



Spiritual Formation 1 DISC 5170

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division

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Mondays 10:30 am – 11:50 am

Class Meeting Dates: 8/26, 9/9, 9/23, 10/7, 10/21, 11/4, 11/18, 12/2

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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to incorporate key spiritual disciplines into everyday life, which are outlined in Scripture beginning in 1 Timothy 4:7, allowing the learner to be the best disciple-maker he/she is designed to be.

Core Value Focus

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.

The core value for 2013-2014 is Doctrinal Integrity.

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.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competency:

Spiritual and character formation: The course assignments, teaching, and discussions will assist the learning in developing a long term appreciation for the biblical mandate of the spiritual disciplines as a part of everyday life. Living in and practicing the spiritual disciplines are necessary for a growing and reproducing disciple maker.

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.

Learning Objectives

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.

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 how 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.

Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, By Donald Whitney

*Provided by the professor the first day of class

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study The following Spiritual Disciplines will be discussed during the semester: Bible Intake, Prayer, Worship, Evangelism, Serving, Stewardship, Fasting, Silence, Solitude, Journaling, and Learning.

Teaching Method The teaching method will be primarily in-class, lecture, with discussion based participation. 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.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. The learner will follow a reading schedule to read the textbook and participate in a discussion formulate of salient features of the content (information provided the first day of class).
2. The learner will experiment with selected disciplines
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.
4. The learner will design and prepare a 4-5 page, double spaced, 1st 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 December 2, 2013.

Course Policies

This experience is a pass/fail course. Grades 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. Only one unexcused absence permitted. No final exams will be accepted after 11: AM on December 2, 2013.

Course Schedule

08/26	Overview / Godliness
09/09	Bible Intake 1& 2
09/23	Prayer & Worship
10/07	Evangelism
10/21	Serving & Stewardship
11/04	Fasting & Silence/Solitude
11/18	Journaling & Learning
12/02	Final Exam Due

Selected Bibliography

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