

ST. MARY'S ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
Summer 2018

Saturdays 8:30 am – 4:30 pm; June 2, 9, 16, 23

SP643 Leading Retreats: Planning, Executing, and Evaluating

Instructor: Dr. Pat Fosarelli

Course Description:

This academic course will give students the necessary tools to design, execute, and evaluate a retreat. What a retreat is (and is not) will be described as well as the various types of spiritual retreats available. By the end of the course, students should be able to design a retreat (based on its purpose, most likely attendees, and time allotment), execute the retreat in a given time frame, and evaluate the effectiveness of the retreat's overall design and techniques used, based both on a self-evaluation and the feedback from attendees. These goals will be accomplished by lectures, group work, and role-play.

Course Requirements:

- **Reading:** Students should expect to read at most 800 pages of required reading and should come prepared to discuss readings in class.
- **Writing:** 5 page reflection paper due final day of class in June (25%); final 15-20 page paper, with associated materials for a 1 day and weekend retreat on the same topic, due two weeks after class ends (50%)
- **Other:** Active participation in class discussion/role play (10%); Response to Vignettes (15%)

Required Texts:

- Ferguson Nancy & Kevin Witt: *The Retreat Leader's Manual* (Discipleship Resources, 2006); ISBN 978-0881774283
- Vennard Jane: *Be Still – Designing and Leading Contemplative Retreats* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2000); 978-1566992299
- Verploegen Nicki: *Planning and Implementing Retreats* (Wipf & Stock, 2010); ISBN 978-1608999040
- Whitcomb Holly: *Practicing Your Path* (Innisfree Press, 2002); ISBN 978-0806690186
- Other texts may be suggested, depending on the type of retreat students are leading