



**DISC 5170 Spiritual Formation I**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Christian Education  
Spring 2017 Online

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**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**

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is 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.

**Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership.

**Course Description**

This course is a pass-fail experience in a faculty led learning context. Students in the course will meet weekly for accountability, mentoring, discussion, and spiritual formation by participating and leading weekly meetings. Students will comprehend a variety of Christian devotional practices by completing specific assignments on basic spiritual disciplines. This course is designed to be taken during a student's first semester. [\*\*See note below.]

**Student Learning Outcomes**

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.

### **Textbook**

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

\*NOTE: The expanded edition is required for this course because of the included study guide for meeting with the assigned mentor on a weekly basis.

### **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. 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 14.

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 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.
7. Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The assignment is due in Unit 13.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

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%
Accountability Statement	15 %
Reflection Paper	15 %

### **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

## **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

Unit 12 – Reading, Discussion Board

Unit 13 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Reflection Paper Due

Unit 14 – Reading, Discussion Board  
Journal Due

## **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 Reminders**

1. Academic misconduct including but not limited to plagiarism, cheating, or unacceptable conduct may result in failure of the course and disciplinary action by the seminary as outlined in the student handbook.
2. Failure of a computer, printer, or other electronic devices used to compose or print class assignments will not be accepted as a reason for late work.
3. Members of the course are expected to treat the professor and each other with respect in their conversation and conduct. If not, appropriate action may be taken based on seminary policies.

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