.

Course Instructor
Don Sweeting was named president of Reformed Theological Seminary’s Orlando campus in 2010. He is also the James Woodrow Hassell Professor of Church History. Prior to that he served as a pastor of a large, established EPC church for 22 years in Denver and planted a non-denominational church in Northern Illinois. Don is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Prior to coming to Orlando, Don taught church history at the Denver Seminary as an adjunct professor. He also served on the boards of John Stott Ministries, the Langham Partnership International, and led the scholarship committee of its Langham Foundation, awarding Ph.D. scholarships for students from the majority world. Don currently serves as on the board of the National Association of Evangelicals, and is a trustee for Colorado Christian University and chairman of its Academic Affairs Committee. Don received his education at Lawrence University (B.A.), Regent College, Oxford University (M.A.), and Trinity International University (Ph.D.). He has authored numerous published articles and co-authored several books—most recently: How to Finish the Christian Life: Following Jesus in the Second Half (2012). Throughout his ministry, he has had a growing conviction of the importance of prayer in ministry and in the life of the local church.

Topics Covered
What prayer is all about and why it matters
Patterns of praying
The Disciple’s Prayer
The Theology of Prayer
The Ministry of Prayer
Prayer ministries on Sunday—in and surrounding corporate worship
Basic disciplines of prayer
Building a prayer team
Organizing a prayer ministry in your church
Teaching, preaching and prayer
Basic disciplines of prayer
Spiritual warfare and prayer
A pastor’s prayer life
Mobilizing intercessors for your ministry
Prayer and fasting
Revival and prayer
Prayer leader training
Praying Scripture
The Lord’s Prayer as a model for prayer
Prayer busters
Teaching children to pray and helping parents teach children to pray
Praying for those in trouble
Common questions on prayer
Prayer for the nations
Jesus’ prayer for the church in John 17
Discussions on the readings

Course Assignments and Grading
The grade in the class will be based on class attendance, prayer exercises, reading, and compiling a prayer ministry plan or a manual on teaching new Christians to pray. There will be no exams.

A. Each student is required to attend all classes

B. Each student is required to complete all readings

C. Students will be involved in 10 prayer exercises

   1. Each student will have a prayer partner or be part of a prayer triplet for the duration of the class and will pray together weekly.
   2. Each student will be involved in a prayer fast some time during the semester
   3. Each student will start their own prayer journal
   4. Each student will learn to pray the Scriptures
   5. Each student will spend an hour in special prayer
   6. Each student will start a personal prayer journal/notebook
   7. Each student will visit and attend a local church prayer meeting or event
   8. If married, each student will move toward praying daily with their spouse and/or children
   9. Each student will participate in a prayer walk
   10. Each student will spend a half-day in special prayer

D. Students will put together a prayer ministry plan OR develop a manual for teaching new Christians or children how to pray. (The ministry plan or manual will be prepared with coaching from the professor and will be turned in for a grade. These will be 7-10 pages, in notebook format, and may be outlined.)
Required Readings
A Praying Life: Connecting With God in a Distracting World, Paul Miller, 288pp
Power Through Prayer, E. M. Bounds, 112pp
Taking Hold of God: Reformed and Puritan Perspectives on Prayer, Joel Beeke, 267pp
Practicing the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence, 112pp
The Prayer-Saturated Church, Cheryl Sacks, 248pp

Recommended Readings
Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire, Jim Cymbala 185pp
A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities From Paul and His Prayers, D.A. Carson
The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions
The Book of Common Prayer
A Way to Pray, Matthew Henry
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** A Life and Ministry of Prayer  
**Professor:** Dr. Don Sweeting  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Fall 2012

### Rubric

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<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>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.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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service.

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<th>and prayer, an entire class will also center on prayer in the corporate worship experience.</th>
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<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
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