



NEW ORLEANS
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Spiritual Formation I DISC 5170
Church & Community Ministries Division

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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 Addressed

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 worshipping 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 how to lead small discipleship groups.

Methodology

Class Discussions, Groups, Journals

Textbooks

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, 3rd ed. San Francisco: Harper, 1998.

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

Course Requirements

1. Keep a journal of his or her spiritual journey throughout the course. (The journal will not be submitted to the professor, but the student will be asked periodically about his/her progress keeping the journal.)
2. Read the Foster and Ortberg books and lead assigned chapter(s).
3. Share his/her personal testimony with the group during the assigned class period.
4. Participate in class group discussions weekly.
5. Write a reflection paper (3-4 pages typed) assessing his/her personal spiritual development during the semester. Students will meet with the professor to discuss their reflection papers during the last week of class. The paper is due on December 3, 2 p.m.

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass-fail basis. In order to pass the course, students will need to successfully complete each of the following assignments:

- Journal 25%
- Class discussion leader and presentation of personal testimony 25%
- Class participation 25%
- Reflection Paper/Meeting with Professor 25%

Course Schedule

Date	Discussion	Group Leader
August 27	Introduction	Rivers
September 3	Testimonies Personal Assessment	Rivers
September 10	Testimonies Personal Assessment	Rivers
September 17	Foster 1; Ortberg 1-3, 13* Spiritual Disciplines	Rivers
September 24	Foster 2, 5; Ortberg 11 Meditation & Study	
October 1	Foster 3; Ortberg 6 Prayer	
October 8	Foster 4 Fasting	
October 15	Foster 6; Ortberg 12 Simplicity	
October 22	Fall Break	

October 29	Foster 7; Ortberg 5 Solitude	
November 5	Foster 8; Ortberg 10 Submission	
November 12	Foster 9; Ortberg 7 Service	
November 19	Foster 10; Ortberg 8 Confession	
November 26	Happy Thanksgiving	
December 3	Foster 11 Worship	
December 10	Foster 13; Ortberg 4 Celebration Meeting with Professor (Final)	

*Chapter Numbers

Note from the Professor

I will be available to meet with students individually throughout the semester. Students can schedule an appointment by e-mail: lrivers@nobts.edu or by phone, 504-282-4455, ext. 3211.

Course Policies

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with others students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Plagiarism

Students are reminded to demonstrate high standards of conduct in writing assignments and to not violate the Seminary's policy on plagiarism in the current Graduate Catalog and the Student Handbook.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog 2015-2016*.

Emergency Plan

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. Also, students should use Blackboard to follow any announcements that may be posted. Students should ensure their current email address is updated on Blackboard.

Technical Assistance

Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Selected Bibliography

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