



DISC5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Discipleship and Ministry Leadership Division
Spring 2019
Wednesday 9:00-9:50am (HSC 207)

David Odom, PhD

Associate Professor of Student Ministry
Director of Youth Ministry Institute

dodom@nobts.edu
504.816.8103
HSC 217

Maci Duncan, BS

Administrative Assistant

ymi@nobts.edu
504.816.8107

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 the course is to equip the seminary student to be an effective youth minister in the local church, creating environments which partner with families in discipleship of students.

Our Core Values

The seminary has five core values. The focal core value 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. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

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 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.

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 in 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

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

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

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

Be able to, with 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

Course Requirements

Required Textbook:

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1998.

Supplemental Textbook:

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading/reflection on texts, discussion, journaling, and individual learning assignments.

Format

This course is taught on campus in the classroom.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Reading Assignments: (10%)

See Course Schedule for Due Dates

All reading assignments should be completed prior to the deadline so you can actively engage and process all class materials. The assigned reading for each unit appears in the “Course Schedule” section of the syllabus. Reading is extremely important as the content covered in this class is based on the required reading, and shows the level to which you are grasping and applying the course content.

2. Class Attendance/Participation (10%)

Due: Weekly

Each student is expected to participate fully throughout the course. Each student begins with a grade of 100. The class participation grade will be reduced one point for each tardy and two points for absence. Participation in class discussions will also be evaluated by the professor. The professor will record attendance each class period.

3. Discussion Facilitation (20%)

See Course Schedule for Due Dates

Each student will lead at least two class discussions of an assigned chapter.

4. Journaling (20%)

Due: Weekly

Each student will keep a journal of the spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal. The journal is to be your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The professor will provide guiding questions and thought-provoking topics for reflection. The student will journal 4 times a week with a paragraph (3-5 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor, but will be checked for completion.

5. Scripture Memory (10%)

See Course Schedule for Due Dates

Each student will memorize and recite specific scripture passages.

6. Reflection Paper (30%)

Due: May 1

Each student will write a 3-5 page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The reflection paper is a first-person synopsis of personal spiritual formation and the discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines. The student will write about perceptions of meeting in small groups for Christian community and the role of spiritual disciplines/devotional practices such as journaling, scripture memorization, and prayer.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade (pass/fail) will be computed as follows:

Reading Assignments	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Discussion Facilitation	20%
Journaling	20%
Scripture Memory	10%
Reflection Paper	30%

Course Policies

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.

Turn off or silence mobile 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.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Assignments are due before midnight on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized an initial 10 percent penalty and one percent for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Submit all assignments electronically on Blackboard. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

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.

Style and Formatting

All assignments are to be typed, double-spaced with a 12-point font, Times New Roman, with 1-inch margins. Include your name, date of submission, and the assignment title on the cover page.

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 helps and guidelines.

In addition, the website Grammarly (www.grammarly.com) will help you become a better writer. Eazypaper (www.eazypaper.com) will help you automatically format your sources. Moreover, the YMI resource page (www.youthministryinstitute.org) has several helpful links, including a video to help you create page numbers in Microsoft Word.

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
DISC5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

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/studentervices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

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, 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 request for help with the site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.) BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard System. For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#). ITCSupport@nobts.edu - for general technical questions/support requests. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate 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.

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.

Special Needs

If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please email me to discuss any modifications you may need.

Withdrawal from the Course

DISC5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

Page 5

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published on the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure you will not receive a final grade of “F” in the course if you choose not to engage in the online class once you are enrolled.

Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation

For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1
- WWL Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- www.nobts.edu

Mandatory Evacuation

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. If the Mayor of New Orleans or the President of NOBTS recommends that you leave the city, then do so. If a mandatory evacuation is called, everyone except emergency personnel must leave. Staying on campus is not an option. See the *Student Handbook* for further information regarding hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and shelter.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service

Once you have established a SelfServe account, you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

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/student-services, 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	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com

NOBTS news			
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/student-services/counseling-services.html
Women's Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



TWITTER.COM/NOBTS INSTAGRAM.COM/NOBTS FACEBOOK.COM/NOBTS

DISC5170 Introduction to Spiritual Formation

Course Schedule

Due Date	Reading	Discussion Leader
1/23	Review Syllabus Course Overview	Odom
1/30	Foster, ch. 1	Odom
2/6	Foster, ch. 2	
2/13	Foster, ch. 3	
2/20	Foster, ch. 4	
2/27	Foster, ch. 5	
3/6	Foster, ch. 6	
3/13	Foster, ch. 7	
3/20	Spring Break (no class)	
3/27	Foster, ch. 8	
4/3	Foster, ch. 9	
4/10	Foster, ch. 10	
4/17	Foster, ch. 11	
4/24	Foster, ch. 12	
5/1	Foster, ch. 13	Reflection Paper Due Journal Check