



LEAVELL COLLEGE

AT NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Personal Spiritual Development: LCCF1350-65
(211)**

Fall 2020

Class Dates: 8/31, 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 12/7

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New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students will explore the processes and goals of spiritual formation in the life of a Christian. Students are introduced to the spiritual disciplines and practices of the Christian faith that promote intimacy with God and a Christ-like character. The goal is to foster ongoing personal vitality essential to the Christian life. Major assignments include selecting and practicing a spiritual discipline throughout the semester, with the desire to continue this engagement after the semester. *Prerequisite: None.*

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the conclusion of the semester, the student will:

1. An understanding of the importance of gathering weekly with other believers.
2. A value of spiritual health in themselves and others.
3. A practice of spiritual disciplines throughout the semester.

COURSE TEXTS

The following textbooks are required:

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Special Anniversary Edition. 3rd ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2018.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebrating the Disciplines: A Workbook Journal to Accompany Celebration of Discipline*. New York: HarperCollins, 1992.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014.

A formal, modern English translation of the Holy Bible (ESV, NASB, HCSB, CSB, etc.).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Student Devotion** (5%)

Each student will lead one devotional session prior to the beginning of instructional time. The devotion is to be between 5 to 7 minutes in length and based on a passage of scripture related to the student's chosen spiritual discipline that he or she will practice throughout the semester. The student will be assigned a specific date on which to lead the class devotion.

2. **Required Reading** (20%)

Each student is to read the two required textbooks (Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* and Donald Whitney's *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*) in their entirety. **A Reading Acknowledgement Statement is to be submitted as noted in the Course Outline below.**

3. **Movie Reflection: The Pilgrim's Progress (2019 version)** (10%)

Each student is to watch the 2019 version of *The Pilgrim's Progress* and write a 2- to 3-page (double-spaced) reflection paper on this movie in light of Christian spiritual disciplines and their own personal engagement in the disciplines. Additional details will be given in class.

4. **Practice of a Selected Spiritual Discipline-Reflection Paper** (50%)

Each student will select a spiritual discipline as outlined by either Foster or Whitney and practice that discipline throughout the semester. At the end of the semester, the student is to write a 3- to 4-page reflection paper sharing what was experienced and learned during his or her engagement of the selected discipline.

5. **Celebration of Discipline Journal** (15%)

Each student is responsible for engaging with Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* journal on a weekly basis. The journals will be reviewed by the professor as noted on the *Course Outline* below.

GRADING

Devotional	5%
Required Reading	20%
Movie Reflection	10%
Practice of a Spiritual Discipline	50%
<i>Celebration of Discipline Journal</i>	15%

GRADING SCALE

A: 93 - 100
B: 85 - 92
C: 77 - 84
D: 70 - 76
F: below 70

COURSE OUTLINE

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading Assignments Due	Writing Assignments
1	8/31 Classroom	Introduction to the Course Why Engage in Spiritual Disciplines?	Read: Foster, chapter 1 Whitney, chapter 1	

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading Assignments Due	Writing Assignments
2	9/7- 9/12		Read: Foster, chapters 2 & 5 Whitney, chapters 2, 3, 11	Due on Blackboard by September 12: <i>Selection of Day for Devotion</i>
3	9/14 Classroom	The Inward Disciplines: The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Reading and Studying the Bible</i> The Spiritual Disciplines of <i>Journaling and Learning</i>		Review of Journal During Class
4	9/21-9/26		Foster, chapters 3-4 Whitney, chapters 9 & 12	
5	9/28 Classroom	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Prayer</i> The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Fasting</i>		Review of Journal During Class
6	10/5-10/10		Read: Foster, chapters 6 - 7 Whitney, chapter 10	
7	10/12 Classroom	The Outward Disciplines: The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Simplicity</i> The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Silence and Solitude</i>		Due on Blackboard by October 12: <i>Selection of Spiritual Discipline</i> Review of Journal During Class
8	10/19-10/24	Fall Break		
9	10/26 Classroom	The Spiritual Disciplines of <i>Submission and Service</i>	Read: Foster, chapters 8-9 Whitney, chapter 7	Review of Journal During Class
10	Nov. 2- Nov. 7		Whitney, chapter 6 & 8	
11	Nov. 9 Classroom	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Stewardship</i> The Spiritual Discipline of		Review of Journal During Class

Week	Dates	Topic	Reading Assignments Due	Writing Assignments
		<i>Evangelism</i>		
12	Nov. 16 Classroom	The Corporate Disciplines: The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Confession</i> The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Worship</i>	<u>Read:</u> Foster, chapters 10-11 Whitney, chapter 5	Due on Blackboard by November 22: Movie Reflection Review of Journal During Class
13	11/24-11/28	Thanksgiving Break		
14	Nov. 30-Dec. 5		<u>Read:</u> Foster, chapters 12 - 13	Due on Blackboard by December 5: Reading Acknowledgement Form
15	Dec. 7 Classroom	The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Guidance</i> The Spiritual Discipline of <i>Celebration</i>		Review of Journal During Class
16	Dec. 14			Due on Blackboard by December 14: Spiritual Discipline Reflection Paper

ADDITIONAL COURSE INFORMATION

1. Attendance Policy: Leavell College follows the attendance policy as stated in the Leavell College catalog.
2. Policy for Late Submissions: All late assignments will be penalized five points for the first day and one point per day thereafter, with no assignments being accepted more than two weeks past the due date.
3. Plagiarism Policy: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all Leavell College students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and committing other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction may result in failing the assignment and the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Leavell College for further action.
4. Classroom and Online Decorum: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of the others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times. Electronic devices should be used only for classroom purposes as indicated by the professor.
5. Special Needs: If you need accommodations for a disability, please set up a meeting

with the professor for consideration of any modifications you may need.

6. Emergency Plan: In the event the NOBTS schedule is impacted due to a natural event, go to the seminary's website for pertinent information. Class will continue as scheduled through the Blackboard site. Please note announcements and assignments on the course's Blackboard site.
7. Technical Assistance: For general NOBTS technical help, go to www.NOBTS.edu/itc/

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- . *Life in the Presence of God: Practices for Living in Light of Eternity*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017.
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- Foster, Richard J., and Emilie Griffin, eds. *Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings for Individuals and Groups on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.
- Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. Grand Rapids: MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- . *Soul Keeping: Caring for the Most Important Part of You*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.
- Peterson, Eugene. *Eat This Book: A Conversation in the Art of Spiritual Reading*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2006.
- Smith, James K. A. *On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real-World Spirituality for Restless Hearts*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2019.
- Tozer, A. W. *The Pursuit of God*. Updated edition. Abbotsford, WI: Aneko Press, 2015.
- Whitney, Donald S. *Praying the Bible*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.
- . *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God*. New York: HarperCollins, 1998.
- . *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On the Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2002.

———. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. New York: HarperCollins, 1988.