

**DISC 5170**  
**SPIRITUAL FORMATION 1**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Graceville Extension Center  
Fall 2010/2011  
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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**

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.

## TEXTBOOK

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

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule to read the textbook and participate in a discussion formulated of salient features of the content. The learner will also follow the daily Bible reading as assigned in the Bible reading plan. (Given the first day of class.)
2. Students will present an idea to the professor concerning a short-term experiential project in a selected spiritual discipline and present an oral report to the class concerning your experience on **December 6**.
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. The learner will also give in this email statement the percent of Bible reading which was completed.
4. The learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double spaced, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 **November 29, 2009**.

## COURSE EVALUATION

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

## Class Schedule

August 30	Syllabus and Class Introduction, Homework: Read pp.15-24; 27-39
September 13	Discuss ch. 1 "Spiritual Disciplines for the Purpose of Godliness," Discuss ch.2 "Biblical Intake (Pt.1)," Homework: Read pp. 41-64; 65-83
September 27	Discuss ch.3 "Bible Intake (Pt. 2)," Discuss ch.4 "Prayer," Homework: Read pp. 85-97; Read pp. 99-114
October 11	Discuss ch. 5 "Worship," Discuss ch. 6 "Evangelism," Homework: Read pp. 115-129; 131-157
October 25	Discuss ch.7 "Serving," Discuss ch.8 "Stewardship," Homework: Read 159-180; 181-203
November 8	Discuss ch.9 "Fasting," Discuss ch. 10 "Silence and Solitude," Homework: Read pp. 205-221; 223-234
November 29	Discuss ch. 11 "Journaling" Discuss ch. 12 "Learning" Homework: Read pp. 235-249 Integration Papers Due
December 6	Discuss ch. 13 "Perseverance in the Disciplines" Project Reports