

DISC5171, Spiritual Formation II
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
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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 and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2014-2015 is Spiritual Vitality. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the "Articles of Religious Belief" and the "Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

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.

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.

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.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course Description

This is the second of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet an hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation in the company of others. It will include specific assignments in the selected Christian devotional practices. This is a course to be taken the semester immediately following DISC5170.

Students registered for DISC5170 will automatically be registered for DISC5171 with the same professor, at the same time, the following semester.

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 to how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbook

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

Course Requirements

1. Participate in all class discussions and meetings.
2. Read the assigned textbook and additional class material while also leading at least one class discussion of an assigned chapter.
3. 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 4 times weekly. Each journal entry should be a minimum of two paragraphs. The journal should include reflections on spiritual progress, particularly as evidenced through the spiritual plan developed and turned in by the student (Course Requirement 5). The journal will not be read by the professor but only briefly checked for completion.
4. Memorize and recite the following assigned Bible verses:

Titus 3:5
John 14:21
John 15:7
Philippians 2:3-4

Proverbs 3:5-6
John 15:5
Psalm 119:9, 11
Philippians 4:8

5. Each student will be required to submit a six month spiritual plan. The plan must include four spiritual goals (e.g. Scripture reading and memory, prayer, fasting, solitude, witnessing, etc.) to be put into practice over the course of six months as well as a specific plan for accomplishing the spiritual goals. The plan must include the following:

- (1) Explain in one paragraph the reason for selecting each specific spiritual goal. Each goal should have one paragraph explaining the reason for selection, for a total of four paragraphs.
- (2) List the discipline and the plan and steps for beginning or improving the practice of the discipline.
- (3) Include a summary of what you would like to see happen in your life as a result of improvement in each specific discipline.

The spiritual plan is to be a minimum of three double-spaced pages and is due the fifth class meeting.

6. The student must select an accountability partner, who is the same gender and who can be described as “full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit.” The student will meet with the accountability partner for a minimum of thirty minutes per week beginning the third week of class. The student will submit a statement the third week of class identifying the accountability partner.

7. At the conclusion of the course, the student will meet with the professor to discuss personal spiritual growth over the course of the semester. Meeting times will be scheduled during the closing weeks of classes. The student’s journal and spiritual plan/assessment will be discussed.

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

- Class Participation 10%
- Discussion Session Leadership 15%
- Scripture Memory 15%
- Spiritual Plan 30%
- Journal 30%

Absences and Late Assignments

In accordance with seminary policy, a student will automatically fail the course if he or she incurs three absences. The student handbook should be consulted regarding further information about seminary policies for absences. Late assignments automatically will be penalized a letter grade and may receive additional penalties depending on the amount of time the assignment is late.

Emergency Plan

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

Course Presentation Schedule

		Discussion Leader
January 22	Course Overview	Newsom
January 29	Foster, ch. 1 – The Spiritual Disciplines	Newsom
February 5	Foster, ch. 2 – Meditation Accountability Partner Due	
February 12	Foster, ch. 3 – Prayer	
February 19	Foster, ch. 4 – Fasting Six-Month Spiritual Plan Due	
February 26	Foster, ch. 5– Study Titus 3:5	
March 5	Mardi Gras – No Class	
March 12	Foster, ch. 6– Simplicity John 14:21	
March 19	Foster, ch. 7– Solitude John 15:7	
March 26	Spring Break	
April 2	Foster, ch. 8– Submission Philippians 2:3-4	
April 9	Foster, ch. 9– Service Proverbs 3:5-6	
April 16	Foster, ch. 10– Confession John 15:5	
April 23	Foster, ch. 11– Worship Psalm 119:9, 11	
April 30	Foster, ch. 12-13– Guidance, Celebration Philippians 4:8	
May 7	Concluding Discussion/Fellowship Reflection Paper Due	Newsom
May 14	Finals Week	

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