



Spiritual Formation 2 DISC5171

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

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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.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course supports the five core values emphasized by the seminary.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For the 2014-2015 academic year that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*.

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple-Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual & Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The key competencies addressed in this course are Disciple-Making and Spiritual & Character Formation.

Course Description

This course is the second of two semester-long, pass-fail experiences in a faculty-mentored group. The group will meet 8 times for 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 the semester immediately following DISC5170.

Learning 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 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.
 - A personal commitment to covenant marriage and personal holiness.
 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.
 - Lead small discipleship groups.
 4. Have an appropriate perception as how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbook

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco: HarperCollins, 1998. ISBN: 978-0060628390

Course Requirements

1. **Participate** in all class discussions and meetings.
2. **Read** the assigned textbook **and** additional class material while also **leading at least one class discussion** of an assigned chapter.
3. **Keep a journal** of your spiritual journey throughout the course and complete the assignments given by the professor for the spiritual journal. The journal is to be your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The student is to journal **at least 4 times weekly**. Each journal entry should be a minimum of two paragraphs. The journal should include reflections on spiritual progress, particularly as evidenced through the spiritual plan developed and turned in by the student (see Course Requirement 5). The journal will not be read by the professor but only briefly checked for completion.
4. **Memorize** and recite assigned Bible verses (see Memory Verses).
5. Each student will be required to **submit a six month spiritual plan** (see Ortberg, “The Life You’ve Always Wanted,” page 205). The plan must include four spiritual goals (e.g. Scripture reading and memory, prayer, fasting, solitude, witnessing, etc.) to be put into practice over the course of six months as well as a specific plan for accomplishing the spiritual goals. The plan must include the following:
 - (1) Explain in one paragraph the reason for selecting each specific spiritual goal. Each goal should have one paragraph explaining the reason for selection, for a total of four paragraphs.
 - (2) List the discipline and the plan and steps for beginning or improving the practice of the discipline.
 - (3) Include a summary of what you would like to see happen in your life as a result of improvement in each specific discipline.

The spiritual plan is to be a minimum of two double-spaced pages **due at the second class** meeting.

6. The student must **select an accountability partner**, who is the same gender and who can be described as “full of grace, wisdom, and the Holy Spirit.” The student will **meet with the accountability partner for a minimum of thirty minutes per week** beginning no later than the third week of class. The student will submit a statement **at the second class** identifying the accountability partner.
7. At the conclusion of the course, the student will **meet with the professor** to discuss your spiritual growth during the semester. Meeting times will be scheduled during the last week of classes. The student’s journal and spiritual plan/assessment will be discussed.

Memory Verses

February 9	Titus 3:5
February 23	Proverbs 3:5-6
March 9	John 14:21
March 30	John 15:5
April 13	John 15:7
April 27	Psalms 119:9, 11
May 11	Philippians 2:3-4, 4:8

Course Evaluation

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

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| • Journal | 30 % |
| • Discussion session leadership | 15 % |
| • Class participation | 15 % |
| • Scripture memory | 10 % |
| • Spiritual plan | 30 % |

Course Policies

1. *For our group to function well and achieve the objectives, we must respect one another. This means each member should give 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.
4. In accordance with seminary policy, a student will automatically fail the course if he or she incurs **three** absences. The student handbook should be consulted regarding further information about seminary policies for absences. Late assignments automatically will be penalized a letter grade and may receive additional penalties depending on the amount of time the assignment is late.

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	01/26	Introduction & Overview Chapter 1: <i>The Spiritual Disciplines: Door to Liberation</i>
2	02/9	Chapter 2: <i>Meditation</i> Chapter 3: <i>Prayer</i> 6-Month Spiritual Plan due Accountability Partner statement due
3	02/23	Chapter 4: <i>Fasting</i> Chapter 5: <i>Study</i>
4	03/9	Chapter 6: <i>Simplicity</i> Chapter 7: <i>Solitude</i>
5	03/30	Chapter 8: <i>Submission</i> Chapter 9: <i>Service</i>
6	04/13	Chapter 10: <i>Confession</i> Chapter 11: <i>Worship</i>
7	04/27	Chapter 12: <i>Guidance</i> Chapter 13: <i>Celebration</i>
8	05/11	Personal meetings with Dr. Nichols

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