



DISC5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church and Community Ministries
Fall 2018, Wednesday, 1 p.m.

Dr. Loretta G. Rivers
Professor of Social Work
LMCCC 104-B
504-282-4455, ext. 3211
lrivers@nobts.edu

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 worshipping 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 *Doctrinal Integrity*.

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.

This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

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.

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.

Textbooks

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1998.

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

Embedded Assignment -

REFLECTION PAPER

Assignment Description

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.

Rubric for Grading Reflection Paper

Element	SLOs	Inadequate (1 PT)	BASIC (2PTS)	COMPETENT (3 PTS)	GOOD (4 PTS)	EXCELLENT (5 PTS)	POINTS
UNDER-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-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-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. Score</u>

Course Requirements

Class Attendance (15%)

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 (30%)

Due: Weekly

Keep a journal of your spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal. The journal is to be your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The student is to journal at least 2 times weekly with 2-3 paragraphs (10-15 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor but only briefly checked for completion. Bring your journal to class weekly.

Scripture Memory (10%)**Due: See Individual Due Dates on the Course Schedule**

Memorize and recite assigned Bible verses on specified dates.

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

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 personal 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

To receive a passing grade, students must score 70% or higher. The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Journal	30%
Leadership	15%
Class Attendance/Participation	15%
Scripture Memory	10%
Reflection Paper	30%

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.

Emergency Plan

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary website 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.

Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due at the beginning of class on the assigned day. Late assignments will be reduced by 10 points. Assignments that are more than one week late will not be accepted.

Academic Honest Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

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.

Note from the Professor

I will be available to meet with students individually throughout the semester. Students can schedule an appointment by e-mail: livers@nobts.edu or by phone, 504-282-4455, ext. 3211.

Course Schedule

Date	Assignment	Group Leader	Memory Verse
August 22	Introduction/Spiritual Assessment	Rivers	
August 29	Testimonies	Group Members	
September 5	Testimonies	Group Members	Gal. 2:20
September 12	Foster, 1; Ortberg, 1-3, 13 Spiritual Disciplines		
September 19	Foster, 2, 5; Ortberg 11 Meditation & Study		Phil. 3:10
September 26	Foster, 3; Ortberg, 6 Prayer		Rom. 12:1-2
October 3	Foster, 4 Fasting		
October 10	Foster, 6; Ortberg, 12 Simplicity		Jos. 1:8
October 17	Fall Break – No Class		
October 24	Foster, 7; Ortberg, 5 Solitude		Phil. 4:6-7
October 31	Foster, 8; Ortberg, 10 Submission		
November 7	Foster, 9; Ortberg, 7 Service		Heb. 10:24-25
November 14	Foster, 10; Ortberg, 8 Confession		Mt. 28:18-20
November 21	Happy Thanksgiving! No Class		
November 28	Foster, 11 Worship		Col. 3:17
December 5	Foster, 13; Ortberg, 4 Celebration		

Selected Bibliography

Arn, Win and Charles Arn. *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998.

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001.

Blackaby, Henry T. and Claude V. King. *Experiencing God: How to Live the Full Adventure of Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. Nashville, TN: B & H, 1994.

_____. *Hearing God's Voice*. Nashville, TN: B & H, 2002.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Translated by R. H. Fuller. New York: Macmillan, 1963.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1978.

_____. *The Practice of Godliness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1983.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1993.

_____. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1987.

Cymbala, Jim. *Break Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

DeMoss, Nancy Leigh. *Brokenness: The Heart God Revives*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.

_____. *Surrender: The Heart God Controls*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.

Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

- Elliff, Tom. *A Passion for Prayer: Experiencing Deeper Intimacy with God*. Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications, 2010.
- Floyd, Ronnie. *The Power of Prayer and Fasting*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1997.
- Foster, Richard J., and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional classics*. Revised and expanded ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.
- Foster, Richard J., and Gayle D. Beebe. *Longing for God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2009.
- Foster, Richard J., and Emilie Griffin. *Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.
- Frizzell, Gregory R. *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life: The Biblical Path to Holiness and Relationship with God*. Memphis, TN: The Master Design, 1999.
- Hall, R. Clyde. *Handbook for Youth Discipleship*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1988.
- Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001.
- Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1984.
- _____. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- _____. *The Disciple-Making Pastor*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1988.
- Idleman, Kyle. *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.
- MacArthur, John. *The Keys to Spiritual Growth: Unlocking the Riches of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991.
- Muller, George. *The Autobiography of George Muller*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1984.
- Murray, Andrew. *Absolute Surrender*. Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1982.
- _____. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1981.
- Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Packer, James I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1973.
- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: The Challenge of Following Jesus in Today's World*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1993.
- Piper, John and Wayne Grudem. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991.
- Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2010.
- Stanley, Charles F. *Handle with Prayer: How to Turn the World Around While on Your Knees*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987.
- Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.
- Wright, N. T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1995.

Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/student-services, email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800.662.8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

Need	Email	Phone	Web Page
Advising – Graduate Program	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/student-services/counseling-services.html
Women’s Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



TWITTER.COM/NOBTS INSTAGRAM.COM/NOBTS FACEBOOK.COM/NOBTS