



DISC5170-65, 37, 30 Introduction to Spiritual Formation
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Discipleship and Ministry Leadership
Fall 2020, Term 211
CIV from Orlando to Tallahassee & Miami
Monday; 1:00 – 2:50 pm
Class Dates: 8/31, 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/26, 11/9, 11/16, 12/7

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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 *Mission Focus*.

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.

Textbooks

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: Special Anniversary Edition: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2018.

Course Requirements

Class Attendance (15%)

Due: Per Course Schedule

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: December 2nd

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: November 18th

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 student's grade will be computed as follows (pass/fail):

Journal	35 %
Discussion Session leadership	20 %
Class Attendance/Participation	15 %
Reflection Paper	<u>30 %</u>
	100 %

Course Schedule

	Class Sessions	Topic	Assignments Due Readings are from Foster Memory Verse <i>Additional topic for journal</i>	Person Leading Class
1	Aug 31	Introduction to Course: What is Spiritual Formation?		Professor
2	Sep 14	The Hope of Transformation The Goal of Spiritual Life	Read Preface & Chapter 1 Gal 2:20 Read Chapter 2	Professor
3	Sep 28	Training vs. Trying	Read Chapter 3 Phil 3:10	Student

	Class Sessions	Topic	Assignments Due Readings are from Foster Memory Verse <i>Additional topic for journal</i>	Person Leading Class
		The Practice of Celebration	Read Chapter 4 Rom 12:1-2	Student
4	Oct 12	The Practice of “Slowing”	Read Chapter 5 Jos 1:8	Student
		The Practice of Prayer	Read Chapter 6 Phil 4:6-7	Student
	Oct 20	<i>Fall Break</i>		
5	Oct 26	<i>Check journals & reading progress</i>	Read Chapter 7 Heb 10:24-25 <i>Bring Spiritual Journal to Class</i> <i>Reading Check Chs.1-7</i>	Student
		The Practice of Servanthood		
6	Nov 9	The Practice of Submission	Read Chapter 8 Mt 28:18-20	Student
		Guidance from Holy Spirit	Read Chapter 9 Col 3:17	Student
7	Nov 16	The Practice of Secrecy	Read Chapter 10	Student
		The Practice of Reflection <i>Check journals</i>	Read Chapter 11 <i>Bring Spiritual Journal to Class</i>	Student
	Nov 24	THANKSGIVING BREAK		
8	Dec 7	Developing Spiritual Disciplines in your own life The Experience of Suffering <i>Check reading progress</i>	Read Chapter 12 Read Chapter 13 <i>Reflection Paper Due</i> <i>Reading Check Chs.8-13</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	week 7
Col. 3:17	week 8

Additional Course Information

Absences, Make-up Work and Academic Policies

As stated in the Graduate Catalog, students may miss a maximum of four classroom hours during the semester for an 8x class. Three late arrivals or early departures to/from class count as one absence. The student will receive an automatic grade of "F" when he/she exceeds four classroom hours absent.

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the online [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

Blackboard: You are responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents and announcements. You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding e-mail address on the Blackboard system and Self-Serve. **Blackboard** will be used to communicate with students, collect assignments and grade coursework.

Assignment Submission

Assignments are due on the date indicated in the “Assignments and Evaluation Criteria” section of the syllabus. Assignments not submitted *via Blackboard by the assigned date* are considered *late* and will incur *an initial 10-point penalty* and *accumulate a one-point penalty for each additional day*. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. *If all course assignments are not received by the final unit, a grade of zero is automatically earned for the missing assignments.* Assignments should **not** be e-mailed to the professor.

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.

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. 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.

Withdrawal from the Course

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published on the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure you will not receive a final grade of “F” in the course if you choose not to engage in the online class once you are enrolled.

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. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

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.

**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:

Element	SLOs	Inadequate (1 PT)	BASIC (2PTS)	COMPETENT (3 PTS)	GOOD (4 PTS)	EXCELLEN T (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. Score</u>

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