

SPIRITUAL FORMATION/DISC 5170
NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Division of Pastoral Ministries
Orlando Extension
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Mondays 11 a.m.-12:50 p.m.

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: Spiritual and Character Development

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is the first of a 2 semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet 8 times for an hour and fifty minutes 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').
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 a part of the discipleship strategy of a local Church ministry.

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.

TEXTBOOK/S

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

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will read the textbook and experiment with spiritual disciplines throughout the semester.
2. The learner will journal her/his spiritual journey throughout this course.
3. The learner will contribute to all discussions and lead a class discussion of one chapter (as assigned by the professor).
4. The learner will write and submit a two-page reflection paper including the student's personal evaluation of goals, strengths, and weaknesses with her/his spiritual journey.
DUE DATE: December 6, 2010.
5. In a supportive environment of community, learners will have opportunities to pray with and for one another.

COURSE EVALUATION

This experience is a pass/fail course. Grades will be determined by:

1. Reading textbook and experimenting with spiritual disciplines.
2. Completion of spiritual journal.
3. Class participation and assigned session leadership.
4. Reflection paper.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

1. For our group to function well and achieve the course objectives, we must respect one another. This means each member should give the following and expect the following:
 - a. **Respect.** Whether we agree or disagree, we will respect one another.
 - b. **Confidentiality.** Unless permission is explicitly given, what is shared in class will stay in class.
 - c. **Openness.** Each member must be open to sharing her/his feelings once she/he is comfortable with the group.
2. Preparation is minimal but key. Each student should read the assigned material and journal their thoughts throughout the week and bring her/his journal to class so that she/he can have a private account of what she/he felt and thought that week as she/he walked with Christ.
3. The course is offered on a pass/fail basis. Apart from completing the reaction paper and journaling, each student will be graded according to how they prepared for class and how they opened up according to the expectations listed in number 1 above.

Session	Date	Special Topic / Assignment due <i>(Reading listed should be done prior to that class meeting for discussion during class)</i>
1	8/30	Introduction
		Chapter 1: We Shall Morph Indeed: The Hope of Transformation
	9/06	Holiday – Labor Day
2	9/13	Chapter 2: Surprised by Change: The Goal of Spiritual Life
		Chapter 3: Training vs. Trying: The Truth About Spiritual Disciplines
3	9/27	Chapter 4: A “Dee Dah Day”: The Practice of Celebration
		Chapter 5: An Unhurried Life: The Practice of “Slowing”
4	10/11	Chapter 6: Interrupting Heaven: The Practice of Prayer
	10/18	Fall Break for Workshop Week
5	10/25	Chapter 7: “Appropriate Smallness”: The Practice of Servanthood
		Chapter 8: The Life Beyond Regret: The Practice of Confession
6	11/08	Chapter 9: The Guided Life: Receiving Guidance from the Holy Spirit
		Chapter 10: A Life of Freedom: The Practice of Secrecy
	11/22	Thanksgiving Holiday No Class
7	11/29	Chapter 11: An Undivided Life The Practice of Reflection on Scripture Spiritual Journal Check
		Chapter 12: Life with a Well-ordered Heart: Developing Your Own “Rule of Life” Reaction Paper Due
8	12/06	Chapter 13: A Life of Endurance: The Experience of Suffering Last Class

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