



DISC 5170 Spiritual Formation I
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall 2018
Monday 10:00-10:50

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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 and Curriculum Competencies

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *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 & Message 2000*.”

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 Spiritual and Character Formation.

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.

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.

Required Textbook

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

Course Assignments/Requirements

1. Weekly, the learner will read John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, and participate in group discussions related to the weekly readings. The learner will lead at least one group discussion during the semester. The learner also will share his/her personal testimony with the group and lead in prayer during the assigned class period.
2. The learner will enlist an accountability partner, who is the same gender and who can be described as "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The learner will meet with the accountability partner for at least 30 minutes a week beginning early in September and continuing throughout the semester. The partner should be identified and enlisted *before* class the third week of the semester and be available to the student through the end of the semester. The learner will provide a written statement identifying the accountability partner for the professor upon enlistment.
3. The learner will contribute to discussions and share leadership of the discipleship group. NOTE: Because this is a Pass/Fail course, attendance and participation will be extremely important.

Course Evaluation

This experience is a pass/fail course. Grades will be determined by attendance, participation in the session, completion of agreed upon assignments, and self assessment of your own personal, spiritual journey. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

Absences

In accordance with seminary policy, a student will automatically fail the course if he or she incurs more than **three absences**. The student handbook should be consulted regarding further information about seminary policies for absences.

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.

A TYPICAL SESSION

Sessions will always include prayer times and discussion of reading assignments. Additional elements may include things like accountability questions.

CLASS SCHEDULE

		<u>Discussion Leader</u>
August 20	Course Overview	Dr. Butler
August 27	Ortberg, chs. 1-3	Dr. Butler
September 3	Labor Day	
September 10	Ortberg, ch. 4 (Celebration)	
September 17	Ortberg, ch. 5 (Slowing)	
September 24	Ortberg, ch. 6 (Prayer)	
October 1	Ortberg, ch. 7 (Servanthood)	
October 8	Ortberg, ch. 8 (Confession)	
October 15	Fall Break	
October 22	Ortberg, ch. 9 (Guidance)	
October 29	Ortberg, ch. 10 (Secrecy)	
November 5	Ortberg, ch. 11 (Reflection)	
November 12	No Class Meeting	
November 19	Thanksgiving Break	
November 26	Ortberg, ch. 12 (Rule of Life)	
December 7	Ortberg, ch. 13 (Suffering)	

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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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