DISC 5373
Spiritual Warfare and the Christian Disciple
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries

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Mission Statement
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.

Course Purpose
This course is the fifth in a series of seven [projected] one, two, and three-semester hour courses that address strategic spiritual formation for the follower of Jesus Christ. Current courses include Spiritual Formation 1 and 2, Contemporary Discipleship Models, and Making Disciples through Small Groups. This course continues the themes of identifying, surveying, explaining, experiencing, integrating, valuing, and developing skills in areas that are strategic to the making of disciples of Jesus Christ through the local Church. The focus of attention in this course is the chief barrier to the mission of disciple-making, the work of God’s enemy. A growing awareness of cosmic-level spiritual warfare has emerged in recent years as an important component of evangelical Christian understanding and ministry. This course investigates both theoretical (including scriptural) and practical dimensions of this ancient reality, yet relatively new field of academic exploration. A decidedly evangelical view of the role of the enemy and truth-based approaches to waging spiritual warfare must be discerned and appropriated by future leaders of the Church. This course will seek to balance cognitive discovery with experience.

Core Value Focus
Spiritual Vitality

Curriculum Competencies Addressed
Spiritual and Character formation

Course Description
This course is designed to assist learners in spiritual transformation through an examination of the spiritual warfare faced by followers of Christ. Attention is given to biblical, historical, and contemporary perspectives on spiritual conflict. Emphasis is placed on helping learners discover tools and processes that will prepare them to recognize the enemy’s work and, when necessary, appropriately engage him.
Student Learning Outcomes
Students completing this course should be able to…
1. Recognize major biblical texts and historical perspectives on spiritual warfare.
2. Dialog with leaders who address spiritual conflict as a part of their disciple-making ministries.
3. Explore, experience, and reflect on a system designed to assist in the experience of freedom in Christ.
4. Survey and describe a variety of approaches used by influencing ministries to address spiritual conflict, discerning and discussing the truth of each.
5. Compare and contrast selected resources available for today’s church or ministry addressing spiritual warfare and the experience of freedom in Christ.
6. Discern the role of the enemy in establishing barriers to involvement in witnessing relationships (believers) and movement toward Christ (non-believers).
7. Comprehend and present a synthesis of salient features discovered in reading by engaging each other in critical reflection of presentations.

Course Teaching Methodology (or Methods)
Methodology will include but is not limited to faculty and student presentations, subgroup simulation exercises, dialog on readings, research, interviews, guest presenters, and reflection papers.

Textbooks
Anderson, Neil. Ministering The Steps to Freedom in Christ
Arnold, Clinton E. 3 Crucial Questions about Spiritual Warfare
Murphy, Ed. The Handbook for Spiritual Warfare

Course Requirements
1. Reading Contract. Students will submit a written reading contract as follows:
   • Required texts, plus 200 additional pages A (100)
   • Required texts, plus 150 additional pages B (92)
   • Required texts, plus 100 additional pages C (84)
   • Required texts, plus 50 additional pages D (76)
   • Required texts only F (69)
   DUE DATE: Completed Contract on/before May 5

2. Sub-Group. Students will participate in a class sub-group that explores the topic of spiritual warfare, utilizing selections from the course textbooks.
   DUE DATE: start by Jan 31, end no later than May 5 (scheduled by faculty during class)
3. **Church/Ministry Interview.** Students will identify 2-3 churches and/or ministries that address spiritual warfare as a part of their strategy of spiritual formation, interview key leaders, and provide a summary paper to the class for review and discussion. (These churches/ministries may be local, regional, &/or teaching churches/ministries.) **DUE DATE:** Feb 28

4. **Book Review.** Students will complete a book review of the Murphy text. The review should be 5-7 typed, double-spaced pages using the Turabian style manual. The review must include: a brief synopsis of the message of the text; a review of the author’s purpose and assessment of the degree to which that purpose was achieved; and an identification of both strengths and weaknesses of the book, along with support for the observations made. **DUE DATE:** Mar 14

5. **Annotated Bibliography.** Students will prepare an annotated bibliography of at least 20 resources (books, magazines, web-sites, etc.) that facilitate equipping the people of God for spiritual warfare. The resources should be selected through the filter of a student’s vocational ministry direction (for example, youth pastors should seek to identify resources that address spiritual warfare in the lives of youth). The resources will be reviewed in class and collected/reproduced for all course participants. **DUE DATE:** Apr 4

6. **Evangelism Implications Report.** Students will participate in a sub-group tasked with locating and interviewing 3 evangelists (these may be lay people or local church staff whom the students know to be evangelists or vocational evangelists). The students will seek to discover the evangelist’s perspectives with regards to the work of the enemy (spiritual warfare) in the arena of evangelism. A consensus report will be offered to the class. **DUE DATE:** Apr 4

7. **Personal Retreat/Paper.** Students will complete the ‘Steps to Freedom in Christ’ adult or young adult version, in a personal retreat that the student must schedule after the mid-point of the semester. The retreat should take about a day and care must be taken to select a location that will minimize/eliminate interruptions. Students will prepare a reflection paper of 5-7 pages (first person) reviewing the process, the struggles, appropriately discussing discoveries, and describing follow-through plans. **DUE DATE:** May 2

8. **Class Participation.** Students will participate in all class presentations and discussions.

**Course Evaluation**

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<tr>
<td>1. Reading Contract</td>
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<td>2. Sub-group Participation</td>
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<td>3. Church/Ministry Interview</td>
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<td>4. Book Review</td>
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<td>5. Annotated Bibliography</td>
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<td>6. Evangelism Implications Report</td>
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<td>7. Personal Retreat/Paper</td>
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<td>8. Class Participation</td>
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The professors will use the seminary grading scale as listed in the current Seminary catalog.
NOTES

1) Late work will be accepted only in the event of an emergency. Notification of such an emergency should be made by calling the professor’s office and leaving a message.

2) All work (including reading contracts) is due no later than 5:00pm on the dates listed above. Afterwards, the best possible grade is a C (80). The best possible grade for work submitted after Friday, May 4, 2007, is an F (69).

3) All work is to be typed. Grammar will be considered in the grading of all papers. Papers will be graded based on 80% content and 20% grammar.

4) PROFESSOR AVAILABILITY – The professors are available to all students. Please feel free to email or call for an appointment using the contact information found at the beginning of this syllabus.
Selected Bibliography


Sherman, Dean. *Spiritual Warfare for Every Christian: How to Live in Victory and Retake the

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WEBSITES

[www.ficm.org](http://www.ficm.org) Freedom in Christ Ministries

[www.boblarson.org](http://www.boblarson.org) Bob Larson Ministries