



Spiritual Formation 2 DISC5171
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministry
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. 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.

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 curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Disciple Making, Servant Leadership, and Spiritual and Character Formation.

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. It will include specific assignments from a variety of Christian devotional practices. This course is designed to be taken the Spring semester immediately following DISC5170.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. deepen their understanding of the history and variety of practices of spiritual disciplines;
2. demonstrate the desire for a meaningful and maturing relationship with God;
3. experience the reality and value of Christian community in a small group setting;
4. further develop their personal commitment to basic devotional practices through the daily choices and selected training exercises;

5. display their ability to lead a small, discipleship group using basic principles demonstrated and practiced in the group meetings.

Course Teaching Methodology

Methodology will include reading/reflection on the text through participation in class/group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment, 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

Wilhoit, James C. *Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Course Requirements

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule (above) for reading the textbook and to be able to participate in a group discussion each week, assuming leadership for the group discussions at least once during the semester. Each week, EACH STUDENT will submit discussion questions for use in class concerning the assigned chapter. The questions will be submitted on the Blackboard Discussion Forum for the assigned chapter that week. At least one question should be submitted by each student concerning the content of each chapter. Also, at least ONE question should be submitted related to the application of the chapter to life situations. Questions should be submitted to the Discussion Board by Tuesday at 5:00 PM before the class period in which the chapter will be discussed. Class members will each have an opportunity to lead class sessions and are responsible guiding the discussion. A possible option, although not required, is printing off the questions and distributing them to class members. Students may also add additional questions for the week they lead the class discussion. Should a student fail to submit questions by the required date and time, then the student should bring a one page essay related to some portion of the chapter and share thoughts from it in class. If the essay is not brought to class then the next week a 2 page essay on the following week's chapter should be prepared and brought to that class and shared.

2. Scripture Memory- By Feb. 1 submit a list of 10 Scripture portions that you will memorize during the semester. The first verse/s will need to be memorized by Feb. 8. Have one portion memorized for each class session. List your verses by the date of the first 10 class meetings between including and following Feb. 8. Your list should include the full text of the verse/s and indicate what Bible version you are using. You will be asked to recite your verses during class and will be expected to be able to recite all portions at the to last class meeting. Emphasize Scripture dealing with spiritual growth, spiritual disciplines, and our relationship with the Lord and with others.

3. Spiritual Retreat- Plan and execute a one day spiritual retreat for yourself. It must consist of at least four hours of uninterrupted time away from your home, office, church, or place of employment. At least one week prior to your retreat submit a brief outline of what you intend to do during this time. The retreat must be completed by the end of the Spring Break. Be prepared to discuss your retreat on Mar. 22. On Blackboard enter a brief discussion of the spiritual retreat on the Blackboard discussion forum before class on Mar. 22. If the retreat is not completed by the Monday after fall break then the retreat will need to be 8 hours in length.

Students are required to attend class. **If an emergency prevents attendance please e-mail or call the instructor prior to class**, if feasible.

NOTE: All assignments are due at the beginning of the class period unless otherwise noted. Late assignments will negatively impact grades. **Assignments turned in late will receive an automatic 15 point deduction. There will be an additional 10 point deduction** for each additional weekday the assignment is late.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

Evaluation of Grade

This experience is a pass/fail course. The final grade decision will be made by the professor. Failure to meet the requirements can lead to failure.

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.

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes. No more than three hours of classroom time can be missed. Any absence over that amount will result in a failing grade. In the event that the normal NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event or epidemic go to the seminary website for information. Our class will continue through our Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the Blackboard site in the event one or more of our classes is cancelled.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is responsible for the academic integrity of his/her work. The following are examples of violations of academic integrity: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, turning in work done by someone else, and submitting a paper which has been submitted in another class. These and other violations of academic integrity may result in failure of the course.

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.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Week 1, Jan. 25	Course Introduction
Week 2, Feb. 1	Chap. 1
Week 3, Feb. 8	Chap. 2
Week 4, Feb. 15	Chap. 3
Week 5, Feb. 22	Chap. 4
Week 6, Mar. 1	Chap. 5
Week 7, Mar. 8	Chap. 6, pp. 114-131
Week 8, Mar. 22	Spiritual Retreat Discussions and Reflections on Chaps. 1-5
Week 9, Mar. 29	Chap. 6, pp. 131-146
Week 10, Apr. 5	Chap. 7
Week 11, Apr. 12	Chap. 8
Week 12, Apr. 19	Chap. 9
Week 13, Apr. 26	Chap. 10
Week 14, May 3	Scripture Memory Assessment, conclusion and wrap-up discussion, reflection papers

Selected Bibliography

Discipleship Bibliography

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