

Spiritual Formation 1

DISC5170-0084

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

M.Div. Korean Program

Fall 2014

7:45-8:35AM, Monday

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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 the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological training for students in the area of spiritual and character formation with the primary emphasis on the student's personal faith development through the practice of spiritual disciplines.

Core Value Focus

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary curriculum is guided by seven basic competencies: biblical exposition, Christian theological heritage, disciple making, interpersonal skills, servant leadership, spiritual and character formation, and worship leadership.

This course will emphasize the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical Exposition:* To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately in regard to spiritual disciplines and their role in the process of spiritual formation.
2. *Disciple Making:* To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth and develop skills in leading discipleship groups and understand the connection between being a disciple and making disciples.
3. *Servant Leadership:* To serve churches effectively through team ministry and understand servant leadership as an essential part of being a fully devoted follower of Christ.
4. *Interpersonal Skills:* To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication, and conflict management and view interpersonal skills as a vital aspect of evidence of spiritual formation.
5. *Spiritual and Character Formation:* To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion. As a ministry leader, intentionally engage in the process of growing in relationship with God and becoming conformed to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Course Description

This is the first of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet an hour weekly for accountability, mentoring, and spiritual formation. It will include specific assignments in the selected Christian devotional classics. ***This is a course to be taken during a student's first semester.*** Students registered for DISC5170 should register for DISC5171 (Spiritual Formation 2) ***with the same professor, at the same time, in the semester following DISC5170.***

Learning Objectives

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.
 - The variety of Christian devotional practices or disciplines.
2. Have a positive response to the following concepts:
 - A life-long intentional devotional discipline for life-long 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

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in accordance with the course assignments.

Required Text

Iorg, Jeff. *The Character of Leadership*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002. (ISBN: 0-310-24695-4), 제프 이오그, *성공하는 리더의 9가지 성품*. 서진영 역

Iorg, Jeff. *Live Life a Missionary*. 선교사처럼 살라. 토기장이

The Bible, a word-for-word translation such as NKJV, NASB, ESV, or others, not a paraphrase.

Optional Textbooks

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: Touchstone, 1995.

Hull, Robert W. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness* (25th Anniversary ed.). Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2003.

Morley, Patrick. *The Man in the Mirror*. You may want to visit <http://www.maninthemirror.org> for additional resources and readings

George, Timothy and Alister McGrath, eds. *For All the Saints: Evangelical Theology and Christian Spirituality*. Louisville: John Knox Press, 2003.

Iorg, Jeff. 부르심. 요단, 2011.

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

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study

The topics of study that will be covered in the course are as follows: prayer, meditation, Scripture reading, holiness, simplicity, the work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, service, witnessing, fasting, and disciple-making.

Teaching Method

This course methodology will include reading/reflection on a text in the field through participation in class/group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercises of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment and enlistment of, as well as time spent with an accountability partner; reflection and journaling of the spiritual journey; and the use of an integration paper to capture the various exercises, ideas, etc., reflecting on God's involvement in spiritual formation.

Delivery Format

The course will be delivered in the semester-long format.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

The student is expected to complete the course assignments in the three learning domains: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor.

Cognitive Domain of Learning

1. Weekly Textbook Reading Due: Each class session

Students will read the required text in its entirety by following the weekly reading schedule. Completing reading before each class session is intended to improve understanding of course content and enhance discussion participation. ***Students will be asked to indicate reading percentage of the required text at midterm (TBA) and the last class session of the semester (TBA).*** The professor reserves the right to monitor reading through a variety of means, such as class assignments, discussion questions, reading percentage, etc. if students do not seem to be prepared for class.

2. Spiritual Discipline Reading Contract Due: TBA

Students will complete a reading contract of 50 additional pages, focusing on any *one particular spiritual discipline* of his/her individual interest. Those pages can come from texts, chapters of texts, journal articles, online articles, even from page estimates related to audio or visual resources. However, websites, blogs, and other unpublished materials are *excluded*. ***Submit a bibliography of sources with page numbers and reading schedule by TBA.*** Completion of Reading Contract is by **TBA**.

Affective Domain of Learning

3. Spiritual Reflection Journal Due: TBA and TBA

Students will journal his/her spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, etc. throughout the semester. Journaling simply means keeping a record of your experiences and the insights you have gained along the way. The journal is personal to the student and *will not* be viewed by the professor.

At two assigned dates during the semester, the student will bring the spiritual reflection journal to the class session for the purpose of the professor documenting the student's progress. Students will be asked to indicate the total number of journal entries recorded (*a minimum of 5 entries per week*). A student should complete a minimum of thirty (30) entries by March 11 and an additional thirty-five (35) entries between midterm and May 6, equaling a total of 65 entries for the semester. Entries should be completed weekly, not in bulk.

4. Integration Paper Due: **TBA**

Students will prepare a 4-5 page, double-spaced (Times New Roman 12pt font), first-person integration paper. The paper should allow the student opportunity to integrate life experiences during this semester, textbook ideas, spiritual exercises, journal notes, insights from accountability meetings and other class students, prayer journey, and personal interaction that occurs along the way. Note: This paper must be turned in ON TIME in order to earn a passing grade in the course.

Psychomotor Domain of Learning

5. Spiritual Discipline Duration: August - December

Students will experiment with selected disciplines each week beginning the first week of September and continuing throughout the semester. A required discipline during semester is **Bible Reading** and then (**student's choice**); each student may select an additional spiritual discipline of interest. Each student may select a Bible reading schedule in alignment with current devotional readings or a selected discipline or course reading contract, or other interest. Note: Selecting your Bible reading on the same topic as your course reading contract topic and the same as the spiritual discipline you will practice this semester is encouraged so your focus is unified on one topic for all three course assignments. However, this method of selection is not required.

6. Accountability Partner Meetings Duration: Sept. 9 - Dec. 2

Students will discern and enlist an accountability partner who meets the requirements of "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The accountability partner should be at least one step ahead of the student along his/her spiritual journey and should *not* be a spouse or fellow student in this or a similar Spiritual Formation section. The student will meet with the accountability partner for **at least 30 minutes a week** beginning the first week of February and continuing throughout the semester. The student should reserve one page per week in his/her journal to debrief the weekly accountability meeting. The accountability partner should be identified and enlisted **before** student arrives for class session, August 26 and be available to the student through the week of Dec. 9. The student should provide the professor *a written statement* identifying the accountability partner, title, relationship, and **a tentative schedule of meeting times for the semester**, etc. no later than Sept. 9 class session.

7. Leading Class Session Due: **Assigned by professor**

Students are expected to contribute to class discussions of the spiritual formation group and be prepared to discuss the assigned reading for the class period as well as **assuming leadership for the group discussion at least once during the semester**. In addition to leading a class discussion,

students will *pray for their classmates weekly* and volunteer to *lead the class in prayer* at least once during the semester.

8. *Class Participation* Due: **Each class session**

Students are expected to participate fully 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 to share requests, report answers/updates, and be available to the Holy Spirit to speak words of encouragement, instruction, challenge or rebuke into the lives of their peers. Participation is required for every class session due to the interactive learning and discussion format of the course. This portion of the course grade will be evaluated by the professor with regard to attendance, meaningful participation, and evidence of discussion engagement and spiritual formation. **All students begin with 100 and the class participation grade will be reduced 5 points for each absence and/or when students fail to contribute to the class discussion** or adhere to the NOBTS Student Handbook policies.

Course Policies

Spiritual Formation Group Covenant

- We will pray for one another on a regular basis.
- We will make prayer a priority.
- We will keep in confidence what is said in the class sessions.
- We will commit to majoring on listening and understanding rather than judging and giving advice.
- We will make a diligent effort to share openly and honestly.
- We will prepare for each class meeting conscientiously by reading chapters and analyzing content.
- We will work toward agreement regarding the practice of a basic level of spiritual disciplines for which we will be accountable to one another.

Assignment Submission

All assignments are to be submitted by the designated due date. Assignments not submitted *by the designated due date* are considered *late* and late assignments will incur ***an initial 10-point penalty*** and ***accumulate a one-point penalty for each additional day***. Late assignments are due no later than the final day of class, *no exceptions*. ***If all course assignments are not received by the final day of class, a grade of zero is automatically earned for the missing assignments.*** Assignments should **not** be e-mailed to professors.

Assignment Format

All assignments are to be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and 1-inch margins unless otherwise indicated. Assignment pages should be submitted with a Turabian format cover page that includes name, date of submission and assignment title. A Turabian style guide is available in the NGA library and located on the NOBTS web site <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/Extensions.Old/turabiantutor7thjan08.pdf>.

Academic Integrity

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

***Netiquette:** *Appropriate Online Behavior.* 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.

***Blackboard Discussion Boards will not be used for this course; only class meetings.**

Absences

Class attendance is essential for effective learning. Class periods missed because of late enrollment will be counted as absences. Arriving late to class or leaving class early will count as ½ of an absence. Therefore, two late arrivals or early departures from class are considered the one allowable class session absence. According to the NOBTS Catalog, the maximum number of absences without failure for a 1-hour course meeting bi-weekly is two class sessions. A grade of “F” will be assigned to students who fail to attend class to adhere to the NOBTS graduate attendance policy.

Grading Scale

A	100-93
B	92-85
C	84-77
D	76-70
F	69 and below

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass-fail basis. The professor will prescribe a “P” or “F” for the student’s final grade based upon the student’s satisfactorily completion of the following:

- Textbook Readings
- Spiritual Discipline Reading Contract
- Spiritual Reflection Journal

Integration Paper (must be submitted on time to earn a passing grade)

- Practice of Spiritual Disciplines (Bible reading and student’s choice)
- Accountability Partner Meetings
- Leading Class Session
- Discussion Participation (includes leading one class devotion & prayer)