

SPIRITUALITY CLASS SYLLABUS
Cranmer Theological House – April 2026
Rev. Dr. Charles Erlandson

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will begin with definitions of spirituality before presenting a comprehensive scheme of Anglican Spirituality. Various aspects of Christian spirituality will be discussed, as well as the history of Christian spirituality. The course will conclude with a discussion of spirituality in the contemporary world.

II. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

Required

1. *English Spirituality* - Martin Thornton
2. *Christian Spirituality* - Alister McGrath
3. *The Study of Spirituality* - Jones, Wainwright, and Yarnold (selected articles listed below)

List of Articles from *The Study of Spirituality*

Liturgy and Personal Devotion	Calvin
The Theology of Christian Spirituality	The Caroline Divines and the Cambridge
Sociology and the Study of Spirituality	Platonists
Media of Spirituality	The Puritans
The Old Testament	Continental Pietism
The Apostolic Fathers and Irenaeus	The Nonjurors and William Law
Augustine	John Wesley and the Methodist Movement
Benedict	The Evangelical Revival in the Church of
Celtic Spirituality	England
The Anglo-Saxon Tradition	The Catholic Revival in the Church of England
Gregory the Great	Orthodoxy
Anselm of Canterbury	Types of Spirituality
The English Mystics	
Luther	

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Course Assignments and Weight of Assignments

20% - Reading paper based on Thornton's *English Spirituality*

After reading Thornton's *English Spirituality*, write a 5-page paper discussing what you think are the most salient features of English spirituality that Thornton discusses. His goal is to re-orient pastoral ministry. Which aspects of his book seem most helpful for pastoral ministry today? Why?

20% - Reading paper based on *A Study of Spirituality*

After reading *A Study of Spirituality*, write a 5-page paper discussing which aspects of Christian spirituality you believe are most important and explaining why. Make sure your paper reflects your reading of this text.

60% - Final Paper

In 15 pages, discuss what aspects of a healthy Anglican spirituality seem present in North America today. What aspects seem lacking? Martin Thornton's goal was to reorient pastoral ministry. In what ways do you think Anglican spirituality today needs to be reoriented? Finally, Thornton believes that tradition + experimentation is a winning formula. In what ways should Anglican spirituality experiment today to be more effective?

Late Assignments and Absences

All assignments must be turned in on time. In the case of extraordinary circumstances, any deduction in grade is at the discretion of the professor, after the student has first consulted with the professor.

Absences are especially disruptive in an intensive schedule such as that at Cranmer House. They will seriously impact the ability of the student to contribute to and learn from the class and should be avoided. In the case of emergencies, these should be discussed as soon as possible with the professor.

Paper Requirements

All papers must be written according to the Cranmer House Writing Guidelines.

Papers Due Date: June 1, 2026

IV.COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Dates	Lecture Topic
5/24	Definitions of Spirituality; Anglican Spirituality model; Anglican Rule of Life and its parts
5/25	Anglican Spirituality model; Aspects of Spirituality; History of Spirituality
5/26	Finish History of Spirituality; The Contemporary Situation