



Spiritual Formation I DISC 5170
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church and Community Ministry Division
Fall 2016

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Mission Statement

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

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. 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. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. 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. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by

classroom department.

The core value focus for this academic year is Characteristic Excellence.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

- 1. Biblical Exposition:** To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
- 2. Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
- 3. Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
- 4. Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
- 6. Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
- 7. Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

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 in 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 Fall semester. [**See note below.] Course is available in a mentoring format.

**Students registered for DISC 5170 will automatically be registered for DISC 5171 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.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

1. This course will be taught using class discussions, group discussions, and journaling.

Textbooks

The following texts are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts:

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

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

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 November 29.

Evaluation of Grade

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. The student's grade will be computed as follows:

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

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Policies Regarding All Assignments

All work is due on the assigned day and at the assigned time. Grades for late submissions will be reduced by 10 points.

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.

Academic Attendance Policies

Absences: As listed in the catalog, for a 3-hour course – 9 hours absent.

Absences: For the four-time per semester hybrid courses, students can only miss one of the four monthly class sessions.

Classroom Decorum

Each student is expected to treat the professor and other students with respect; arrive on time for class sessions; and use laptops and other technological devices for class purposes only.

Blackboard

Blackboard will be used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information on Blackboard is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, please contact the Information Technology Center.

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 other 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.

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.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Date	Discussion	Group Leader
August 23	Introduction/Goal Setting	Bozeman
August 30	Testimonies Personal Assessment	Bozeman
September 6	Testimonies Personal Assessment	Bozeman
September 13	Foster 1; Ortberg 1-3, 13* Spiritual Disciplines	Bozeman
September 20	Foster 2, 5; Ortberg 11 Meditation & Study	
September 27	Foster 3; Ortberg 6 Prayer	
October 4	Foster 4 Fasting	
October 11	Foster 6; Ortberg 12 Simplicity	
October 18	Fall Break	Fall Break
October 25	Foster 7; Ortberg 5 Solitude	
November 1	Foster 8; Ortberg 10 Submission	
November 8	Foster 9; Ortberg 7 Service	
November 15	Foster 10; Ortberg 8 Confession	
November 22	Happy Thanksgiving	Happy Thanksgiving
November 29	Foster 11 Worship	
December 6	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: jbozeman@nobts.edu or by phone, 504-282-4455, ext. 3207.

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