



DISC5170-03 INTRODUCTION to SPIRITUAL FORMATION

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Pastoral Ministries

Fall 2017 * Wednesday * 9:00-9:50 AM

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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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The Core Value Focus for this academic year is Servant Leadership. Servant Leadership is described as “We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us” (2017-18 Online Graduate Catalog, p. 5).

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competency addressed in this course primarily is Spiritual and Character Formation. However, all curriculum competencies are addressed to some degree in this course.

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 semester. This course is available in a mentoring format.

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.

Textbooks

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

The Holy Bible, version of student's choice

Daily Devotional Book, student's choice

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading/reflection on texts in the field through participation in class/group discussions; individual study and practice of spiritual disciplines; and reflection and journaling of individual student spiritual journey.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance (10%)

Due: Weekly

Attend class and participate in all class discussions. In evaluating class involvement, consideration will be given to (1) attendance, (2) class participation, (3) reading accountability, and (4) punctuality.

Leadership (15%)

Due: Weekly

Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also leading at least one class discussion of an assigned chapter.

Journaling & Devotional Readings (30%) Due: Daily, Weekly, December 6

Keep a journal of your spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal including prayer and devotional readings. The journal is to be your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. Also, the professor will provide guiding questions and thought-provoking topics for reflection. The student is to journal 4 times weekly with a paragraph (3-5 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor but only briefly checked for completion.

Scripture Memory & Bible Reading (15%) Due: Daily, Days assigned

Memorize and recite on specified dates (weeks) assigned Bible verses. Follow Daily Bible Reading Plan as outlined by the professor.

Reflection Paper (30%) Due: December 6

Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The reflection paper is a first-person synopsis of a personal spiritual formation and discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines. The student should write about their perception of meeting in small groups for Christian community and the role of spiritual disciplines/devotional practices such as journaling, Scripture memorization, and prayer. The assignment is due at the end of the semester.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows (pass/fail):

Journal/Devotionals	30 %
Discussion Session Leadership	15 %
Class Attendance/Participation	10 %
Scripture Memory/Reading	15 %
Reflection Paper	<u>30 %</u>
	100%

Course Schedule

August 23	Getting Acquainted/Class Introduction/Syllabus
August 30	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 1
September 6	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 2
September 13	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 3
September 20	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 4
September 27	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 5
October 4	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 6
October 11	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 7
October 18	Fall Break

October 25	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 8
November 1	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 9
November 8	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 10
November 15	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 11
November 22	Thanksgiving Break
November 29	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 12
December 6	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 13 Journal and Reflection Paper Due.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absences of more than three hours will result in the student automatically failing the course. A student's tardiness three times will be counted as one absence. This policy also applies to leaving early. Please inform the instructor if you will be leaving the class before the end of the period.

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.

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.

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