

DISC5170, SPIRITUAL FORMATION I
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class that will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

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 and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2013-2014 is Doctrinal Integrity. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the "Articles of Religious Belief" and the "Baptist Faith and Message 2000."

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus: We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic 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.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course Description

This course is the first of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The course will include 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 semester.

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 to how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbooks

Tozer, A.W. *The Pursuit of God: The Human Thirst for the Divine, with Study Guide*. Camp Hill, PA: Wing Spread Publishers, 2007.

Muller, George. *The Autobiography of George Muller*. Any edition is acceptable.

Course Requirements

- 1.** Complete all units and participate in all online discussions. Discussions will be based on the weekly reading outlined in the individual units. Your discussion board posts will be graded on your thoughtfulness in engaging the textbooks and related topics. Your responses to your classmates' posts will be graded on your interaction with their statements or questions. Although length is not the primary emphasis of the posts or responses, you should write a sufficient amount to demonstrate adequate thoughtfulness.
- 2.** In Unit 1, each student is to post a personal introduction via the Blog connected to Unit 1. Each student is also to comment on three classmates' introductory blog.
- 3.** Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also facilitating one class discussion of an assigned chapter. Each student will be assigned a unit in which he or she will lead and facilitate the discussion via the discussion board for that specific unit.
- 4.** Keep an electronic journal of your spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal. The journal is to include your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The student is to journal via the Blackboard Journal four times weekly with a paragraph (3-5 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor or other students but only briefly checked for completion. The completed journal is due the final unit of class, Unit 12.
- 5.** Memorize and recite assigned Bible verses according to the specifications in the units. The student is to video himself or herself reciting from memory the assigned Bible verse. The student is then to upload and post the video to the appropriate Blog for that specific verse and unit. The Blogs are categorized according to verse. The verses and units in which they are due are outlined below.
- 6.** The student will interview two ministers and record how they address their own personal devotional life. The student will submit a copy of the interview questions and responses and write three pages minimum, assimilating the interview data and reflecting on the answers. The assignment is due in Unit 11.
- 7.** The student must select an accountability partner, who is the same gender and who can challenge the student spiritually. The student will meet with the accountability partner for a minimum of thirty minutes per week beginning in Unit 3. The student will submit a signed statement in Unit 3 identifying the accountability partner.
- 8.** Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The assignment is due in Unit 12.

Course Evaluation

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis as follows:

Discussion Board Participation	20 %
Discussion Board Unit Leadership	15%
Journal	20%
Scripture Memorization Blogs	15%
Interviews	15 %
Reflection Paper	15 %

Memory Verses

Gal. 2:20	Unit 3
Phil. 3:10	Unit 4
Rom. 12:1-2	Unit 5
Jos. 1:8	Unit 6
Phil. 4:6-7	Unit 7
Heb. 10:24-25	Unit 8
Mt. 28:18-20	Unit 9
Col. 3:17	Unit 10

Course Schedule

- Unit 1 – Reading, Syllabus Review
Personal Profile Post
- Unit 2 – Reading, Discussion Board
- Unit 3 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
Accountability Partner Statement Due
- Unit 4 – Reading, Discussion Board,
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 5 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 6 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 7 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 8 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 9 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 10 – Reading, Discussion Board
Scripture Memorization
- Unit 11 – Reading, Discussion Board
Interview Due
- Unit 12 – Reading, Discussion Board
Journal Due
Reflection Paper Due

Selected Bibliography

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- _____. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.
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