



DISC5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Discipleship and Ministry Leadership
Fall 2019, Tuesday, 2 p.m.

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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.

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 worshiping 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 *Spiritual Vitality*.

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.

Reflection Paper (30%)

Due: December 3, 2019

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.

Embedded Assignment

RUBRIC FOR GRADING A SUMMATIVE PROJECT – REFLECTION PAPER IN THE COURSE DISC5170: SPIRITUAL FORMATION

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.

| 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/Participation (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 (20%)

Due: Weekly

Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also leading at least one class discussion of an assigned chapter. Students should prepare a handout to guide group discussion when they are leading.

Journaling (30%)

Due: [Oct 8th & Dec 3rd]

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. 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 (10%)

Due: See individual dates on the course schedule

Memorize and recite on specified dates assigned Bible verses.

Evaluation of Grade

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis. The student's grade will be computed as follows (pass/fail):

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Journal | 30% |
| Discussion Session Leadership | 20% |
| Class Attendance/Participation | 10% |
| Scripture Memory | 10% |
| Reflection Paper | 30% |
| | 100% |

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.

[Other paragraphs might be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

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.

Course Schedule

| Date | Assignment | Group Leader | Memory Verse |
|--------------|--|---------------|---------------|
| August 20 | Introduction/Spiritual Assessment | Rivers | |
| August 27 | Testimonies | Group Members | |
| September 3 | Testimonies | Group Members | Gal. 2:20 |
| September 10 | Foster, 1; Ortberg, 1-3, 13 Spiritual Disciplines | | |
| September 17 | Foster, 2, 5; Ortberg 11 Meditation & Study | | Phil 3:10 |
| September 24 | Foster, 3; Ortberg, 6 Prayer | | Rom. 12:1-2 |
| October 1 | Foster, 4 Fasting | | |
| October 8 | Foster, 6; Ortberg, 12 Simplicity | | Jos. 1:8 |
| October 14 | Fall Break-No Class | | |
| October 22 | Foster, 7; Ortberg, 5 Solitude | | Phil. 4:6-7 |
| October 29 | Foster, 8; Ortberg, 10 Submission | | |
| November 5 | Foster, 9; Ortberg, 7 Service | | Heb. 10:24-25 |
| November 12 | Foster, 10; Ortberg, 8 Confession | | Mt. 28:18-20 |

| | | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|--|-----------|
| November 19 | Foster, 11 Worship | | Col. 3:17 |
| November 26 | Thanksgiving – No Class | | |
| December 3 | Foster, 13; Ortberg, 4 Celebration | | |

Selected Bibliography

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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.

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

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

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Foster, Richard J. and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional classics*. Revised and expanded ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

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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 –



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