

# SPIRITUALITY IN LITERATURE

Knudsen  
Fall, 2009



## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

In this course, students will be introduced to great writers of both classical and contemporary literature who have concerned themselves with the search for God, for wholeness and for community. By reading and discussing selected novels, students will discover the power of literature to enlighten, to comfort, to challenge, to empower and to deepen one's spirituality.

## COURSE BENCHMARKS AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

During this class, students will:

- Recognize the meaning and significance of the Paschal Mystery in human experience
- Realize how spirituality is evident in diverse times and circumstances
- Develop an understanding of how spirituality grows and develops during the course of one's life journey
- Apply insights from literature to their personal struggles with the ultimate questions and dilemmas of life.

## TEXTS

Dillard, Annie. AN AMERICAN CHILDHOOD  
Kingsolver, Barbara. SMALL WONDER  
Lindbergh, Anne Morrow. GIFT FROM THE SEA  
De Saint-Exupery, Antoine. WIND, SAND AND STARS (excerpts)  
Albom, Mitch. TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE

## COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1	Introduction to Spirituality -Asking the Ultimate Questions -The Paschal Mystery and Human Experience -Searching for the Hidden God
Weeks 2-4	Spirituality of the Child / Adolescent AN AMERICAN CHILDHOOD -A Young Woman's Gradual Awakening to Consciousness of Herself and the World
Weeks 5-7	Spirituality in Times of Darkness and Doubt SMALL WONDER -A Contemporary Wife and Mother's Search for Meaning After 9-11

Weeks 8-10	A Woman's Spirituality GIFT FROM THE SEA -A Wife and Mother Longs for Balance and Harmony in Her Busy Life
Weeks 11-13	A Man's Spirituality WIND, SAND AND STARS (excerpts) -An Idealistic Young Aviator's Reflections on Life's Meaning and Purpose
Weeks 14-17	Spirituality of Illness and Death TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE -A Young Man Rediscovered the Meaning of Life and Love through Talks with His Dying Mentor

### GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

Reflection papers, projects and tests are worth 500 points of the semester grade. Papers must be neatly typed in a simple font, no less than 12 point. Failure to follow these directions will result in points lost.

Frequent quizzes and journal assignments will be given as reading checks, and are worth 300 points of the semester grade.

Oral participation in class is essential and students are expected to contribute to discussion on a regular basis to earn 100 points.

The final exam, worth 200 points, will focus on the last book, but students are also expected to demonstrate an understanding of major course themes.

### GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to be on time and to have all essential books and materials for the day. After one warning, a student will lose five points each time she forgets to bring what she needs.

Should a test be missed due to absence, it must be made up at the earliest possible SST or Activity Period.

Excessive absences may result in a student's grade being lowered by 10%. Ordinarily anyone who accumulates excessive absences during a semester will not receive academic credit. After her third tardy, a student's final grade will be reduced by 5%. For each additional tardy, the grade will continue to be lowered.

Assignments not turned in on the date due will be lowered one full grade.

Academic integrity and adherence to the Honor Code is expected, and the policy outlined in the *Student / Parent Handbook* will be strictly followed.

**Ms. Knudsen's office hours are at lunch and after school, by appointment.**

