



DISC 5170 Spiritual Formation I

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Fall 2015 Online

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2015-2016 is *Mission Focus*. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

- *Doctrinal Integrity*: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the “Articles of Religious Belief” and the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”
- *Spiritual Vitality*: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.
- *Mission Focus*: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.
- *Characteristic Excellence*: What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- *Servant Leadership*: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course Description

This course is a pass-fail experience in a faculty led learning context. Students in the course will meet weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation by participating and leading weekly meetings. Students will comprehend a variety of Christian devotional

practices by completing specific assignments on basic spiritual disciplines. This course is designed to be taken during a student's first semester. [**See note below.]

**Students registered for DISC5170 will automatically be registered for DISC5171 with the same professor, at the same time, the following semester if DISC 5171 is required for the student's degree plan.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion and in order to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for discipleship, the student, by the end of the course should:

1. Comprehend the Following Concepts:
 - The marks of a disciple as something beyond the point of salvation.
 - Effective methods of becoming a disciple and of making disciples.
 - The relationship between spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines.
 - Christian devotional practices or disciplines.

2. Have a positive response to the following concepts:
 - A life-long intentional devotional discipline for lifelong spiritual growth and benefit to the kingdom of God
 - A meaningful and maturing relationship with God.
 - Christian community in a small group setting.
 - A personal commitment to basic devotional practices.

3. Be able to, with the help of resources, accomplish the following tasks:
 - Develop a plan for personal discipleship and assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan.
 - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.

4. Have an appropriate perception as to how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbook

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

*NOTE: The expanded edition is required for this course because of the included study guide for meeting with the assigned mentor on a weekly basis.

Course Requirements

1. Complete all units and participate in all online discussions. Discussions will be based on the weekly reading outlined in the individual units. Discussion board posts will be graded on your thoughtfulness in engaging the textbooks and related topics. Your

- responses to your classmates' posts will be graded on your interaction with their statements or questions. Although length is not the primary emphasis of the posts or responses, you should write a sufficient amount to demonstrate adequate thoughtfulness.
2. In Unit 1, each student is to post a personal introduction via the Blog connected to Unit 1. Each student is also to comment on three classmates' introductory blog.
 3. Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also facilitating one class discussion of an assigned chapter. Each student will be assigned a unit in which he or she will lead and facilitate the discussion via the discussion board for that specific unit.
 4. Keep an electronic journal of your spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal. The journal is to include your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The student is to journal via the Blackboard Journal four times weekly with a paragraph (3-5 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor or other students but only briefly checked for completion. The completed journal is due the final unit of class, Unit 14.
 5. Memorize and recite assigned Bible verses according to the specifications in the units. The student is to video himself or herself reciting from memory the assigned Bible verse. The student is then to upload and post the video to the appropriate Blog for that specific verse and unit. The Blogs are categorized according to verse. The verses and units in which they are due are outlined below.
 6. The student must select an accountability partner, who is the same gender and who can challenge the student spiritually. The student will meet with the accountability partner for a minimum of thirty minutes per week beginning in Unit 3. The student will submit a signed statement in Unit 3 identifying the accountability partner.
 7. Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The assignment is due in Unit 13.

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

Discussion Board Participation	20 %
Discussion Board Unit Leadership	15%
Journal	20%
Scripture Memorization Blogs	15%
Accountability Statement	15 %
Reflection Paper	15 %

Course Schedule

Unit 1 – Reading, Syllabus Review
Personal Profile Post

Unit 2 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 3 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
Accountability Partner Statement Due

Unit 4 – Reading, Discussion Board,
Scripture Memorization

Unit 5 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization

Unit 6 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization

Unit 7 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization

Unit 8 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization

Unit 9 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization

Unit 10 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization

Unit 11 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 12 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 13 – Reading, Discussion Board
Reflection Paper Due

Unit 14 – Reading, Discussion Board
Journal Due

Memory Verses

Gal. 2:20	Unit 3
Phil. 3:10	Unit 4
Rom. 12:1-2	Unit 5
Jos. 1:8	Unit 6
Phil. 4:6-7	Unit 7
Heb. 10:24-25	Unit 8
Mt. 28:18-20	Unit 9
Col. 3:17	Unit 10

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