

DISC 5171—SPIRITUAL FORMATION II
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
-Thursday Class-
Spring 2011

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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 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. 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.

TEXTBOOK

Desiring God: Meditations of a Christian Hedonist, revised edition by John Piper (2003); ISBN: 1590521196

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 3**
2. 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.
3. 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 the spiritual quest and should not be a spouse. The learner will meet with the accountability partner weekly.
4. The learner will follow the weekly-announced reading plan of the texts, being prepared for classroom presentation/discussion.
5. The learner will contribute to discussions of the discipleship group in the following ways:
 - Sharing insights from God through the exercise of the plan of action
 - Discussing strengths, barriers, challenges to the designed plan of action as implemented
 - Text dialog, with attention to issues related to the learner's own spiritual quest.
6. 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. **DUE DATE: May 5**

COURSE EVALUATION

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

COURSE READING SCHEDULE

January 27	Piper, 9-52, 308-34
February 3	W.O.H. Action Plan Due
February 10	Piper, 53-76, 335-51
February 17	Piper 77-110
February 24	Piper, 352-69
March 3	Piper, 111-42
March 10	Piper, 143-58
*March 17	Spring Break NOBTS; no class
March 24	Piper, 159-84
*March 31	Spring Break BCF; no class
April 7	Piper, 185-204
April 14	Piper, 205-22
April 21	Piper, 223-52
April 28	Piper, 253-88
May 5	Piper, 289-307 Integration Paper Due
May 12	TBA

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