



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

DISC5170-36, 38 Intro.to Spiritual Formation
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Christian Education
Spring 2020, Term 203
CIV from Pensacola to Jacksonville
Monday, 10:30 – 11:50 am CST/ 11:30-12:50 pm EST
Class Dates: 1/27, 2/10, 2/24, 3/9, 3/23, 4/6, 4/20, 5/4

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Mission Statement

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

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. 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. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 3. 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 4. 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. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.
- 5. Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is *Spiritual Vitality*.

Curriculum Competencies

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 areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

This course addresses all curriculum competencies.

Course 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 semester. This course is available in a mentoring format.

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.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading/reflection on texts in the field through participation in class/group discussions; individual study and practice of spiritual disciplines; and reflection and journaling of individual student spiritual journey.

Textbook

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance (15%)

Due: Bi-Weekly

Attend class and participate in all class discussions. In evaluating class involvement, consideration will be given to (1) attendance, (2) class participation, (3) reading accountability, and (4) punctuality.

Leadership (20%)

Due: Per Course Schedule

Read the assigned textbooks and additional class material while also leading at least one class discussion of an assigned chapter.

Journaling (35%)

Due: May 4th

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.

Scripture Memory

Due: Per Schedule Below

Memorize and recite on specified dates (weeks) assigned Bible verses.

Embedded Assignment —Reflection Paper (30%)

Due: April 20th

Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The reflection paper is a first-person synopsis of a personal spiritual formation and discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines. The student should write about their perception of meeting in small groups for Christian community and the personal role of spiritual disciplines/devotional practices such as journaling, scripture memorization, and prayer. The assignment is due at the end of the semester.

Evaluation of Grade

The course is offered on a pass/fail basis. The student's grade will be computed as follows

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

100%

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>	Presenter
1	1/27	Introduction & Overview	Professor
2	2/10	Accountability Partner Statement due Chapter 1: “We Shall Morph Indeed”: <i>The Hope of Transformation</i> Chapter 2: Surprised by Change: <i>The Goal of Spiritual Life</i>	Professor
3	2/24	Chapter 3: Training vs. Trying: <i>The Truth About Spiritual Disciplines</i> Chapter 4: A “Dee Dah Day”: <i>The Practice of Celebration</i>	Student
4	3/9	Chapter 5: An Unhurried Life: <i>The Practice of “Slowing”</i> Chapter 6: Interrupting Heaven: <i>The Practice of Prayer</i>	Student
5	3/23	Chapter 7: “Appropriate Smallness”: <i>The Practice of Servanthood</i> Chapter 8: Life Beyond Regret: <i>The Practice of Confession</i>	Student
6	4/6	Chapter 9: The Guided Life: <i>Receiving Guidance from the Holy Spirit</i> Chapter 10: A Life of Freedom: <i>The Practice of Secrecy</i>	Student
7	4/20	Chapter 11: An Undivided Life: <i>The Practice of Reflection on Scripture</i> Chapter 12: Life with a Well-ordered Heart: <i>Developing Your Own “Rule of Life”</i> Reflection Paper Due	Student
8	5/4	Journal Statement due Accountability Statement of Completion due Chapter 13: A Life of Endurance: <i>The Experience of Suffering</i> Additional discussion topic: <i>Fasting</i> Additional discussion topic: <i>Journaling</i>	Professor

Memory Verses

Gal. 2:20	week 1
Phil. 3:10	week 2
Rom. 12:1-2	week 3
Jos. 1:8	week 4
Phil. 4:6-7	week 5
Heb. 10:24-25	week 6

Mt. 28:18-20
Col. 3:17

week 7
week 8

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style (revised August 2019). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

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/studentervices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

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.

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

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

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

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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.

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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.

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- Hull, Bill. *Jesus Christ Disciplemaker*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1984.
- _____. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
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- MacArthur, John. *The Keys to Spiritual Growth: Unlocking the Riches of God*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1991.
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- _____. *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Springdale, PA: Whitaker House, 1981.
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- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: The Challenge of Following Jesus in Today's World*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1993.
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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 –



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**RUBRIC FOR GRADING A SUMMATIVE PROJECT – REFLECTION PAPER
IN THE COURSE DISC5170: SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Assignment Description:

Write a three-page reflection paper at the end of the semester. The reflection paper is a first-person synopsis of a personal spiritual formation and discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity and spiritual disciplines. The student should write about their perception of meeting in small groups for Christian community and the personal role of spiritual disciplines/devotional practices such as journaling, scripture memorization, and prayer.

Rubric for Grading Reflection Paper

Element	SLOs	Inadequate (1 PT)	BASIC (2PTS)	COMPETENT (3 PTS)	GOOD (4 PTS)	EXCELLENT (5 PTS)	POINTS
UNDERSTANDING	Understand the basic marks of personal spiritual disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.	Shows an inadequate understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.	Shows a minimal understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.	Shows an adequate understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists and explains one or two spiritual disciplines.	Shows a good understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists and explains three spiritual disciplines.	Shows an exemplary understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists and explains four spiritual disciplines.	
APPLICATION	Develop a positive response to lifelong spiritual growth through the practice of spiritual disciplines.	Makes poor application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	Makes minimal application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	Makes one practical applications to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	Makes two applications to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	Makes three practical application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	
COMMUNICATION	Express in writing a personal discipleship plan and lead others in spiritual disciplines within a small group setting.	Used none or an incoherent expression that fails to communicate a plan to help others grow spiritually.	Use of an inconsistent expression that fails to communicate a plan to help others grow spiritually.	Limited expressions that communicate a competent plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.	Used more than one expression that communicate a good plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.	Used two or more expressions that communicate an exemplary plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.	<u>Aver.</u> <u>Score</u>