



Course Syllabus
WYP1111HF – Life Together
Wycliffe College
Toronto School of Theology
Fall 2025

Instructor Information

Instructors: Chris Dow, MDiv, Chaplain
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Course Identification

Course Number: WYP1111HF 2025
Course Format: In-person
Course Name: Life Together
Course Location: **TBD**, Wycliffe College
Class Times: Tuesdays 2:00pm – 4:00pm
Prerequisites: N/A

Course Description

This is a pass/fail, first term, required course for M.Div. students, and open to all basic degree students. The course presents an overview of living the Christian faith in community. Class time will involve building community, praying and reflecting on the Psalms, and discussing assigned texts. Students enrolled in the class are also expected to be involved in the college's chapel services as their schedule allows (Mon-Fri, 8:30am and 5:00pm). The course prepares students for continued growth and formation in Christ as they begin to be trained and formed as Christian leaders and pastors.

Course Resources

Required Course Books

Since this is a seminar class involving close reading of the assigned texts, it is important that all students read from the same edition of each book. Please purchase only the specified editions listed below:

- *The Rule of St. Benedict in English*, ed. Timothy Fry (Collegeville MN: The Liturgical Press, 1982). ISBN-13: 978-0814612729. Available from [Amazon](#) for only \$5.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together and Prayerbook of the Bible*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works Vol. 5 (Minneapolis MN: Augsburg Fortress, 1996). ISBN-13: 978-0800683252. Available from the Campus Bookstore or [Amazon](#).

Benedict and Bonhoeffer form the foundation of the course. We will also read one of the following books to be determined by the first day of class:

- Narine Abgaryan, *To Go On Living: Stories* (Walden, NY: Plough Publishing House, 2025).
- Charles Alexander Eastman, *From the Deep Woods to Civilization* (Mineola NY: Dover Publications, 2003).
- Mitiarjuk Nappaaluk, *Sanaaq: an Inuit Novel* (Winnipeg: University of Manitoba Press, 2014).
- Watchman Nee, *Assembling Together* (New York: Christian Fellowship Publishers, 1973).
- Zitkala-Šá, *American Indian Stories* (New York: Modern Library, 2019).

Additional articles will be posted on Quercus.

Course Website(s)

- Quercus: <https://q.utoronto.ca/>

This course uses Quercus for its course website. To access it, go to the UofT Quercus login page at <https://q.utoronto.ca/> and login using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to Quercus using your UTORid and password, look for the **My Courses** module, where you'll find the link to the website for all your Quercus-based courses. (Your course registration with ACORN gives you access to the course website in Quercus.) Information for students about using Quercus can be found at: <https://community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701> . Students who have trouble accessing Quercus should contact the registrar's office for further help. Please do not email the instructors via Quercus.

Course Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Course Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students will:	This outcome will be demonstrated through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe's statements of outcomes (MTS, MDiv)

Describe, compare and contrast models of Christian community (Bonhoeffer and Benedict) introduced in the class in terms of context, place of Scripture, & understanding of the goal of life together in Christ.	Responses to reading questions and in-class discussions.	MTS: 3.3 MDiv: 1.4, 3.2
Articulate for oneself and others a theological understanding of life together in Christ and practices central to it.	Responses to readings questions and class discussion.	MTS: 1.3, 3.3 MDiv: 1.3, 3.2
Articulate their own spiritual journey for the other class members.	Readings, fellowship	MTS: 1.2 MDiv: 1.2, 3.1
Begin to develop the habit of daily common prayer, Psalm singing, and begin to develop community/friendships with each other.	Regular participation in Chapel and Psalm singing in class Small group conversation & fellowship.	MTS: 3.2 MDiv: 3.1

Evaluation

Requirements

This is a pass/fail course, evaluated on the following:

- Attending and actively participating in class discussions.
- Participating in chapel.
- Submission of short, weekly assignments, and a final assignment.
- Participation in the shared practices of the class community.

The emphasis of this course is community, the primary requirement of which is presence. Therefore, students who miss more than two of the twelve classes or who habitually arrive more than 10 minutes late will fail the course.

Toward the goal of community formation through shared prayer, students who live in residence at Wycliffe are expected to attend Chapel twice a day, and commuting students are encouraged to attend Chapel at least once a day when they are on campus. Students who are considering or pursuing ordained ministry in the Anglican church should be in chapel for both morning and evening services whenever possible.

All students, whenever they are not in chapel, are asked to pray the appointed daily Psalms according to Wycliffe's Table of Psalms (to be distributed) as part of their own private devotions (this is the same schedule of Psalms that will be sung in chapel). All students are also invited to join our chapel services via livestream whenever they are away from the building.

Policy on Assignment Extensions

Late work (BD). Basic Degree students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. Under exceptional circumstances a student may request a short extension to be negotiated with the instructor. Instructors are not obliged to accept assignments that are late. If the instructor chooses to accept an assignment, where an extension has not been requested and approved before the due date, then **one percentage point per day will be deducted**. The absolute deadline for the submission of assignments is the examination day scheduled for the course or the last day of exam week for the semester in which the course is taught, whichever is sooner.

Students with documented medical or compassionate difficulties or exceptional reasons (e.g., a death in the family or a serious illness) who are unable to submit their work by the end of the term are requested to consult with their instructor and request an SDF. The form is available on our website at this link <https://www.wycliffecollege.ca/sites/default/files/Basic%20Degree%20Request%20For%20Extension.pdf> or can be collected from the registrar's office. An SDF request must be submitted, with instructor approval and with an agreed deadline, to the registrar's office no later than the last day of the exam week or the last day of class in which the course is taken. The SDF, when approved, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond one year. If a student has not completed work and has not been granted an SDF, a final mark will be calculated that reckons a grade of zero for that component of work that was not submitted.

Course grades. Consistently with the policy of the University of Toronto, course grades submitted by an instructor are reviewed by a committee of the instructor's college before being posted to ACORN. Grades are not official until they are posted to ACORN. Course grades may be adjusted where they do not comply with University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy found at <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/grading-practices-policy-university-assessment-and-january-26-2012>, policies found in the TST conjoint degree program handbooks, or college grading policy.

Policies

Accessibility. Students with a disability or health consideration, whether temporary or permanent, are entitled to accommodation. Students in conjoint degree programs must register at the University of

Toronto's Accessibility Services offices; information is available at <http://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as>
The sooner a student seeks accommodation, the quicker we can assist.

Plagiarism. Students submitting written material in courses are expected to provide full documentation for sources of both words and ideas in footnotes or endnotes. Direct quotations should be placed within quotation marks. (If small changes are made in the quotation, they should be indicated by appropriate punctuation such as brackets and ellipses, but the quotation still counts as a direct quotation.) Failure to document borrowed material constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious breach of academic, professional, and Christian ethics. An instructor who discovers evidence of student plagiarism is not permitted to deal with the situation individually but is required to report it to his or her head of college or delegate according to the TST *Basic Degree Handbook* and the Graduate program Handbooks linked from <http://www.tst.edu/academic/resources-forms/handbooks> and the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>. A student who plagiarizes in this course will be assumed to have read the document "Avoidance of plagiarism in theological writing" published by the Graham Library of Trinity and Wycliffe Colleges:
<https://www.trinity.utoronto.ca/library/research/theology/avoiding-plagiarism-in-theological-writing/>

Use of AI. Students are not to submit work generated by AI chatbots such as ChatGPT. If students are found to have done so, they will receive a mark of 'zero' for the assignment concerned.

Recording Policy. Students may not create audio or video recordings of classes with the exception of those students requiring an accommodation for a disability (as identified by the Accessibility Services). These students should speak to the instructor in advance of the class.

If a course is to be recorded (either by a student or the instructor), the following guidelines apply:

- Students must be given notice that lectures or a lecture will be recorded, preferably well before the recorded class. Consent forms are available from the Registrar's office.
- Students must be given the option to opt out of recorded classes without penalty. Students who wish to remain anonymous in a recorded lecture will not be penalized for this choice – if, for example, participation is a required component of the course, students will be given another option to earn participation credit that will not be recorded.

Students creating unauthorized audio and/or video recording of lectures violate an instructor's intellectual property rights and the Canadian Copyright Act. Students violating this agreement will be subject to disciplinary actions under the Code of Student Conduct.

Other academic offences. TST students come under the jurisdiction of the University of Toronto *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* <https://governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/secretariat/policies/code-behaviour-academic-matters-july-1-2019>.

Back-up copies. Please make back-up copies of assignments before handing them in.

Obligation to check email. At times, the course instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all students in conjoint programs are required to have a valid utoronto email address. Students must have set up their utoronto email address which is entered in the ACORN system. Information is available at www.utorid.utoronto.ca. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can answer questions you

may have about your UTORid and password. Students should check utoronto email regularly for messages about the course. **Forwarding** your utoronto.ca email to a Gmail, Yahoo or other type of email account is not advisable. In some cases, messages from utoronto.ca addresses sent to Hotmail, Gmail or Yahoo accounts are filtered as junk mail, which means that emails from your course instructor may end up in your spam or junk mail folder. Students in non-conjoint programs should contact the Registrar of their college of registration.

Email communication with the course instructor. The instructor aims to respond to email communications from students in a timely manner. *All email communications from students in conjoint programs must be sent from a utoronto email address.* Email communications from other email addresses are not secure, and also the instructor cannot readily identify them as being legitimate emails from students. The instructor is not obliged to respond to email from non-utoronto addresses for students in conjoint programs. Students in non-conjoint programs should only use the email address they have provided to their college of registration.

Course Schedule

Week 1

- TBD

Week 2

- TBD

Week 3

- TBD

Week 4

- TBD

Week 5

- TBD

Week 6

- TBD

Week 7

- TBD

READING WEEK. No Class.

Week 8

- TBD

Week 9 (12 Nov)

- TBD

Week 10 (19 Nov)

- TBD

Week 11 (26 Nov)

- TBD

Week 12 (3 Dec)

- TBD

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