



DISC 5170 Spiritual Formation I

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Mentoring Track

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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 and its ministries.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values. The core value focus for 2014-2015 is *Spiritual Vitality*. 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

Basic Spiritual Disciplines: 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 Fall semester.

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 growth and assist others to develop a personal growth plan.
 - Practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.

4. Have an appropriate perception as to how to lead mentoring 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. **Introduction:** In Week 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. This is the initial introduction to the mentoring track blackboard shell.

2. **Textbook:** Read the textbook assigned according to the schedule below.

3. **Journaling:** Keep an electronic journal of your spiritual journey throughout the course. The journal is to include your thoughts/reflections about your spiritual journey. The student is to journal via the Blackboard Journal three-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, Week 14.

- 4. Scripture memory:** Memorize and recite assigned Bible verses according semester schedule. 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. The Blogs are categorized according to the assigned verse. The verses and weekly schedule in which they are due are outlined below.
- 5. Mentoring experience:** The student is required to meet with their assigned mentor, who is the same gender and who can challenge the student spiritually. The student will meet for a minimum of an hour per week beginning the first week of the semester. The student will log the weekly meeting times and have their mentor sign-off on the meeting. The mentoring experience log-sheet is submitted online at the end of the semester to the professor.
- 6. Reflection paper:** Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester using Turabian formatting. The reflection paper is a first-person synopsis of the personal spiritual formation during the course of the following: journaling, scripture memorization, and weekly mentor meetings. The assignment is due in Week 14.

Course Evaluation

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

Journal	20%
Introduction/Scripture Memorization Blogs	20%
Reflection Paper	20%
Mentoring Experience	40%

Course Schedule

- Week 1 – Syllabus Review and Introduction
 - Semester overview with mentor
- Week 2 – Reading, Chapter 1
 - Meeting with Mentor
- Week 3 – Reading, Chapter 2
 - Scripture Memorization
 - Meeting with Mentor
- Week 4 – Reading, Chapter 3
 - Scripture Memorization
 - Meeting with Mentor
- Week 5 – Reading, Chapter 4
 - Scripture Memorization

Meeting with Mentor
 Week 6 – Reading, Chapter 5
 Scripture Memorization
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 7 – Reading, Chapter 6
 Scripture Memorization
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 8 – Reading, Chapter 7
 Scripture Memorization
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 9 – Reading, Chapter 8
 Scripture Memorization
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 10 – Reading, Chapter 9
 Scripture Memorization
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 11 – Reading, Chapter 10
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 12 – Reading, Chapter 11
 Journal Due
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 13 - Reading, Chapter 12
 Meeting with Mentor
 Week 14 - Reading, Chapter 13,
 Reflection Paper Due
 Meeting with Mentor

Memory Verses

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

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