



## **DISC5170-02 INTRODUCTION to SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Pastoral Ministries  
**Fall 2018 \* Wednesday \* 9:00-9:50 AM**

### **Dr. Preston L. Nix**

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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 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” (2018-19 Online Graduate Catalog, p. 5).

### **Curriculum Competencies**

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 and one class devotional.

**Journaling & Devotional Readings (30%)****Due: Daily, Weekly, December 5**

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.

**Embedded Assignment****Reflection Paper (30%)****Due: December 5**

Write a three-page double-spaced 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 his/her 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 student should include in the paper how he/she intends to develop an ongoing personal discipleship plan as well as how he/she would lead others in a discipleship small group. The assignment is due at the end of the semester.

***This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for assessing this assignment is attached to this syllabus. Please complete the assignment according to the syllabus and this rubric.***

**Evaluation of Grade**

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

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Journal/Devotional Readings    | 30 %        |
| Discussion Session Leadership  | 15 %        |
| Class Attendance/Participation | 10 %        |
| Scripture Memory/Bible Reading | 15 %        |
| Reflection Paper               | <u>30 %</u> |
|                                | 100%        |

**Course Schedule**

August 22      Getting Acquainted/Class Introduction/Syllabus

August 29      Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 1

September 5      Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 2

|              |                                                                                          |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 12 | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 3                                             |
| September 19 | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 4                                             |
| September 26 | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 5                                             |
| October 3    | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 6                                             |
| October 10   | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 7                                             |
| October 17   | Fall <b>Break</b>                                                                        |
| October 24   | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 8                                             |
| October 31   | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 9                                             |
| November 7   | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 10                                            |
| November 14  | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 11                                            |
| November 21  | <b>Thanksgiving Break</b>                                                                |
| November 28  | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 12                                            |
| December 5   | Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 13<br><b>Journal and Reflection Paper Due</b> |

### **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](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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.

### **Selected Bibliography**

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**RUBRIC FOR GRADING A SUMMATIVE PROJECT – REFLECTION PAPER  
IN THE COURSE DISC5170 INTRODUCTION to SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

**Assignment Description:**

Write a three-page double-spaced 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 his/her perception of meeting in small groups for Christian community and the role of spiritual disciplines/devotional practices such as journaling, Scripture memorization, and prayer.

| Element            | SLOs                                                                                                                   | Inadequate<br>(1 PT)                                                                                    | BASIC<br>(2 PTS)                                                                                    | COMPETENT<br>(3 PTS)                                                                                                                                     | GOOD<br>(4 PTS)                                                                                                                                | EXCELLENT<br>(5 PTS)                                                                                                                                | POINTS                 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| UNDER-<br>STANDING | Understand the basic marks of personal spiritual disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.                       | Shows an inadequate understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.           | Shows a minimal understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.           | Shows an adequate understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists and explains one or two spiritual disciplines. | Shows a good understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists and explains three spiritual disciplines. | Shows an exemplary understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists and explains four spiritual disciplines. |                        |
| APPLI-<br>CATION   | Develop a positive response to lifelong spiritual growth through the practice of spiritual disciplines.                | Makes poor application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines            | Makes minimal application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines     | Makes one practical applications to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.                                                  | Makes two applications to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.                                                  | Makes three practical application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.                                            |                        |
| COMMUNI-<br>CATION | Express in writing a personal discipleship plan and lead others in spiritual disciplines within a small group setting. | Used none or an incoherent expression that fails to communicate a plan to help others grow spiritually. | Use of an inconsistent expression that fails to communicate a plan to help others grow spiritually. | Limited expressions that communicate a competent plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.                                          | Used more than one expression that communicate a good plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.                           | Used two or more expressions that communicate an exemplary plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.                           | <u>Aver.<br/>Score</u> |