



DISC5170, Spiritual Formation 1

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Seminary 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.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Spiritual and Character Formation and Interpersonal Skills.

Course Description

This course is the first of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet an hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation in the company of others. It will include specific assignments from a variety of Christian devotional practices. This course is designed to be taken during a student's first fall semester. Students registered for DISC5170 will *automatically be registered* for DISC5171 with the same professors, at the same time, the following semester.

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

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will use reading, discussion and practical exercises and assignments to enhance the development of Christ's character in the student's life.

Textbooks

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church* (2010)

Thomas, Gary. *Devotions for a Sacred Marriage*

Course Requirements

1. Participate in all class discussions and meetings.
2. Read the Scazzero and Thomas books and participate in class discussions of assigned chapters.
3. Each week the student will receive a set of questions related to the chapter we will be reading and discussing in the Scazzero book. Each student will maintain a journal of their thoughts and response to the questions for the week. The journal (for NOBTS students) will be on blackboard. TM-DISC5170ES-KS: Spiritual Formation I (For Couples). Members of the group who are not formal NOBTS students can maintain their journal in either a paper or electronic format.
3. Each couple will have two devotional times together weekly (minimum of 15 minutes).
Agree together what two days and what time you will do your devotion regularly. During this time please:
 - a. Read the devotion in the Sacred Marriage book for the week (out loud)
 - b. One of you state a truth or insight you get from the devotion.
 - c. Include a time of prayer in your devotion time together and the partner that did not state the truth will pray for the other partner or for their relationship about that truth.
 - d. The second meeting of the week, read the same devotion again, but this time the second partner will share a truth or insight. Follow the same prayer instructions.

Course Evaluation

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

Class participation	75%
Journal:	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.

[Other paragraphs might be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

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		Scazzero:	Thomas
Aug 25			
Sept 1		Introduction	Chapter 1
Sept 8		Chapter 1	Chapter 2
Sept 15		Chapter 2	Chapter 3
Sept 22		Chapter 3	Chapter 4
Sept 29		Chapter 4	Chapter 5
Oct 13		Chapter 5	Chapter 6
Oct 13	Fall Break		Chapter 7
Oct 20		Chapter 6	Chapter 8
Oct 27		Chapter 7	Chapter 9
Nov 3		Chapter 8	Chapter 10
Nov 10		Chapter 9	Chapter 11
Nov 17	Thanksgiving Break		Chapter 12
Nov 24		Chapter 10	Chapter 13
Dec 1		Chapter 11	Chapter 14
Dec 8		Chapter 12	Chapter 15

Selected Bibliography

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