

## Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

**Module Title:** Human Spirituality

**Instructor:**

**Residency:** April 2019

**Date:**

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### **Module Description:**

This module provides a developmental approach to human spirituality for students to appreciate how individuals acquire, explore, confront, and question spirituality in their lives from birth through death. Students are provided with a theoretical orientation to spirituality from key researchers and writers in the field. The module will end with a discussion of death as a connection to the afternoon session on thanatophobia and existential theory.

### **Module Objectives:**

1. Students will appreciate the writings of William James on human spirituality and how they align with modern theories of spiritual development.
2. Students will learn key approaches addressing spirituality across the lifespan.

### **Required Readings (1-3):**

1. James, W. (1929). The reality of the unseen (pp. 53-77). In W. James, *The Varieties of Religious Experience: A Study in Human Nature*. New York: The Modern Library.
2. King, P.E., & Boyatzkis, C.J. (2015). Chapter 23: Religious and spiritual development. In R.M. Lerner (Ed.), *Handbook of Child Development and Developmental Science* (7th ed.). Somerset, NJ: Wiley and Sons. **(I am aware that this chapter is quite long; please do your best!)**
3. Zimmer, Z., Jagger, C., Chiu, C., Ofstedal, M.B., Rojo, F., & Saito, Y. (2016). Spirituality, religiosity, aging and health in global perspective: A review. *SSM-Population Health*, 2, 373-381.

### **Recommended Readings:**

1. Wink, P., & Dillon, M. (2002). Spiritual development across the adult life course: Findings from a longitudinal study. *Journal of Adult Development*, 9(1), 79-94.
2. Gotterer, R. (2001). The spiritual development in clinical social work practice: A client perspective. *Families in Society*, 82(2), 187-193.