

DISC5171-65
SPIRITUAL FORMATION 2
Spring 2011 Mondays, 11 AM-1 PM
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministry
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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

Spiritual Vitality

CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED

Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the second of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet for 2 hours bi-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:

- deepen their understanding of the history and variety of practices of spiritual disciplines;
- demonstrate the desire for a meaningful and maturing relationship with God;
- experience the reality and value of Christian community in a small group setting;
- further develop their personal commitment to basic devotional practices through the daily choices and selected training exercises;
- 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 a text in the field through participation in class/group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment and enlistment of, as well as time spent with an accountability partner; 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.

TEXTBOOKS

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*, Expanded Edition.

Piper, John. *Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist*, revised edition. Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2003. ISBN 1-59052-119-6.**

**** Students should make certain they acquire the 2003 updated revision even if they have the earlier edition..**

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will design a well-ordered heart plan of action (see Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*, chapter 12). The plan should address not more than 1-2 Christ-qualities the learner needs/seeks to develop in his/her life and not less than 3 spiritual disciplines that will be exercised to nurture these qualities. **DUE DATE: February 07, 2011.**
 - 1.1. *After feedback from facilitating faculty and group peers*, the learner will implement the plan (see item 1) for a minimum of 2 months, in covenant-community with learners from the Spiritual Formation group.
 - 1.2. The learner 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 faculty. The learner will, however, be held accountable for the fulfillment of this course expectation and will utilize the insights throughout the semester. This journaling is *not* to be considered as one of the spiritual disciplines used as part of the well-ordered heart plan.
2. The learner will identify and enlist an accountability partner who meets the requirements of "full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit." The partner should be at least one step ahead of the learner along spiritual quest and should not be a spouse. The learner will meet with the accountability partner for at least 1 hour a week beginning the week of February 7 and continuing through the first week of May (approximately 12 meetings). The learner will provide a statement identifying said partner for the faculty **on/before February 07, 2011.**
3. The learner will follow the weekly-announced reading plan of the texts, being prepared for classroom presentation/discussion.
4. The learner will contribute to discussions of the discipleship group in the following

ways:

- 4.1. Sharing insights from God through the exercise of the plan of action
- 4.2. Discussing strengths, barriers, challenges to the designed plan of action as implemented
- 4.3. Text dialog, with attention to issues related to the learner's own spiritual quest.
5. The learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double-spaced, 1st-person integration paper. The paper should allow the learner opportunity to reflect on the degree to which transformation has taken place in his/her life in the specific area(s) targeted (see item 1), the victories and challenges of practicing the selected disciplines (see item 1) and other insights pertinent to the spiritual quest that will be shared. **The paper is due: May 02, 2011.**

COURSE EVALUATION

This experience is a pass/fail course. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

Session	Date	Desiring God Reading Due <i>(Reading listed should be done prior to that class meeting for discussion during class)</i>
1	1/24	Course Introduction/Syllabus Review Ortberg, Chapter 12 review
2	2/07	Chapter 1, Epilogue (289-307), Chapter 2, Appendix 5 Well Ordered Heart Plan Due, Accountability Partner Info. Due
3	2/21	Chapter 3
4	3/07	Chapter 4
5	3/21	Chapter 5, Appendix 2
6	4/04	Chapter 6, Chapter 7
7	4/18	Chapter 8, Chapter 9
8	5/2	Chapter 10, Appendix 3 Reaction Paper Due

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