

DISC 5171 SPIRITUAL FORMATION II

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries

Dr. Darryl Ferrington
Doctor of Musical Arts Director
Professor of Music Education
Office - Sellers 220c
504.282.4455 ext.3267 office; 504.251.1081 cell
dferrington@nobts.edu
Thursday, 4:00 - 5:00 Spring 2015
Sellers Conference Room, 2nd Floor

*Most of the time,
what is needed is not expert advice,
it's a friend's wisdom.*
Eugene Peterson

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

Spiritual Vitality – Translating personal spiritual learning, formation, and development into life altering (or altar-ing...) steps that allow us to emulate more of Christ in our daily walk.

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet one hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, prayer, and spiritual formation in the company of others. It will include specific assignments from a variety of Christian devotional practices. This course is designed to be taken during a student's first fall semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

As a result of this learning and growing experience, participants, deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ, should:

- acquire an introductory understanding of ideas for post-conversion disciple-making, as commanded in the Great Commission;
- grow in his or her biblical understanding of spiritual formation;
- be challenged to develop a strong personal commitment to a way of living that is spiritually forming;
- take a personal inventory of his/her spiritual life at this point in the growth process;
- learn to dialogue with and appreciate people from different backgrounds, with different calls, and at different places along spiritual quest;
- develop skills in leading discipleship groups, considering such groups as a part of the discipleship strategy of a local church ministry.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Methodology will include reading/reflection/prayer on a text in the field through participation in class/group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment and enlistment of, as well as time spent with an accountability partner; reflection and journaling of the journey; and the use of an integration paper to capture the various exercises, ideas, etc., reflecting on God's involvement in it all.

TEXTBOOKS

Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit. Chan, Francis.
Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, publisher. 2009.

The Wisdom of Tenderness: What Happens When God's Fierce Mercy Transforms Our Lives. Manning, Brennan. New York: HarperSanFrancisco., publisher. 2002.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule (attached) to read the textbook and engage in a time of significant prayer immediately after the reading. Learners will participate in a group discussion of salient features of the content, insights gained through prayer, and life encounters as a result of each week's reading.
2. Each learner will assume leadership for the group discussions at least once during the semester.
3. The learner will contract a different option from the previous semester by Tuesday, January 27, 2015 (Week 2) of the semester.
 - A. The student will complete a reading contract of 50 additional pages, focusing on any *one particular spiritual discipline* that she/he has a special interest in. Those pages can come from texts, chapters of texts, journal articles, on-line articles, and even from page estimates related to audio or visual resources. Submit a bibliography of sources with total page numbers read from each source. The student should begin assimilating this discipline in his/her life as soon as possible. Findings on, and honest life experiences with the selected spiritual discipline should be incorporated into the final project.

DUE DATE: Tuesday, May 5, 2015.
 - B. The student will journal her/his spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, etc. throughout the semester. The journal will be the learner's sole property and will *not* be turned in to the professor. The learner will be asked to bring the journal to The Gathering for a three second perusal by the professor just to verify that the assignment was completely in a responsible manner. Appropriate information or portions of the journal should be utilized in the final class project.

DUE DATE: Tuesday, May 5, 2015.
 - C. The learner will discern and enlist an accountability partner who meets the requirements of "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The partner should be several steps ahead of the learner along the spiritual quest and should *not* be a spouse or fellow student. The learner will meet with the accountability partner for at least 30 minutes a week beginning in late January and continuing throughout the semester. The partner should be identified and enlisted no later than Feb. 3, 2015 and be available to the student through the week of Tuesday, April 28, 2015. The learner will provide a written statement identifying and qualifying the accountability partner for the professor on Feb. 3, 2015.

4. The learner will participate in group life, not only through the group discussions, but also by giving attention to prayer needs emerging and shared throughout the semester. Group members should grow in confidence to share requests, report answers/updates, and be available to the Holy Spirit to speak words of encouragement, instruction, challenge or loving rebuke into the lives of others.
5. As the culminating experience for this YEAR, the learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double-spaced, 1st-person integration paper. The paper should allow the student opportunity to integrate life experiences during this academic YEAR, text ideas, research, journal notes, insights from accountability partner and other class students, prayer journey, and the personal interaction that occurs along the way. This is the final project.
DUE DATE: May 5, 2015
6. Attend The Gathering, the capstone event, for an informal meal together at Dr. Ferrington's home, 41 Kings Canyon Drive, N.O., LA (WBest Bank) The time will be set by common consensus.

COURSE EVALUATION

Since this experience is a pass/fail course, attendance, meaningful participation, and completion of the contract, and attendance and contribution to The Gathering are essential. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

Readings are due on the date listed.

READING SCHEDULE (FG = Forgotten God) (WoT = The Wisdom of Tenderness)

Week	Date	Chapter	Chapter Title
DF	1 January 20	FG 1	I've Got Jesus. Why do I need the Spirit?
	2 27	FG 2	What are You Afraid of?
	3 February 3	FG 3	Theology of the Holy Spirit 101
	4 10	FG 4	Why Do You Want Him?
	5 Mardi Gras 17	NO CLASS	
	6 24	FG 5	Inward Simplicity: Holy Obedience
	7 March 3	FG 6	Outward Simplicity: Beginning Steps
	8 10	FG 7	Outward Simplicity: Longer Strides
	9 17	WoT 1	The Wisdom of Tenderness

Spring Break March 23 – 27

Restoration

	10 31	WoT 2	The Ring of Truth
		WoT 3	Christ in Others
	11 April 7 (DF out)	WoT 4	The Impossible Dream
	12 14	WoT 5	Sin: The Enemy of Tenderness
	13 21	WoT 6	Pain & Tenderness
	14 28	WoT 7	Fierce Mercy
	14 May 5	Wrap-up	All Things DUE

Bibliography

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2003.

Buchanan, Mark. *The Holy Wild: Trusting in the Character of God*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2010.