



## Monasticism: Old and New

### Tall Timber Ranch

### January Term 2020

Name of Course: Monasticism: Old and New (TH 363)

Name and Department of professor: Gerald Sittser/Whitworth Theology Department

Number of Credits and Credit Type: 3 credits/Theology

Requirements met by this course: elective credit in Theology; Ministry Training Fellows Program

Prerequisites: none

Pre-trip meetings: two

Post-trip meetings: one

**Purpose:** This unusual course at Tall Timber provides an experience for students who want to explore the history and practice of monastic spirituality. Students spend three weeks following a modified Benedictine Rule, which strikes a balance between work (kitchen duty, special projects at the camp), prayer (corporate worship four times a day, personal devotions), and study. Students live in community, read great texts from the monastic tradition (e.g., *Sayings* of the Desert Fathers and Mothers), study Scripture, meet daily in small groups, and follow various practices that apply what they are learning to life at Tall Timber and to life once they return to campus.

**The Setting:** Tall Timber Ranch is located in the heart of the Glacier Peak wilderness area in the Cascade Mountain Range. It is nestled in a narrow valley at the confluence of two pristine rivers, the White and Napeequa, and surrounded by tall mountain peaks that rise a mile above the camp. It is not unusual during January to have a snow pack of ten feet. Students live in small cabins and meet for class in a rustic lodge.

**The Rhythm:** The class follows a strict rhythm of worship, personal devotions, study of great texts, small group discussion, class discussion and lecture, service, and play.

**The Discipline:** Students do more than study; they also practice what they learn, which includes developing a Rule of Life, following a process of self-examination, analyzing the way they view and use time, establishing a healthy rhythm for life, memorizing Scripture, fasting, going on a prayer walk, and the like.

**Community:** The class meets as a large group every day. Students spend most of their time together, meeting together in small groups, preparing meals, eating, and cleaning up together, skiing together, playing together. It is a rich experience of community.

**Resolutions:** The goal of the class is not to have an isolated experience far removed from everyday life but to change the way we view and live everyday life. The class ends, therefore, with students setting goals for their future.

**Dates:** January 3 (Wednesday) to January 24 (Wednesday), 2018

**Cost:** \$1165

**Early Bird Special:** The EBS is an incentive program that gives students a \$100 credit if they: make ALL payments in time according to the payment plan; turn in all required paperwork in accordance with Off-Campus Programs deadlines; and meet the Health Center's deadlines for fulfilling the Travel Clinic.

**Payment Plan:** \$300 non-refundable deposit due upon acceptance into the program

\$565 due September 15

\$300 due October 15

Payment or program questions? Contact Ann Penfield [apenfield@whitworth.edu](mailto:apenfield@whitworth.edu) 777-4581

**Grants/Scholarships:** Students will be eligible to apply for a \$300 need-based travel grant. Information about the application for this award will be communicated by Off-Campus Programs upon acceptance to the program.

