



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

DISC 5170 Spiritual Formation I

Spring 2016, Wednesday 1 p.m.

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary 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 Addressed

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2015-2016 is Mission Focus. 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 course is a pass-fail experience in a faculty led learning context. Students in the course will meet weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation by participating and leading weekly meetings. Students will comprehend a variety of Christian devotional practices by completing specific assignments on basic spiritual disciplines. This course is designed to be taken during a student's first semester. [**See note below.]

**Students registered for DISC5170 will automatically be registered for DISC5171 with the same professor, at the same time, the following semester if DISC 5171 is required for the student's degree plan.

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.

Methodology:

Class Discussions, Groups, Journals

Textbooks:

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*, 3rd ed. San Francisco: Harper, 1998.

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Course Requirements:

1. Keep a journal of his or her spiritual journey throughout the course. The journal should contain a minimum of 2 entries per week. (The journal will not be submitted to the professor, but the student will be asked periodically about his/her progress keeping the journal.)
2. Read the Foster and Ortberg books and lead assigned chapter(s).
3. Share his/her personal testimony with the group during the assigned class period.
4. Participate in class group discussions weekly.
5. Write a reflection paper (3-4 pages typed) assessing his/her personal spiritual development during the semester. Students will meet with the professor to discuss their reflection papers during the last week of class. The paper is due on April 27, 1 p.m.

Course Evaluation:

The course is offered on a pass-fail basis. In order to pass the course, students will need to successfully complete each of the following assignments:

- Journal 25%
- Class discussion leader and presentation of personal testimony 25%
- Class participation 25%
- Reflection Paper/Meeting with Professor 25%

Course Schedule

Date	Discussion	Group Leader
January 20	Introduction	Rivers
January 27	Testimonies Personal Assessment	Rivers
February 3	Testimonies Personal Assessment	Rivers
February 10	Foster 1; Ortberg 1-3, 13* Spiritual Disciplines	Rivers
February 17	Foster 2, 5; Ortberg 11 Meditation & Study	
February 24	Foster 3; Ortberg 6 Prayer	
March 2	Foster 4 Fasting	
March 9	Foster 6; Ortberg 12 Simplicity	
March 16	Spring Break	
March 23	Foster 7; Ortberg 5 Solitude	

March 30	Foster 8; Ortberg 10 Submission	
April 6	Foster 9; Ortberg 7 Service	
April 13	Foster 10; Ortberg 8 Confession	
April 20	Foster 11 Worship	
April 27	Foster 13; Ortberg 4 Celebration	
May 4	Meeting with Professor (Final)	

*Chapter Numbers

Note from the Professor

I will be available to meet with students individually throughout the semester. Students can schedule an appointment by e-mail: lrivers@nobts.edu or by phone, 504-282-4455, ext. 3211.

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.

Technical Assistance

Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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