

## **DISC 5170. SPIRITUAL FORMATION I**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Graceville Center

Fall 2010

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### **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.

### **PASTORAL MINISTRIES DIVISION MISSION STATEMENT**

To prepare leaders by the development of the skills necessary for performing pastoral ministries, primarily within the context of the Church, and to assist churches, organizations, and individuals through the engagement of spiritual disciplines and spiritual gifts.

### **CORE VALUE FOCUS**

Spiritual Vitality

### **CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED**

Spiritual and Character Development

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This is the first of 2 semester-long, pass/fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The journey will include elements such as accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation with the help of others. There will be 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**

- The learner will grow in his/her biblical understanding of spiritual maturation (what is referred to as discipleship).
- The learner will be challenged to develop a strong personal commitment to a discipling lifestyle.
- The learner will develop skills in leading discipleship groups and consider such groups as a part of the discipleship strategy of a local church ministry.

### **COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGIES**

Methodology will include reading/reflection on a text in the field through participation in discussions; periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment, enlistment, journaling of the journey and the use of an integration paper to capture the various exercises, ideas, etc. and reflect on God's involvement in it all.

## TEXTBOOK

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Grand Rapids: NavPress, 1997. ISBN: 1576830276

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule to read the textbook and participate in a discussion formulate of salient features of the content (information provided the first day of class).
2. The learner will experiment with three specific disciplines drawn from the text in weeks 3-10 of the semester.
3. The learner will journal her/his spiritual journey, reaction to ideas, experiences through exercises, conversations with God, etc. throughout the semester.  
*Please note: The journal will be the learner's sole property and will NOT be turned into faculty. The learner will provide a written statement as to the fulfillment of this course expectation and will utilize the material in the final class project.*
4. The learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double spaced, 1<sup>st</sup> person integration paper. The paper should include the student's insights gleaned during the semester, and how they have impacted and can impact future life and ministry. These insights may be drawn from:
  - assigned text and other reading
  - NOBTS recommended daily Bible reading
  - exercise of various spiritual disciplines
  - journal notes
  - insights from other students, personal prayer journey, and helpful interaction that occurs along the way.

The paper is due on **December 7**

## COURSE EVALUATION

This experience is a pass/fail course. Grades will be determined by participation in the reading discussions, experimentation with various spiritual disciplines, and completion/ submission of the integration paper.

Tentative Course Schedule\*

<u>Date</u>	<u>Text</u>
Aug 24	Introductory matters
Aug 31	chapter 1
Sept 7	chapter 2
Sept 14	chapter 3
Sept 21	chapter 4
Sept 28	chapter 5
Oct 5	chapter 6
Oct 12	chapter 7
Oct 19	<i>Fall Break (NOBTS)</i>
Oct 26	Chapter 8
Nov 2	chapters 9, 10
Nov 9	chapter 11
Nov 16	chapter 12
Nov 23	<i>Thanksgiving Break (BCF)</i>
Nov 30	Chapter 13
Dec 7	Final Paper due

\*Schedule may be adjusted as necessary to complete course objectives