

SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2
DISC5170-05
Spring Semester 2015
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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 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.

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 course 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 from a variety of Christian devotional practices. This course is designed to be taken the Spring semester immediately following DISC5170.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- deepen their understanding of the history and variety of practices of spiritual disciplines;
- demonstrate the desire for a meaningful and maturing relationship with God;
- experience the reality and value of Christian community in a small group setting;
- further develop their personal commitment to basic devotional practices through the daily choices and selected training exercises;
- display their ability to lead a small, discipleship group using basic principles demonstrated and practiced in the group meetings.

Course Teaching Methodology

Methodology will include reading/reflection 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. Students will also lead class sessions.

Textbooks

The Holy Bible

The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Journeys for Ordinary People by John Ortberg, Zondervan, Expanded Edition, 2002.

Course Requirements

1. **Blackboard.** Each student must enroll in the Internet assisted part of this course by Jan. 27, **and maintain a valid e-mail address recorded in your Blackboard account at all times.** The Blackboard site will be a source for information that will be useful to the course and may be used for e-mail to students. To enroll go to the nobts.edu site and complete the following steps:

Step 1: Open your web browser to the seminary home page at <http://www.nobts.edu>

Step 2: Click on the **NOBTS - Blackboard** link in the left-hand column. **If you already have a Blackboard account, log in and skip to Step 6.** (You only need one Blackboard account.

Step 3: When the new page opens, choose the **Create Account** button on the left.

Step 4: Enter in your information. (Note: Fields with a red asterisk are required fields.) When finished entering your information, click **Submit.**

Step 5: When the next page loads, confirming your registration, click **OK.**

Step 6: Now, your personal NOBTS-Blackboard home page should appear. To enroll in a class, click on the **Courses** tab at the top of the page.

Step 7: Under the course **Catalog Section**, choose the appropriate category (Doctoral, Graduate, Leavell College). Click on the appropriate categories (Academic Catalog).

Step 8: When you find your course, click on the **Enroll** button on the right side of the screen. The course id is DISC5170PP.

Step 9: Enter the access code provided by the Professor. The code is **DISC5171Spring2015** (Note: The access code is case sensitive.)

Step 10: Click **OK** when the confirmation page appears.

You are now enrolled in the Blackboard portion of the course. If you have trouble signing up, please contact the ITC department of NOBTS. (Blackboard assignments will be announced and/ or posted.)

2. The student will complete weekly assignments as required according to the class schedule.
 - A. The student will develop a written plan for developing one's personal spiritual life in two areas. Examples of such areas would be Bible study, Scripture memory and meditation, prayer, evangelism, worship, serving, stewardship, fasting, silence and solitude, journaling, learning, or disciplines. The plan should include the following:
 - (1) Explain in one to two paragraphs why you chose these disciplines
 - (2) List the discipline and specific steps to improve one's practice of that discipline
 - (3) List steps of improvement for each of the two or three disciplines you choose.
 - (4) Include a summary of what you'd like to see the Lord do in your life in these areas this semester. The length of the plan should be approximately two to three double-spaced pages. This will be due on **Wednesday, February 4**.
 - B. The student will be accountable for this plan by turning in a brief report of approximately two-thirds to one typed double-spaced page every two weeks, updating progress in these areas of spiritual development. The last report can summarize progress for the semester. There may also be discussion of this process in the group times. (See Course Schedule section for due dates.)
3. The student will lead sessions based on assigned chapters from the textbook. A handout may be prepared on the topic for the chapter to give to group members.
4. The student will contribute weekly to discussions of the discipleship group.
5. Students are reminded that for this course, the seminary policies allow a maximum of three absences for the entire semester. Three occasions of arriving late for class or leaving early from class will count as one absence.

Course Evaluation

This experience is a pass/fail course. The final grade decision will be made by the professor. As noted in the current NOBTS Graduate Catalog, this course will be evaluated on a pass-fail basis. Students are expected to complete the course requirements listed above and will not automatically pass the course simply for attending weekly sessions.

Course Schedule and Assignments

The reading of the chapter should be completed before class on the date listed in the schedule.

Jan. 21: Introduction to Course

Jan. 28: Chapter 1.

Feb. 4: Chapter 2. Turn in Personal Spiritual Development Plan (PSPD).

Feb. 11: Chapter 3.

Feb. 18: Chapter 4. Turn in update on PSDP.

Feb. 25: Chapter 5.

March 4: Chapter 6. Turn in update on PSDP.

March 11: Chapter 7.

March 18: Chapter 8. Turn in update on PSDP.

Spring Break Week

April 1: Chapter 9.

April 8: Chapter 10. Turn in update on PSDP.

April 15: Chapter 11.

April 22: Chapter 12. Turn in semester summary on PSDP.

April 29: Chapter 13.

May 6: Celebration and Conclusion

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis.

Absences and Late Assignments

In accordance with seminary policy, a student will automatically fail the course if he or she incurs more than **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.

NOTE: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period. Assignments turned in late after the beginning of class will receive an automatic ten point deduction. There will be an additional ten point deduction for each class session late. (A paper turned in one week late would have a 20 point deduction.)

No work will be accepted more than two weeks past the due date. No assignments will be accepted after May 13.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY A STUDENT IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Course Reminders

1. Food and drink should not be brought into the classroom.
2. Academic misconduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the student handbook.
3. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose or print class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
4. Policies for class absences will be followed as outlined in the current NOBTS Catalog. The maximum number of classroom hours absent for this course is three. Three occasions of arriving late or leaving early will count as one absence.
5. Members of the class are asked to respect and follow the dress code found in the Student Handbook.
6. Members of the class are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their conversation and conduct. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policy.

Disruption of Normal Class Schedule.

1. You are responsible to check the website of NOBTS for updates related to courses which may not be able to meet in campus due to weather or other circumstances such as a flu outbreak.
 - A. Go to www.nobts.edu for updates.
 - B. You are encouraged to sign up for the emergency text-based updates from the seminary.
Check the IQ Web of the seminary for information on signing up for the text updates.
2. Keep a **CURRENT** email address on the Blackboard portion of the course.
3. You are responsible to have course materials such as the textbook and notes to continue course work in the event the campus closes for any reason.
4. If the campus closes or our particular class cannot meet on campus, you are responsible to check your email address listed in Blackboard for course updates and assignments. The course will continue in the event campus meetings are disrupted.
5. Contacting Dr. Pinckard
 - A. Primary Email Address: ppinckard@nobts.edu
 - B. Secondary Email Address if primary account not working: ppinckard72@yahoo.com

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