



DISC5170-03 INTRODUCTION to SPIRITUAL FORMATION

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Fall 2019 * 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 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” (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, Days Assigned

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

September 11	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 3
September 18	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 4
September 25	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 5
October 2	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 6
October 9	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 7
October 16	Fall Break
October 23	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 8
October 30	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 9
November 6	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 10
November 13	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 11
November 20	Devotional, Discussion of Ortberg, Chapter 12
November 27	Thanksgiving Break
December 4	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.

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 (1 PT)	BASIC (2 PTS)	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>