

**NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS – HIALEAH, FL**

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION I  
DISC 5170**

Division of Pastoral Ministries

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Fall Semester (112) Mondays, 11:00 am-12:50 pm

**SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the 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: Spiritual and Character Development**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is the first of 2 semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet two hours by-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 during a student's first Fall semester.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES (OR OBJECTIVES)**

1. The learner will grow in his/her biblical understanding of spiritual maturation (i.e., what is often referred to as 'discipleship' or 'disciple making').
2. The learner will be challenged to develop a strong personal commitment to a discipling lifestyle.
3. The learner will develop skills in leading discipleship groups and consider such groups as part of the discipleship strategy of a local Church ministry.
4. The learner will maintain a daily discipline of Bible Reading.

**COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY (OR METHODS)**

Methodology will include but is not limited to student presentations, sub-group debriefing sessions, faculty dialog, and intense periods of personal preparation through the accountable exercising of spiritual habits, practices, and disciplines.

## TEXTBOOKS

*The Life You Have Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People,*  
Expanded Edition, by John Ortberg

*Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*

By Richard Foster

*A Tale of Three Kings: A Study in Brokenness*

By Gene Edwards

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will read the TEXTBOOKS according to reading schedule and experiment with spiritual disciplines throughout the semester. An entry will be made in Blackboard for each chapter read.
2. The learner will JOURNAL her/his spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, etc., throughout this course. The journal will be the learner's sole property and will NOT be turned in to faculty. The learner will be asked to provide a written statement as to the fulfillment of this course expectation and will utilize the material in the final class project. The journal will be written in a notebook for that sole purpose.
3. The learner will contribute to all DISCUSSIONS and lead a class discussion of one chapter and provide a one page handout for others (as assigned by the professor) on Blackboard.
4. The learner will write and submit via Blackboard to the professor a four-page REFLECTION PAPER including the student's personal evaluation of goals, strengths, and weaknesses with your spiritual journey.  
Due Date: November 28, 2010.
5. The learner will keep the discipline of Bible reading as suggested by guide. (See NOBTS website for specific site of instructions)
6. In a supportive environment of community, learners will have opportunities to PRAY with, and for, one another.

## EVALUATION

This experience is a pass/fail course. Grades will be determined by attendance, participation in the session, completion of agreed upon assignments, and self assessment of your own spiritual journey. The final grade decision will be made by the professor.

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. **Absences:** The maximum number of absences, without failure, are three (3) classroom hours for an one hour course. (see Graduate Catalog, p. 143)
2. **Late Assignments:** All assignments are expected to be turned in on, or before, their due date. Any assignment turned in late will be penalized 5 points for each day it is late.
3. **Meeting Places:** At the discretion of the professor the classes will meet in different places to experience different settings. Professor will email notifications of the meeting places in advance and will provide instructions for arrangements for all to participate.

4. **Hurricane policy:** Announcement will be made through phone message at office number, postings, and through local media as available.
5. **Blackboard:** Every student should register for a Blackboard account. Entry of assignments shall be made using the following format:  
 Lastname\_Name\_Material\_Day\_Month\_Year. (i.e.  
 Lema\_David\_Report1\_12\_Oct\_09). Please do not send any assignments by email.

#### **COURSE SCHEDULE (See Professor's Handout for Details)**

August 29: Introduction-- Class Mtg. 1  
 September 6: Labor Day – NO CLASSES  
 September 12: Class Mtg. 2  
 September 26: Class Mtg. 3  
 October 10: Columbus Day; Class Mtg. 4  
 October 17: Fall Break Begins – NO CLASSES  
 October 24: Class Mtg. 5  
 November 7: Florida Baptist Convention (Tampa) – Class Mtg. 6  
 November 21: Thanksgiving Week – NO CLASSES; Reflection paper due 29th;  
 November 28: Class Mtg. 7  
 December 12: Class Mtg. 8

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