

**Note:**

**Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.**

## ***COURSE SYLLABUS***

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### **DSMN 520**

#### **SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course focuses on the development of the believer's spiritual life. Attention is given to the spiritual disciplines, prayer, and the biblical nature of calling, ministry, character, and the relation of spiritual formation to the doctrine of sanctification.

(Formerly PLED 520)

#### **RATIONALE**

The Spiritual Formation course facilitates the junction of the spiritual with the physical in human existence and integrates the theoretical with the practical in academic pursuits. The exploration of spiritual formation provides the scholar with data for study and the minister with directive for service. Both dimensions are critical and facilitate the renewing of the mind and the discipline of the body.

#### **I. PREREQUISITE**

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

#### **II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE**

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

#### **III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

#### **IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Evaluate the biblical, theological, and practical foundations for spiritual formation.
- B. Assess his/her own personal, spiritual maturity by providing special attention to areas that need improvement in his/her pursuit of sanctification.

- C. Create a plan for maintaining and maturing in his/her practice of the spiritual disciplines.
- D. Analyze the lessons to be learned from praying Scripture.
- E. Evaluate a recent experience of sharing the Gospel.

**V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations

- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion Boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 400 words, and each of 2 replies to other classmates' threads must be at least 250 words. (MLO: A)

- D. Journals (8)

In each module/week of the course, the student is required to write a journal entry on a provided prompt. This prompt encourages the student to (1) reflect on what he/she has learned throughout each module/week of the course and (2) consider how the course content will influence his/her life and ministry formation. (MLO: A, B, C, D)

- E. Spiritual Assessment

The student will complete a 3-part Spiritual Assessment of 1,000–1,250 words. Each part will direct the student toward an assessment of his/her spiritual life in its current form. The student will use the results of this assignment as a basis for the Spiritual Growth Plan assignments. (MLO: B)

- F. Spiritual Growth Plans (2)

The student will create 2 separate (3-Part) Spiritual Growth Plans of 1,000–1,250 words each, using the provided template. Each Spiritual Growth Plan will focus on specific and measurable steps the student will take over the coming weeks to implement/practice chosen spiritual disciplines. The disciplines chosen must purposefully address areas the student has identified as a need based on his/her Spiritual Assessment assignment. (MLO: B, C)

- G. Gospel Fluency Project

During this course, the student is required to share the Gospel at least once with a person who does not self-identify as a Christian. The student will then write a report of at least 1,000 words about the experience, following specific assignment headings. This assignment cannot use a witnessing experience used previously or during EVAN 525. (MLO: C, E)

**VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES****A. Points**

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Journals (8 at 30 pts ea)	240
Spiritual Assessment	100
Spiritual Growth Plans (2 at 120 pts ea)	240
Gospel Fluency Project	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>1010</b>

**B. Scale**

A = 940–1010   A- = 920–939   B+ = 900–919   B = 860–899   B- = 840–859  
 C+ = 820–839   C = 780–819   C- = 760–779   D+ = 740–759   D = 700–739  
 D- = 680–699   F = 0–679

**C. Style Guidelines**

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LUSD Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

**D. Extra Credit**

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

**E. Course Changes**

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

**F. Disability Assistance**

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at [LUOODAS@liberty.edu](mailto:LUOODAS@liberty.edu) to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at [www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport](http://www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport).

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at [equityandcompliance@liberty.edu](mailto:equityandcompliance@liberty.edu). Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

## ***COURSE SCHEDULE***

### **DSMN 520**

Textbooks: Hellerman, *Why we Need the Church to Become More Like Jesus* (2017).  
 Murray, *Humility* (2017).  
 Segal, *Killjoys: The Seven Deadly Sins* (2015).  
 Tozer, *Knowledge of the Holy* (2009).  
 Vandersteldt, *Gospel Fluency* (2017).  
 Whitney, *Praying the Bible* (2015).  
 Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* (2014).

<b>MODULE/ WEEK</b>	<b>READING &amp; STUDY</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<b>1</b>	Tozer: entire book Whitney (2014): ch. 1 4 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions Journal 1	10 0 30
<b>2</b>	Murray: entire book Whitney (2014): chs. 7–8 4 presentations	DB Forum 1 Journal 2	100 30
<b>3</b>	Segal: entire book Whitney (2014): chs. 9–10 6 presentations	Journal 3 Spiritual Assessment	30 100
<b>4</b>	Whitney (2014): chs. 2–3 Book of Romans ( <i>in one sitting</i> ) 4 presentations	DB Forum 2 Journal 4	100 30
<b>5</b>	Whitney (2015): entire book Whitney (2014): chs. 4–5, 11 3 presentations	Journal 5 Spiritual Growth Plan 1	30 120
<b>6</b>	Hellerman: entire book 4 presentations	DB Forum 3 Journal 6	100 30
<b>7</b>	Vandersteldt: chs. 1–6 Whitney (2014): chs. 6–7 4 presentations	Journal 7 Spiritual Growth Plan 2	30 120
<b>8</b>	Vandersteldt: chs. 7–15 Whitney (2014): chs. 12–13 2 presentations	Journal 8 Gospel Fluency Project	30 120
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1010</b>

DB = Discussion Board

**NOTE:** Each course week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.