I. Course
   A. Catalog Description
      Cr. 3 (3-0). Prerequisite: 31 hours in social work or consent of instructor. 
      Examines the significance of spirituality over the life course with attention to the
      theoretical connections among spirituality, religion, and vital aging as well as
      clinical implications for practice with clients.

   B. Purpose
      This elective course is designed to familiarize students with western and eastern
      spiritual exercises, life review, and autobiographies as ways to expose older
      people to possibilities for inner reflections and social connections that traditional
      religious institutions do not always afford.

II. Course Objectives

   Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

   1. Distinguish between spirituality and religion within and across cultural
      boundaries

   2. Trace the importance of spirituality over the life span

   3. Demonstrate spiritually sensitive approaches in a manner consistent
      with the NASW Code of Ethics

   4. Use spiritual exercises as a way to integrate personal and professional
      dimensions of self.

   5. Express ways in which spirituality may be influenced by one’s gender,
      class, race, ethnicity, age, and sexual/affectional preference.

   6. Describe ways to introduce spirituality into social work practice.

III. Course Content

   SOCW 7354 will focus on several pathways to spiritual development and identify
various ways in which social workers might incorporate spirituality into their practice. The course will entail discussing assigned readings, preparing a class meditation, keeping a journal, and writing a paper applying ideas you have learned.

IV. Textbooks

Hesse, H.  *SIDDHARTHA*


V. Course Requirements

This section should identify the course assignments, including written assignments, projects, and exams, as well as due dates. It is suggested that any stipulations regarding late submissions be included here.

A. Students will keep up with readings in order to join class discussions.

B. Written assignments will be negotiated with the instructor. The term paper (8-10 pages) will describe a technique (1) for inviting clients to tap their spiritual dimensions in a social-work setting OR (2) taking care of yourself in your social-work practice as a clinician and empathetic person. Group projects are permissible as long as they serve everyone’s professional development.

C. Students will work together in creating a 20-30 minute meditation for the beginning of a class meeting to be determined. They should give the class some take-away materials that help them use the technique discussed.

D. Each student will keep a journal, logging their spiritual journey during the term. Beginning the week of February 1, I ask students to include in their journal entry reflections on Rohr’s *COMPANION JOURNAL*, interpreted as you deem appropriate. This course requirement will not be graded for entries but its content will be shown to the instructor in class.

E. There will be no mid-term or final examination.

VI. Evaluation and Grading

A. General:
In accordance with GCSW policies, two absences (granted before class) are permitted. Excessive absences, excused or not, will adversely affect
grades. Given the nature of the course material, all of us should exercise care to respect individual diversity of traditions and beliefs. We shall focus on issues of spirituality, not religion. Questioning ideas is fine; derogating people is not. We want to establish a level of trust so that we all feel comfortable bridging professional and personal spheres. This is a spiritual task.

B. Evaluation
Class participation (including meditation exercise and practical application), 50%; paper 1 counts 10%; 2d paper, 30%; journal, 10%.

C. Grades
Incompletes, in accordance with UH policy, will be given only in instances that, for reasons beyond a student’s control, a temporary and conditional grade is warranted. Students are responsible for informing me immediately the reasons for being unable to complete an assignment. Unfinished assignments must be completed early within the next term. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete unfinished assignments. A grade of “I” cannot be changed to a grade of “W,” but within a year of its granting will automatically revert to an “F” or “U.”

The following standard grading scale has been adopted for all courses taught in the college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100% of the points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>92-95.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-91.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-87.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>76-79.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72-75.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>68-71.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>64-67.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Writing well is essential to communicating ideas. Be logical and felicitous. Proofread—or have someone you trust do this for you. UH has a good Writing Center to assist you.

D. Plagiarism
To avoid any confusion concerning plagiarism, please consult and use the APA style manual as well as the University Policy on Student Dishonesty in the UH Student Handbook. The contents of ALL papers must adhere to APA format with due credit given to any authors whose ideas (on line or in print) you incorporate in your work. Direct quotations—using at least four words from specific author(s)—must be set in quotation marks or set aside as an indented quotation. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense: Anyone incorporating another person’s ideas or words without appropriate citation will receive an F in this course. Other actions may be taken by the College, initiated by me, to suspect or expel a student who is found to be dishonest.

E. Accommodation
Whenever possible, and in accordance with 504/ADA guidelines, the
University of Houston will attempt to provide reasonable academic accommodations to students who request and require them. Students must contact the UH Center for DisABILITIES. For information call 713/743/5400 or to on line, http: www.uh.edu/csd/

F. Office Hours:
I will be in room 333 on Tuesday mornings. For an appointment at another time, call me at 713-516-8580 or email me at Achenbaum@uh.edu.

VII. Policy on grades of I (Incomplete):

The grade of "I" (Incomplete) is a conditional and temporary grade given when students are either (a) passing a course or (b) still have a reasonable chance of passing in the judgment of the instructor but, for non-academic reasons beyond their control have not completed a relatively small part of all requirements. Students are responsible for informing the instructor immediately of the reasons for not submitting an assignment on time or not taking an examination. Students must contact the instructor of the course in which they receive an “I" grade to make arrangements to complete the course requirements. Students should be instructed not to re-register for the same course in a following semester in order to complete the incomplete requirements.

The grade of "I" must be changed by fulfillment of course requirements within one year of the date awarded or it will be changed automatically to an "F" (or to a "U" [Unsatisfactory] in S/U graded courses). The instructor may require a time period of less than one year to fulfill course requirements, and the grade may be changed by the instructor at any time to reflect work completed in the course. The grade of "I" may not be changed to a grade of W.

VIII. Policy on academic dishonesty and plagiarism

Students are expected to demonstrate and maintain a professional standard of writing in all courses, do one’s own work, give credit for the ideas of others, and provide proper citation of source materials. Any student who plagiarizes any part of a paper or assignment or engages in any form of academic dishonesty will receive an “I” for the class with a recommendation that a grade of F be assigned, subsequent to a College hearing, in accordance with the University policy on academic dishonesty. Other actions may also be recommended and/or taken by the College to suspend or expel a student who engages in academic dishonesty.

All presentations, papers and written assignments must be fully and properly referenced using APA style format (or as approved by the instructor), with credit given to the authors whose ideas you have used. If you are using direct quotes from a specific author (or authors), you must set the quote in quotation marks or use an indented quotation form. For all direct quotes, you must include the page number(s) in your text or references. Any time that you use more than four or five consecutive words taken from another author, you must clearly indicate that this is a direct quotation. Please consult the current APA manual for further information.
Academic dishonesty includes using any other person’s work and representing it as your own. This includes (but is not limited to) using graded papers from students who have previously taken this course as the basis for your work. It also includes, but is not limited to submitting the same paper to more than one class. It also includes securing another person to complete any required activities, assignments, quizzes, papers, or exams in an online course, or in any on-line environment. If you have any specific questions about plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please raise these questions in class or make an appointment to see the instructor. This statement is consistent with the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty that can be found in your UH Student Handbook.

IX. Americans with Disabilities Statement

The University of Houston System complies with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, pertaining to the provision of reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids for students with a disability. In accordance with Section 504 and ADA guidelines, each University within the System strives to provide reasonable academic adjustments/auxiliary aids to students who request and require them. If you believe that you have a disability requiring an academic adjustments/auxiliary aid, please contact the UH Center for Disabilities at 713-743-5400.

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR CLASS MEETINGS


Rohr, ch. 1 at home. Incorporate into journal your reflections on this exercise--a practice to be continued weekly

February 8: Hesse; Weber & Orsborn [henceforth W/O], ch. 3

February 15: W/O, ch. 4-5; Rohr, ch. 3

February 22: W/O, ch. 6-7; Rohr, ch. 4

February 29: W/O, ch 8 and Afterword; Rohr, ch. 5

March 7: Book of Job; Rohr, ch. 6.  
Rumi, “Only Breath”

March 14: Spring Break

March 21: Olsen, “Tell me a riddle;” Rohr, ch. 7  
Rumi, “Gamble everything for love”

March 28: AprThibault & Morgan, Introduction and ch. 1; Rohr, ch. 8
April 4: Thibault & Morgan [henceforth T/M], ch. 2-3; Rohr, ch. 9
Rumi, A children’s game”:

April 11: T/M, ch. 4-5; Rohr, ch. 10

April 18 T/M, ch. 6-7; Rohr, ch.11. *Journals due to be shown in class.*

April 25: Tolstoy, DEATH OF IVAN ILYCH; Rohr, ch. 12

May 2: Open discussion; Rohr, ch. 13

May 6: Hard copy of your paper due in my office by noon