



Spiritual Formation 2 DISC5171

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division

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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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to develop Christian leaders who model and mentor others in Christ-like character.

Core Value Focus

The seminary's 2011-2012 core value is Character Excellence. What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The student will interface with the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition*: Scripture reading and study is at the heart of this course.
2. *Effective servant leadership*: Effective servant leaders have an intimate walk with Christ.
3. *Interpersonal relationships*: Students relate to others through mentoring/accountability.
4. *Disciple making*: Disciple-makers must model a true love for God and others.
5. *Spiritual and character formation*: Personal spiritual formation activities are exercised.

Course Description

This course is the second of two semester-long pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation in the company of others.

Learning Objectives

DISC 5171 students should:

1. Be able to apply the following concepts to providing moral leadership and stimulating church health:
 - 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.
 - The variety of Christian devotional practices or disciplines.
2. Value 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.
 - A personal commitment to covenant marriage and personal holiness.
3. Be able to accomplish the following tasks:
 - Develop a plan for their own discipleship and assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan.
 - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.
4. Be ready to lead small discipleship groups.

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002. ISBN: 0-310-24695-4

Willimon, William. *The Pastor's Guide to Personal Spiritual Formation*. Kansas City, MS: Beacon Hill Press, 2005. ISBN: 083-412-209X

Course Teaching Methodology

Methodology will include reading/reflection on a text in the field through participation in group discussions; intense periods of personal spiritual preparation through the accountable exercising of various habits, practices, and disciplines; discernment, enlistment, and 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.; and reflect on God's involvement throughout the journey.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

The student is required to:

1. **Read the textbook** as assigned by the professor and experiment with spiritual disciplines throughout the semester.

2. **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 Christian 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 6, 2012.**
 → After approval from the professor, the learner will **implement the plan for a minimum of 8 weeks**, 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 or classmate. The learner will meet with the accountability partner for at least 30 minutes a week beginning the week of February 6 and continuing through the last week of April. The learner will **provide a statement identifying said partner for the professor on February 6, 2012.**
4. **Contribute to all class discussions**, small group discussions, and **lead a class discussion (30-45 minutes)** of one chapter (as assigned by the professor).
5. **Write and submit a typed three- to five-page** (double-spaced, first-person) **integration paper**. In a final section of the paper, include and explain **at least one major point of impact** that this semester’s course has had on your personal discipleship. In addition, a **statement of completion** concerning item 3 should be included. A cover page is to be used, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder. **DUE DATE: April 30, 2012.**

Course Policies

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 from other students:
 - 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. **Freedom/Openness.** Each member must be open to sharing their feelings once they are 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 their journal to class so that they can have a shareable record of what they felt and thought during that time as they walked with Christ.
3. The course is offered on a **pass/fail** basis. Apart from completing the reflection paper and journaling, each student will be graded according to how they prepared for class and how they conducted themselves according to the expectations listed above.

Course Schedule

Session	Date	Special Topic / Assignment due <i>(Listed reading should be completed PRIOR to the class meeting in order to enhance discussion during the session)</i>
1	1/23	Introduction & Overview
2	2/6	Chapter 1: A Pastor's Approach to Spiritual Formation Chapter 2: The Spiritual Formation of the Pastor: Call and Community Well-Ordered Heart Plan of Action due Accountability Partner statement due
3	2/20	Chapter 3: Living by the Windows of Grace Chapter 4: Foundations for a Life of Prayer
4	3/5	Chapter 5: Ways to Pray: Deepening Intimacy by Spending Time with God Chapter 6: Meditating on Scripture
5	3/19	Chapter 7: The Word Became Text: The Nature of Spiritual Reading Chapter 8: Everyday Ministry: Magnificent Opportunities for Personal Spiritual Growth
6	4/2	Chapter 9: The Pastor and Spiritual Direction Chapter 10: Sabbath Time for Sabbath Workers
7	4/16	Chapter 11: Making Choices: Developing a Personal Rule of Life Chapter 12: Bold Love: Magnetic Attraction for Seekers and Believers

∞	4/30	Integration Paper Due Accountability Meetings Statement due Additional discussion topic: Your Spiritual Life and Physical Exercise Additional discussion topic: Stewardship and Spiritual Breakthrough Additional discussion topic: Internet Etiquette for Spiritual Leaders
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