

## **DISC 5171 SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2**

**SPRING 2015 – THURSDAY 10 AM**

**REX D. BUTLER**

*rbutler@nobts.edu*

**Office:** Dodd Building, 105  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
3939 Gentilly Boulevard  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126  
504-282-4455 x. 3214

**Home:** 4334 Seminary Place  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70126  
504-373-5061

### **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 VALUES FOCUS**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically in that the course is designed to prepare the student to grow in the understanding and interpreting of the Word of God. Characteristic Excellence is also addressed in that the student should be as prepared as possible to be ministers for Christ. Mission Focus is emphasized in that interpreting the Bible is a key element in presenting the Good News of the Gospel to the world. Proper interpretation is vital in fulfilling the Great Commission. This course addresses the competency of Biblical Exposition by preparing the student to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately. The Core Value for the academic year 2014-2015 is Spiritual Vitality.

### **CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED**

The Seminary has seven key competencies in its academic program. They are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competency addressed in this course is Spiritual and Character Development

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed to foster personal spiritual growth through an introduction to spiritual disciplines and participation in a student discipleship group led by a mentoring professor. The course is also designed to prepare students to lead discipleship groups and a discipleship ministry in the local Church.

### **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 REQUIREMENTS**

1. Weekly, the learner will read John Ortberg, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get out of the Boat*, and participate in group discussions related to the weekly readings. The learner will lead at least one group discussion during the semester.
2. The learner will meet with 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 on **January 29** and be available to the student through the week of **May 7**. The learner will provide a written statement identifying the accountability partner for the professor upon enlistment.
3. During the semester, each student will memorize at least twelve verses of his or her own choice and in any translation. These verses may be from one passage, twelve single verses, or any combination. These verses will be written out or recited from memory on **April 30**.
4. 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.

## TEXTBOOK

John Ortberg, *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get out of the Boat* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001).

## A TYPICAL SESSION

Sessions will always include discussion of reading assignments and prayer times. Additional elements may include things like accountability questions, recital of Scriptures memorized, and discussion of issues raised in personal journaling.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

		<u>Discussion Leader</u>
January 22	Course Overview	Dr. Butler
January 29	Ortberg, ch. 1 "On Water Walking"	
February 5	Ortberg, ch. 2 "Boat Potatoes"	
February 12	Ortberg, ch. 3 "Discerning the Call"	
February 19	NO CLASS MEETING	
February 26	Ortberg, ch. 4 "Walking on the Water"	
March 5	Ortberg, ch. 5 "Seeing the Wind"	
March 12	Ortberg, ch. 6 "Crying out in Fear"	
March 19	Ortberg, ch. 7 "That Sinking Feeling"	
March 26	<b>Spring Break</b>	
April 2	NO CLASS MEETING	
April 9	Ortberg, ch. 8 "Focusing on Jesus"	
April 16	Ortberg, ch. 9 "Learning to Wait"	
April 23	Ortberg, ch. 10 "How Big Is Your God?"	
April 30	Memory verses are due	
May 7	Fellowship time	

## **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.

## **EMERGENCY PLAN**

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu)

The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

Also, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary's web site and Blackboard.

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