

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Music Ministries

INTRODUCTION TO SPIRITUAL FORMATION - DISC 5170-05

Fall 2017

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*Most of the time,
what is needed is not expert advice,
it's a friend's wisdom.*
Eugene Peterson

Thursday 2:00-2:50
Sellers Conference Room, 2nd Floor

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

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet one hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, prayer, 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.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this learning and growing experience, participants, deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ, should:

1. Acquire an introductory understanding of ideas for post-conversion disciple-making, as commanded in the Great Commission;
2. Grow in his or her biblical understanding of spiritual formation;
3. Be challenged to develop a strong personal commitment to a way of living that is spiritually forming;
4. Take a personal inventory of his/her spiritual life at this point in the growth process;
5. Learn to dialogue with and appreciate people from different backgrounds, with different callings, and at different stages along the spiritual quest;
6. Develop skills in leading discipleship groups, considering such groups as an integral part of the discipleship strategy of a local church ministry.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Methodology will include reading/reflection/prayer on a text in the field through participation in class/group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment and enlistment of, as well as time spent with an accountability partner; reflection and journaling of the journey; and the use of an integration paper to capture the various exercises, ideas, etc., reflecting on God's involvement in it all.

TEXTBOOKS

The Life You Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People (expanded ed. if possible). Ortberg, John. Philadelphia: Running Press Book Publishers, 2004.

ISBN-10: 0762418737 **ISBN-13:** 9780762418732

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule (attached) to read the textbook and engage in a time of significant prayer immediately after the reading. Learners will participate in a group discussion of salient features of the content, insights gained through prayer, and life encounters as a result of each week's reading.
2. Each learner will lead the group discussions at least once during the semester.
3. The learner will contract to engage in one of the following options on Friday, August 25, 2017 (Week 1) of the semester. **DUE DATE: Friday, Dec. 8, 2017.**

A. The student will complete a **reading contract** of 50 additional pages, focusing on any *one particular spiritual discipline* that she/he has a special interest in. Those pages can come from texts, chapters of texts, journal articles, on-line articles, and even from page estimates related to audio or visual resources. Submit a bibliography of sources with total page numbers read from each source. The student should begin assimilating this discipline in his/her life as soon as possible. Findings on, and honest life experiences with the selected spiritual discipline should be incorporated into the final project. See Dr. Ferrington for appropriate/approved disciplines.

B. The student will **journal** her/his spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, etc. throughout the semester. The journal will be the learner's sole property and will *not* be turned in to the professor. The learner will be asked to bring the journal to The Gathering for a three second perusal by the professor just to verify that the assignment was completely in a responsible manner. Appropriate information or portions of the journal should be utilized in the final class project.

C. The learner will discern and enlist an **accountability partner** who meets the requirements of "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The partner should be many steps ahead of the learner along the spiritual quest and should *not* be a spouse or fellow student. The learner will meet with the accountability partner for at least 30 minutes a week beginning in late August and continuing throughout the semester. The partner should be identified and enlisted *no later than* Aug. 31, 2017 and be available to the student through the week of Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017. The learner will provide a written statement identifying and qualifying the accountability partner for the professor on Aug. 31 2017, the second meeting of class.

4. The learner will participate in group life, not only through the group discussions, but also by giving attention to prayer needs emerging and shared throughout the semester. Group members should grow in confidence to share requests, report answers/updates, and be available to the Holy Spirit to speak words of encouragement, instruction, challenge or loving rebuke into the lives of others.

5. As the culminating experience for this semester, the learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double-spaced, 1st-person integration paper. The paper should allow the student opportunity to integrate life experiences during this season, text ideas, research, journal notes, insights from accountability partner and other class students, prayer journey, and the personal interaction that occurs along the way. This is the final project.

DUE DATE: Friday, Dec. 8, 2017

COURSE EVALUATION

Since this experience is a pass/fail course, attendance, meaningful participation, completion of the contract, and attendance are essential. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

The Life You Always Wanted = LAW

Readings are due on the date listed.

READING SCHEDULE

<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>
DF _____ 1	Aug. 24	Sparkplugs - Connecting
_____ 2	31	LAW 1
_____ 3	Sept. 7	LAW 2
_____ 4	13	LAW 3
_____ 5	21	LAW 4
_____ 6	28*	LAW 5
_____ 7	Oct. 5	LAW 6
_____ 8	12	LAW 7
_____ 9	Fall Break Oct. 16-20	LAW 8
_____ 10	26	LAW 9
_____ 11	Nov. 2	LAW 10
_____ 12	9	LAW 11
_____ 13	16	LAW 12
_____ 14	Thanksgiving Nov. 20-24	LAW 13
_____ 15	Dec. 7	(all assignments due)

Bibliography

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2003.

Buchanan, Mark. *The Holy Wild: Trusting in the Character of God*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.

Foster, Richard J. *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1998.

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2000.

Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2010.