



Spiritual Formation II DISC 5171

Church & Community Ministries Division

Professor Name: Dr. Jeanine C. Bozeman
Address: 3939 Gentilly Blvd. PO Box 150
New Orleans, LA 70126
Phone Number: (504) 282-4455 ext.3207
Email Address: jbozeman@nobts.edu

Grader: Stephanie Cline
Email Address: stephanie.l.cline62312@gmail.com

*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.*

Purpose of 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 Values

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 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.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following seven areas:

Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.

Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

Worship Leadership: To facilitate worship effectively.

This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course Catalog 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.

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.

Textbooks

Ortberg, John. *The Me I Want to Be*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.

Foster, Richard J. *Freedom of Simplicity*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1981.

Optional Text

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

Course Requirements

- The student will read the assigned readings from the textbooks. In addition, students will read 200-300 pages of selective reading about the spiritual disciplines of his/her choice. A bibliography of materials read along with the number of pages read is due on **April 26, 2016**.
- The student will design and submit a “well-ordered heart” plan of action. The plan should include a 1 spiritual discipline that will be exercised throughout the semester. Students should incorporate into their plans reading assignments related to the disciplines they have chosen. Written plans are due on **February 16, 2016**. 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.
- Each student will select a spiritual mentor to meet with one hour per week for 8 weeks during the semester. The mentor should be someone who will challenge you to grow spiritually and who will commit to pray for you, support, and encourage you during the semester. The spiritual mentor should not be a family member or an NOBTS student. The name and contact information for the mentor should be submitted to the professor on **February 16, 2016**. A record of meeting times and a weekly summary of the student's reflection on each meeting should be submitted to the professor on **April 19, 2016**.
- 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 26, 2016**.

Course Assignment Evaluation Percentages

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:

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| • Journal | 25% |
| • Class discussion leader and presentation of "a well ordered heart plan of spiritual growth." | 25% |
| • Class participation | 25% |
| • Reflection Paper/Meeting with Professor | 25% |

Course Policies

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date in the syllabus. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by 10 points each day. No late work will be accepted after 10 days.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

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.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook http://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.
Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
Respect the professor and other members of the class.
Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.
Participate in class and group discussions.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, Selfserve, or other technical support, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance.

- 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.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
- For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#)

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Policies

Academic policies relating to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics/Assignment	Group Leader or Presenter
January 19	Introduction, Goal Setting	Bozeman
January 26	Ortberg, Chapters 1 and 2 Foster, Chapter 1	
February 2	Ortberg, Chapters 3 and 4 Foster, Chapter 2 (Mentor Selected)	
February 16	Ortberg, Chapters 5 and 6 Foster, Chapter 3 (Reading Plan Due)	
February 23	Ortberg, Chapters 7 and 8 Foster, Chapter 4	
March 1	Ortberg, Chapters 9 and 10 Foster, Chapter 5	
March 8	Ortberg, Chapters 11, 12, and 13 Foster, Chapter 6	
March 14-18	Spring Break—No Class	
March 22	Ortberg, Chapters 16 and 17 Foster, Chapter 8	
March 29	Ortberg, Chapter 18 Foster, Chapter 9	
April 5	Ortberg, Chapter 19 Foster, Chapter 10	
April 12	Ortberg, Chapter 20 Epilogue (spiritual mentor meetings due)	
April 19	Ortberg, Chapter 21	
April 26	Ortberg, Chapter 22 (Bibliography and Reflection Paper Due)	
May 3	Review, evaluation, and Celebration – Class will plan and schedule place.	Bozeman

*Chapter Numbers

Selected Bibliography

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Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/studentservices, email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

Need	Email	Phone	Web Page
Advising – Graduate Program	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling-services.html
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- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



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