

DISC 5170 SPIRITUAL FORMATION 1
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Pensacola Center

Fall 2012

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Mondays 10:30 am – 11:50 am

Class Meeting Dates: 8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/26, 12/3

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

Servant Leadership

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

1. The learner will grow in his/her biblical understanding of spiritual maturation (what is 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 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.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

In order to provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion and in order to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for discipleship, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Comprehend the following concepts:
 - The marks of a disciple as something beyond the point of salvation.
 - Effective methods of becoming a disciple and of making disciples.
 - The relationship between spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines.
 - Christian devotional practices or disciplines.
2. Have a positive response to the following concepts:
 - A life-long intentional devotional discipline for lifelong spiritual growth and benefit to the kingdom of God.
 - A meaningful and maturing relationship with God.
 - Christian community in a small group setting.
 - A personal commitment to basic devotional practices.
3. Be able to, with the help of resources, accomplish the following tasks:
 - Develop a plan for personal discipleship and assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan.
 - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.
4. Have an appropriate perception as how to lead small discipleship groups.

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 selected disciplines (from a list provided by Dr. Gilliland) 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. The journal will be the learner's sole property and will NOT be turned into faculty. The learner will be asked to provide a written (email) 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, 1st person integration paper. The paper should allow the students opportunity to integrate life experiences during this season, text ideas, spiritual exercises, journal notes, insights from other class students, prayer journey, and personal interaction that occurs along the way.
*The paper is due December 3, 2012.

COURSE EVALUATION

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

TEXTBOOK

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, By Donald Whitney
(Provided by the professor the first day of class)

Fall 2012 Semester Schedule

Date	Spiritual Discipline Topic	Facilitator
AUG 27	Overview / Godliness	RAG
SEP 10	Bible Intake 1 & 2	RAG
SEP 24	Prayer & Worship	RAG
OCT 8	Evangelism	RAG
OCT 22	Serving & Stewardship	RAG
NOV 5	Fasting & Silence/Solitude	RAG
NOV 26	Journaling & Learning	RAG
DEC 3	Final Exam Project Due	RAG

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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