



DISC5170-03 Spiritual Formation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spring 2019

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

Tuesday, 2:00-2:50
Sellers Conference Room, 2nd Floor

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

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2018-2019 is Doctrinal Integrity. 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."

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 with 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.

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

The Life You Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People (expanded ed. if possible).
 Ortberg, John. Philadelphia: Running Press Book Publishers, 2004.
ISBN-10: 0762418737 **ISBN-13:** 9780762418732

Course Requirements

1. Participate in all class discussions and meetings.
2. Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also leading at least one class discussion of an assigned chapter.
3. The learner will contract to engage in one of the following options by Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019.
 - 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: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2019.
 - 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 Semester Summation 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: Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2019.
 - 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 many 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 August and continuing throughout the semester. The partner should be identified and enlisted *no later than Feb. 5, 2019* and be available to the student through the week of Tuesday, April 30, 2019. The learner will provide a typed statement identifying and qualifying the accountability partner for the professor on May 7, 2019. A brief summation page of outcomes is due at the end of the semester.

DUE DATE: Tuesday, May 7, 2019.
4. As the culminating experience for this semester, the learner will design and prepare a 3 page, double-spaced, 1st-person integration paper. The paper should allow the student opportunity to integrate life experiences during this season, 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: Tuesday, May 7, 2019.

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

- Journal/Research/Mentor 35 %
- Discussion session leadership 20 %
- Class participation 15 %
- Reflection Paper 30 %

Absences and Late Assignments

In accordance with seminary policy, a student will automatically fail the course if he or she incurs more than **three absences**. The student handbook should be consulted regarding further information about seminary policies for absences.

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.

Course Presentation Schedule

<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Week</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Chapter Title</u>
DF	1	Jan. 22		Sparkplugs – Wires – Ignition
DF	2	29		LAW Pref & 1 We Shall Morph Indeed
	3	Feb. 5	LAW 2	Surprised by Change
	4	12	LAW 3	Training vs. Trying
	5	19	LAW 4	A “Dee-Dah Day”
	6	26	LAW 5	An Unhurried Life
		5		Mardi Gras
	7	March 12	LAW 6	Interrupting Heaven
		19		Spring Break
	8	26	LAW 7	Appropriate Smallness
	10	April 2	LAW 8	Life Beyond Regret
	11	9	LAW 9	The Guided Life
	12	16	LAW 10	A Life of Freedom
	13	23	LAW 11	An Undivided Life
	14	30	LAW 12	Life with a Well-ordered Heart
DF	16	May 7		Semester Summation: A Look Back... (all assignments due)

Selected Bibliography

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- Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Colorado Spring: Waterbrook Press, 2001.
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- DeMoss, Nancy Leigh. *Brokenness: The Heart God Revives*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.
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- _____. *Surrender: The Heart God Controls*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.
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- Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Spring: Multnomah, 2010.
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