

DISC 5171 SPIRITUAL FORMATION II

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Music Ministries

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Wednesday, 1:00 - 2:00 Spring 2016
Sellers Conference Room, 2nd Floor

*Most of the time,
what is needed is not expert advice,
it's a friend's wisdom.*
Eugene Peterson

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

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.

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the first of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet one hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, prayer, 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 during a student's first fall semester.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- acquire an introductory understanding of ideas for post-conversion disciple-making, as commanded in the Great Commission;
- grow in his or her biblical understanding of spiritual formation;
- be challenged to develop a strong personal commitment to a way of living that is spiritually forming;
- take a personal inventory of his/her spiritual life at this point in the growth process;
- learn to dialogue with and appreciate people from different backgrounds, with different calls, and at different places along spiritual quest;

- develop skills in leading discipleship groups, considering such groups as a part of the discipleship strategy of a local church ministry.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

Methodology will include reading/reflection/prayer 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; 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.

TEXTBOOK

Scazzero, Peter - *The Emotionally Healthy Leader* Zondervan Publishers, 2015
ISBN 978-0-310-49457-7

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule (attached) to read the textbook and engage in a time of significant prayer immediately after the reading. Learners will participate in a group discussion of salient features of the content, insights gained through prayer, and life encounters as a result of each week's reading.
2. Each learner will assume leadership for the group discussions at least once during the semester.
3. The learner will contract a different option from the previous semester by Wednesday, January 27, 2016 (Week 2) of the semester.
 - A. The student will complete a reading contract of 50 additional pages, focusing on any *one particular spiritual discipline* that she/he has a special interest in. Those pages can come from texts, chapters of texts, journal articles, on-line articles, and even from page estimates related to audio or visual resources. Submit a bibliography of sources with total page numbers read from each source. The student should begin assimilating this discipline in his/her life as soon as possible. Findings on, and honest life experiences with the selected spiritual discipline should be incorporated into the final project.

DUE DATE: Wednesday, April 27, 2016.
 - B. The student will journal her/his spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, etc. throughout the semester. The journal will be the learner's sole property and will *not* be turned in to the professor. The learner will be asked to bring the journal to The Gathering for a three second perusal by the professor just to verify that the assignment was completely in a responsible manner. Appropriate information or portions of the journal should be utilized in the final class project.

DUE DATE: Wednesday, April 27, 2016.
 - C. The learner will discern and enlist an accountability partner who meets the requirements of "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The partner should be several steps ahead of the learner along the spiritual quest and should *not* be a spouse or fellow student. The learner will meet with the accountability partner for at least 30 minutes a week beginning in late January and continuing throughout the semester. The partner should be identified, enlisted, and provide a written statement identifying and qualifying the accountability partner to the professor no later than Feb. 3, 2016 and be available to the student through the week of Friday, April 215, 2016.

4. The learner will participate in group life, not only through the group discussions, but also by giving attention to prayer needs emerging and shared throughout the semester. Group members should grow in confidence to share requests, report answers/updates, and be available to the Holy Spirit to speak words of encouragement, instruction, challenge or loving rebuke into the lives of others.
5. As the culminating experience for this YEAR, the learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double-spaced, 1st-person integration paper. The paper should allow the student opportunity to integrate life experiences during this academic YEAR, text ideas, research, journal notes, insights from accountability partner and other class students, prayer journey, and the personal interaction that occurs along the way. This is the final project.
DUE DATE: Wednesday, April 27, 2016.
6. Attend The Gathering, the capstone event, for an informal meal together at Dr. Ferrington's home, 41 Kings Canyon Drive, N.O., LA (WBest Bank) The time will be set by common consensus.

COURSE EVALUATION

Since this experience is a pass/fail course, attendance, meaningful participation, and completion of the contract, and attendance and contribution to The Gathering are essential. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

Readings are due on the date listed.

READING SCHEDULE (EML = Emotionally Healthy Leader)

Week	Date	Chapter	Chapter Title
DF	1	January 20	EHL Preface My Journey Thru Emot. Unhealthy Leadr.
_____	2	27	EHL 1 Emotionally Unhealthy Leader
_____	3	February 3	EHL 2 Face Your Shadow
_____	4	Mardi Gras 10	NO CLASS
_____	5	17	EHL 3 Lead Out of Your Marriage/Singleness
_____	6	24	EHL 4 Slow Down for Loving Union
_____	7	March 2	EHL 5 Practice Sabbath Delight
_____	8	9	EHL 6 Planning and Decision Making
_____	9	16	Spring Break Restoration
_____	10	23	EHL 7 Culture and Team Building
_____	11	30	EHL 8 Power and Wise Boundaries
_____	12	April 6	EHL 9 Endings and New Beginnings
_____	13	13	Afterward Implementing EHS in Your Church
_____	14	20	Last Thoughts
_____	15	27	Wrap-up All Things DUE (MEAL!!!)

Bibliography

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

Buchanan, Mark. *The Holy Wild: Trusting in the Character of God*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.

Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2000.

Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah Books, 2010.