



Spiritual Formation II

DISC 5171

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
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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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide first year students with a spiritual growth experience in a group of students and with a faculty mentor.

Core Value Focus

The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned annually by the Administrative Council. For the 2014-2015 academic year, the core value focus is Spiritual Vitality.

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary 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.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. Biblical exposition: Students will be involved in devotional study utilizing the Bible and biblically based devotional texts.

2. Effective servant leadership: Students will have opportunities to practice servant leadership.
3. Interpersonal relationships: Students will have opportunities to relate with other students weekly.
4. Disciple making: Discipleship making strategies and texts will be discussed.
5. Worship leadership: Individual opportunities for worship leadership will be available to the students.
6. Spiritual and character formation: Through reading, discussions and group relationships this competency will be addressed.

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. The course will include specific assignments from a variety of Christian devotional practices. The course is designed to be taken during the Spring semester following DISC5171.

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
- Increase their knowledge of scripture and devotional classics

Required Readings

The following texts are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in its entirety.

Required Textbooks

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

Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine*. Camp Hill, PA: Wing Spread Publishers, 2006.

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study

This course is designed by the individual faculty mentor and will have different units depending on the mentor's preference.

Teaching Method

This class will meet on campus. Methodology will include reading/reflection on texts 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.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

- The student will read the assigned readings from the textbook. In addition, students will read 200-300 pages of selective reading about the spiritual discipline of his/her choice. A bibliography of materials read along with the number of pages read is due on **April 21, 2015**.
- The student will choose one spiritual discipline and will design and submit a plan to study and practice the spiritual discipline throughout the semester. Students should incorporate into their plans reading assignments related to the discipline they have chosen. Written plans are due on **January 27, 2015**. Each student will present his/her plan to the group and discuss strengths, barriers, and challenges to implementing the plan.
- The student will contribute to discussions and share leadership of the group.
- The student will journal his/her spiritual growth throughout the course. Reflections from the journal should be included in the final integrative paper.
- At the conclusion of the course, the student will write a reflection paper on his/her spiritual development throughout the semester. The paper should incorporate reflections from the student's journal as well as reflections on how the course discussions and exercises contributed to the student's spiritual growth. Each student will meet with the professor to discuss his/her spiritual growth during the semester. Meeting times will be scheduled during the last week of classes. The reflection paper is due on **April 28, 2015**.

Course Evaluation

This is a semester pass/fail course. In order to pass the course, students will need to successfully complete each of the requirements for the course. Attendance and participation in the group are extremely important and will be considered as part of the

student's evaluation. The professor will assign the final grade in discussion with the student at the individual meeting.

Course Policies

- 1) In evaluating class involvement, consideration will be given to (1) attendance, (2) class participation, (3) reading accountability and (4) punctuality.
- 2) Student involvement is required in this class. My expectation is that when you are present physically, you are also present emotionally and prepared to participate in the class discussions. Benefit from this class will depend upon your commitment to be prepared and involved each class period. Please turn off your cell phone. Text messaging is not acceptable during class. Computer use is acceptable only for class work.
- 3) Grading scale: This is a Pass/Fail course
- 4) I will be available to meet with students individually throughout the semester. Students can schedule an appointment by e-mail or phone.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog 2014-2015*.

Course Schedule

Date	Assignment	Group Leader or Presenter
January 20	Introduction, Goal Setting	Rivers
January 27	Discussion of Plans to Practice Spiritual Disciplines	Rivers
February 3	Bridges, Chapters 1-3	
February 10	Bridges, Chapters 4-6	
February 17	Mardi Gras – No Class	
February 24	Bridges, Chapters 7-9	

March 3	Bridges, Chapters 10-12	
March 10	Bridges, Chapters 13-15	
March 17	Tozer, Chapters 1-3	
March 24	Spring Break – No Class	
March 31	Tozer, Chapters 4-6	
April 7	Tozer, Chapters 7-8	
April 14	Tozer, Chapters 9-10	
April 21	Student Reports on Practicing Spiritual Disciplines	
April 28	Students Reports on Practicing Spiritual Disciplines	
May 5	Review, evaluation, and Celebration – Class will plan and schedule place.	

Selected Bibliography

Allender, Dan. *Leading with a Limp*. Waterbook Press, 2006.

Arn, Win, and Charles Arn. *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

Bender, David. *Desiring God's Will: Aligning Our Hearts with the Heart of God*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2005.

Bruce, A.B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1988.

Brueggeman, Walter. *Interpretation and Obedience: From Faithful Reading to Faithful Living*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1991.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: F.H. Revell company, 1987.

Coppedge, Allan. *The Biblical Principles of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Francis Asbury Press, 1989.

Cosgrove, Francis M. *Essentials of Discipleship*. Dallas: Roper Press, 1988.

- Day, Alan R. *Lordship—What Does It Mean?* Nashville: Broadman Press, 1993.
- Dunnam, Maxine D. *Mastering Personal Growth*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah, 1997.
- Foster, Richard J., and James Bryan Smith, eds. *Devotional Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1990.
- Foster, Richard J., and Kathryn A. Yanni. *Celebrating the Disciplines: A Journal Workbook to Accompany Celebration of Discipline*. New York: Harper Collins, 1992.
- Foster, Richard J. *Freedom of Simplicity*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1981.
- _____. *The Challenge of the Disciplined Life: Christian Reflections on Money, Sex, and Power*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1985.
- _____. *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1992.
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- Griffin, Emilie. *Wilderness Time: A Guide for Spiritual Retreat*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1997.
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- Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciple-Maker*. Old Tappan, NJ: F.H. Revell Company, 1984.
- Hunt, T.W. *The Mind of Christ: The Transforming Power of Thinking His Thoughts*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1997.
- Kramp, John. *Getting Ahead by Staying Behind: How to be a Better Follower of Jesus*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1995.
- Lawrenz, Mel. *The Dynamics of Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
- Martin, Glen. *Beyond the Rat Race*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995.

- Miller, Calvin. *Walking with Saints Through the Best and Worst Times of Our Lives*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1995.
- Munger, Robert Boyd. *Leading from the Heart: Lifetime Reflections on Spiritual Development*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Mulholland, Jr., M. Robert. *Invitation to a Journey: A Road Map for Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1993.
- Nouwen, Henri. *The Wounded Healer*. New York: Image Books/Doubleday, 1972.
- Powell, Paul W. *The Complete Disciple*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1982.
- _____. *Dynamic Discipleship*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1984.
- Smith, James Bryan. *A Spiritual Formation Workbook: Small Group Resources for Nurturing Christian Growth*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 1993.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *So, You Want to Be Like Christ? Eight Essentials to Get You There*. Nashville, TN: W Publishing Group, 2005.
- Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1991.
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