



NEW ORLEANS

BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

SPIRITUAL FORMATION - DISC 5171
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Theological and Historical Studies
Spring 2017

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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

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is **characteristic excellence**. We want everything we do to be characterized by offering the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The course will specifically address the following curriculum competencies:

Theological and Historical Heritage – apply theology to everyday life

Disciple Making – develop devotional strategies to model Christ-like behavior

Servant Leadership – use the people from our past to model servant leadership

Spiritual and Character Formation – model Christian character in relating to those in the Baptist family with whom we disagree

Biblical Exposition – demonstrate the biblical foundation of spiritual disciplines

Worship Leadership – examine the variety of prayer styles and practices

Course Description

This course is designed to foster personal spiritual growth through an introduction to spiritual disciplines and participation in a student discipleship group led by a mentoring professor. The course is also designed to prepare students to lead discipleship groups and a discipleship ministry in the local Church.

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.
 - Have an appropriate perception as how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbooks

Buchanan, Mark. *The Holy Wild*. Grand Rapids, MI: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.
[Available also as an e-book].

Bullock, Harold. Randal Lanthripe, ed. *Seven Weeks of Wisdom*. Fort Worth, TX: Golden Oak Publishers, 2005. Available only at www.lifeshapingresources.com under "Books."

Course Teaching Methodology

Sessions will always include discussion of reading assignments and prayer times. Additional elements may include things like small group worship, accountability questions, and discussion of issues raised in personal journaling.

Course Requirements

- A. Complete reading of the textbooks (as required by the professor).
- B. Contribute to discussions.
- C. Lead at least one of the discussion times.
- D. Attend or listen to Greer-Heard event, **February 25, 2017**.
- E. Write a 1-3 page self assessment of your spiritual journey this semester. Include victories and struggles as appropriate. Only the professor will see your assessment.

NOTE: Because this is a Pass/Fail course, attendance and participation will be extremely important.

Evaluation of Grade

This experience is a pass/fail course. Grades will be determined by participation in the sessions *and the self assessment of your own personal, spiritual journey*. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

Typical Session

Sessions will always include discussion of reading assignments and prayer times. Additional elements may include things like small group worship, accountability questions, and discussion of issues raised in personal journaling.

Cellular Phones

The instructor requests that all phones be turned off or adjusted so as not to disturb the class. If you can wait until after class to attend to calls and pages, that would be greatly appreciated. Students are also asked to refrain from text messaging, tweeting and checking Facebook during class.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Emergency Plan

In case of hurricane or any other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. The administration will communicate information that relates to the seminary: the nature of the emergency, instructions for responses, evacuation, contingency plans, duration of the emergency, and plans to return to campus and/or resume the schedule.

In addition, check Blackboard for instructions related to this class. Because this class is available on Blackboard, there should be minimal disruption unless the emergency affects electrical power and connection to the Internet.

In any emergency, communication is important, and our best means of staying connected is through the seminary’s web site and Blackboard.

Discussion Facilitators

Lectures and class discussions generally will adhere to this schedule, but the pace may vary.

Dates	Subject	Discussion Facilitator
Jan. 24	Introductions and Overview	Dr. Harsch
Jan. 31	<i>Holy Wild</i> , Preface, Chapters 1-2	
Feb. 7	<i>Holy Wild</i> , Chapters 3-4	
Feb. 14	<i>Holy Wild</i> , Chapters 5-6	
Feb. 21	<i>Holy Wild</i> , Chapters 7-8	
Feb. 28	Mardi Gras – No Class	
Mar. 7	<i>Holy Wild</i> , Chapters 9-10	
Mar. 14	Spring Break – No Class	
Mar. 21	<i>Holy Wild</i> , Chapters 11-12, Epilogue	
Mar. 28	<i>Wisdom</i> , Chapter 1	
Apr. 4	<i>Wisdom</i> , Chapters 2-3	
Apr. 11	<i>Wisdom</i> , Chapter 4	
Apr. 18	<i>Wisdom</i> , Chapter 5	
Apr. 25	<i>Wisdom</i> , Chapter 6	
May 2	<i>Wisdom</i> , Chapter 7	

Selected Bibliography

- Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness* (25th Anniversary ed.). Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2003.
- Buchanan, Mark. *The Holy Wild*. Grand Rapids, MI: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.
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- Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. New York, NY: Harper & Row, 1998.
- _____. *The Freedom of Simplicity*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 1998.
- Gurnall, William. *The Christian in Complete Armour, Volume 1, 2, & 3*. Carlsle, Pennsylvania: Banner of Truth, 1994.
- Hulbert, Darren: *The Whole Purpose of God* (order directly from the website www.thewholepurposeofgod.com).
- Lewis, Clive Staples. *The Screwtape Letters*. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2001.
- One Year Bible: The Entire* [version] *Arranged in 365 Daily Readings*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers
- Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishers, 2001.
- _____. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*, Expanded Edition, Zondervan Publishers, 2002.
- Peterson, Eugene H. *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*, 20th Anniversary Edition. Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of A Christian Hedonist*. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2003.
- Spurgeon, C.H. *At the Master's Feet*. Compiled by Audie G. Lewis. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishers, 2005.
- Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God (with study guide)*. Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, Inc., 1993.
- Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. New York, New York: HarperCollins, 1998.