



DISC5170 Spiritual Formation

Division of Christian Education

Fall 2016-17

Term 171

Michael D. Wilburn, Th.M.
Director, Orlando Extension Center NOBTS
Christian Education Instructor
Cell: 352-697-5384
Email: orlandocenterdir@nobts.edu

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.

Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course is to challenge students to nurture and develop basic spiritual disciplines that will lead them to consistent Christian character and spiritual growth in the context of relationships.

Our Core Values

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 Core Value Focus for this academic year is *Characteristic Excellence*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following seven areas:

Biblical Exposition: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.

Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

Worship Leadership: To facilitate worship effectively.

This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course Catalog 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 in 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. [**See note below.] Course is available in a mentoring format.

**Students registered for DISC5170 will automatically be registered for DISC5171 with the same professor, at the same time, the following semester, if DISC5171 is required for the student's degree plan.

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 how to lead small discipleship groups.

Textbooks

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1998.

Course Requirements

1. **Class Attendance:** Participate in all class discussions and meetings.
2. **Leadership:** Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also leading at least one class discussion of an assigned chapter.
3. **Journaling:** 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. Also, the professor will provide guiding questions and thought-provoking topics for reflection. The student is to journal 4 times

weekly with a paragraph (3-5 sentences) minimum each entry. The journal will not be read by the professor but only briefly checked for completion.

4. **Scripture Memory:** Memorize and recite on specified dates (weeks) assigned Bible verses.
5. **Reflection Paper:** Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester.

Course Evaluation

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

Journal	35 %
Discussion Session leadership	20 %
Class Attendance/Participation	15 %
Reflection Paper	30 %

Course Policies

Absences: You are permitted a maximum of 2 class session absences in this course. However, class participation in this course is partially based on attendance. You cannot participate if you are absent.

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices may be used in class only for taking notes and other activities assigned by the professor. Other activities are strictly prohibited. Laptops may not be open during presentations unless requested by the presenter. Phones must be silenced during class time. Any student found violating this policy may be asked to leave class and will be counted absent.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus, according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Late Assignments: Only under extreme circumstances, and with prior approval, will a late assignment be accepted. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 10 percent penalty and 1 percent for each day after the due date (i.e. 10/1 points for a 100 point assignment, 3/.3 points for

a 30 point assignment). No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Missed presentations may not be made up.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all 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 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 will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

Professor's Absence or Tardiness: If the professor is late in arriving to class, you must wait a full 20 minutes after the start of class before you may leave without being counted absent, or you must follow any written instructions that may be given to you

Recording Policy: Recordings of class, including any audio and/or video recordings, regardless of the media or format, and regardless of the intended or actual use, are not permitted without prior written permission of the professor. The class will be notified in advance should any such recording be approved. This policy is intended to protect the privacy of the students.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Reading Assignments: Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments as presented in the Course Schedule.

Additional Information

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian

and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/student-services/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.
Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
Respect the professor and other members of the class.
Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.
Participate in class and group discussions.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support request for help with the site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.) BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard System. For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#). ITCSupport@nobts.edu - for general technical questions/support requests. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Course Schedule

			Discussion Leader
Week 1	8/29	Course Overview	Professor
Week 2	9/12	Part I. Chapter 2& 3	Professor
Week 3	9/26	Part I. Chapter 3-5	Student
Week 4	10/10	Part II. Chapter 6 & 7	Student
Week 5	10/24	Part II. Chapter 8 & 9	Student
Week 6	11/7	Part III. Chapter 10 & 11	Student
Week 7	11/28	Part III. Chapter 12 & 13 Reflection Paper Due	Student
Week 8	12/12	Journals Due	Professor

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

Selected Bibliography

Arn, Win, and Charles Arn. *The Master's Plan for Making Disciples*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1998.

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2001.

Blackaby, Henry T. and Claude V. King. *Experiencing God: How to Live the Full Adventure of Knowing and Doing the Will of God*. Nashville, TN: B & H, 1994.

_____. *Hearing God's Voice*. Nashville, TN: B & H, 2002.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. Translated by R. H. Fuller. New York: Macmillan, 1963.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Pursuit of Holiness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1978.

_____. *The Practice of Godliness*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1983.

Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1993.

_____. *The Master Plan of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1987.

Cymbala, Jim. *Break Through Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

_____. *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.

DeMoss, Nancy Leigh. *Brokenness: The Heart God Revives*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.

_____. *Holiness: The Heart God Purifies*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.

_____. *Surrender: The Heart God Controls*. Chicago: Moody, 2005.

Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.

Elliff, Tom. *A Passion for Prayer: Experiencing Deeper Intimacy with God*. Fort Washington, PA: CLC Publications, 2010.

Floyd, Ronnie. *The Power of Prayer and Fasting*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 1997.

_____. *Freedom of Simplicity: Finding Harmony in a Complex World*. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

Foster, Richard J. and James Bryan Smith. *Devotional classics*. Revised and expanded ed. New York: HarperCollins, 2005.

_____. and Gayle D. Beebe. *Longing for God*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2009.

_____. and Emilie Griffin. *Spiritual Classics: Selected Readings on the Twelve Spiritual Disciplines*. New York: HarperCollins, 2000.

Frizzell, Gregory R. *How to Develop a Powerful Prayer Life: The Biblical Path to Holiness and Relationship with God*. Memphis, TN: The Master Design, 1999.

Hall, R. Clyde. *Handbook for Youth Discipleship*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1988.

Hughes, R. Kent. *Disciplines of a Godly Man*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2001.

Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1984.

_____. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.

_____. *The Disciple-Making Pastor*. Revell, 1988.

Idleman, Kyle. *Not a Fan: Becoming a Completely Committed Follower of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011.

MacArthur, John. *The Keys to Spiritual Growth: Unlocking the Riches of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991.

Muller, George. *The Autobiography of George Muller*. New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, 1984.

Murray, Andrew. *Absolute Surrender*. Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1982.

_____. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*.

Ortberg, John. *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Packer, James I. *Knowing God*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1973.

Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: The Challenge of Following Jesus in Today's World*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1993.

Piper, John and Wayne Grudem. *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1991.

Plantinga, Cornelius, Jr. *Not the Way It's Supposed to Be: A Breviary of Sin*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1995.

Platt, David. *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2010.

Stanley, Charles F. *Handle with Prayer: How to Turn the World Around While on Your Knees*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1987.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.

Wilkins, Michael J. *In His Image: Reflecting Christ in Everyday Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1997.

Wright, N. T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1995.

Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/student-services, email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800.662.8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

Need	Email	Phone	Web Page
Advising – Graduate Program	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/student-services/counseling-services.html
Women’s Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



TWITTER.COM/NOBTS INSTAGRAM.COM/NOBTS FACEBOOK.COM/NOBTS