



# Special Topics in Discipleship: Disciplemaking through Small Groups DISC 6292

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Christian Education Division  
October 21-23, 2015

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*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.*

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### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to provide the student an opportunity for attendance in conferences, seminars, professional meetings, and other types of short term events and gain academic credit for participation.

### **Core Value Focus**

*Doctrinal Integrity* – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

*Spiritual Vitality* – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary 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.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2015-2016 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

## **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition*: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately, specifically as Scripture relates to the purpose and viability of small groups in the context of the local church.
2. *Theological and historical perspective*: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage as it relates to the history of small groups.
3. *Effective servant leadership*: To analyze the servant perspective through interrelationships among the leaders of small groups and the church as a whole.
4. *Interpersonal relationships*: To examine the critical elements of effective small group practices that develop and enhance interpersonal relationship skills among small groups.
5. *Disciple making*: To examine how local church small group ministry responds to the biblical mandate of the Great Commission.
6. *Spiritual and character formation*: To provide moral leadership for small groups by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

## **Course Description**

The purpose of this course is to expose you to a variety of topics specific to Disciplemaking through Small Groups. You will attend the Xcelerate Discipleship Conference in New Orleans, LA on October 22-23, 2015. The conference is a Christian Education Ministries sponsored event on the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and exists to equip believers in Christ for disciple making through small groups.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

In order to serve churches effectively through Christian Education, by the end of the course, you should:

1. Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of disciple making through small groups as it relates to the function of local church and fulfilling the Great Commission.
2. Be able to develop an appreciation and value for analyzing small groups as a means of making disciples in the local church.
3. Be able to gain skills and practical application for serving in a local church regarding small groups, both as a leader and group member.

## **Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

### **Required Texts**

#### Book

Stetzer, Ed and Eric Geiger. *Transformational Groups*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2013.

#### Journal Article

Donahue, Bill and Charles Gowler. "Small Groups: The Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever?" *Christian Education Journal* v.11 no. 1 (Spring 2014): 119-133.

### **Optional Text**

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *Making Small Groups Work: What Every Small Group Leader Needs To Know*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will take place at the Xcelerate Discipleship Conference on the campus of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in New Orleans, LA on October 22-23, 2015 and involve pre-conference work, class meeting, conference attendance, and post-conference work.

### **Special Event Course Considerations:**

- **Conference Fee:** Students who register for courses via Self-Serve are automatically registered for the conference.
- **Housing and Meals:** All travel, food, and rooming costs are your responsibility. Breakfast and lunches available at a reasonable cost in the cafeteria. Accommodations are available through Providence House on the NOBTS campus. Go to the <http://www.provhouse.com/>

### **Teaching Method**

This course will emphasize observation and listening comprehension skills during the conference sessions and require conversation and analysis skills for assignment completion and discussions.

### **Delivery Format**

The course will be delivered in a conference setting with group interaction incorporated at various times during the conference schedule and a pre- and post-conference discussion via Blackboard.

### **Time Commitment**

This course should involve a minimum of 15 hours of pre-conference work of reading textbook and article, content reflection and Blackboard discussion boards. The course will require class meeting attendance beginning on **October 21, 2015** and conference attendance on **October 22-23, 2015**, totaling 16 hours of class and conference participation. Also, the course will involve post-conference work constituting a minimum of 20 hours for post-conference assignment completion: Blackboard discussion boards, conference journal & evaluation, conference speaker reading, and small group strategy for disciple making.

### **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

You are expected to complete the course assignments in the three learning domains: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor.

#### **Cognitive Domain of Learning**

1. *Textbook Reading & Verification:* (10%) Due: **October 6, 2015**  
You will read the **Transformational Groups text** and the **Small Groups Journal Article** prior to the conference. Completion of reading before the conference is intended to improve understanding of course content and enhance discussion participation. You will be asked to indicate their reading percentage of the required texts \*\*Textbook Reading Verification will be conducted via Blackboard (online). You will submit a **PowerPoint presentation** of concepts as a means of reviewing the textbook and article

content with classmates. A minimum of 15 slides are required and the slides should focus on *pertinent concepts*. *At least 4 of the required 15 slides* should include ministry implications that correspond to text and article content.

### **Affective Domain of Learning**

2. *Conference Journal & Evaluation*: (10%) Due: **October 30, 2015**  
During the conference, you should make notations about each conference session speaker, each breakout session leader, event displays and any resources provided (i.e., have *a conference journal* (electronic or written) recording the two days of presenters and activities). At the conclusion of the conference, you will be required to evaluate the event by writing a review. The review should include a **1-page summary** of the sessions and activities with **main concepts learned** followed by a **2-page critical analysis** of the event worth/value regarding church disciple making, personal discipleship practices (i.e., will you be a “better” or more “effective” disciple maker because of attending?). Provide specific examples of how you were equipped to make disciples. Paper should not exceed a total of 4-full pages of content and then include a Turabian cover sheet.
  
3. *Conference Speaker Reading*: (15%) Due: **November 6, 2015**  
You will be provided a FREE books by Rick Howerton and Eddie Mosley at the conference. After reading both texts in its entirety, you should generate *a list of 7 quotes* from texts which are significant for your own personal discipleship and/or leadership development for small groups. After each quote, you should include a *3-5 sentence paragraph* explanation of the quote’s significance and its future usage for personal growth and in ministry with at least one practical application for implementation in local church ministry (i.e., what action would you have to take to incorporate in your local church?). At the conclusion of the paper, you should *indicate the percentage of each text read*. Submit paper with Turabian cover page and page numbers.

Howerton, Rick. *A Different Kind of Tribe: Embracing The New Small Group Dynamic*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2012.

Mosley, Eddie. *Connecting in Communities: Understanding the Dynamics of Small Groups*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 2011.

### **Psychomotor Domain of Learning**

4. *Blackboard Discussion*: (10%) Due: **October 20 and November 6, 2015**  
You will be responsible for participating discussion boards for the course. The pre-conference discussion board via Blackboard should be completed by **October 20**. The post-conference discussion board via Blackboard should be completed by **November 7, 2015**. Discussion questions and guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.
  
5. *Leading Small Groups – Biblical Examples*: (15%) Due: **November 13, 2015**  
You will be responsible for reading your Bible and finding a minimum of 5 scriptural episodes in which a "small group" existed. Read the selected passages thoroughly and repeatedly employing proper hermeneutical skills for the purpose of discovering specific biblical principles that can be applied to leading and/or participating in a small group.

**Write a training lesson** that could be used to **teach at least 3 biblical principles about leading a small group** to potential leaders of small groups in a local church and to **teach at least 3 biblical principles about participating as a group member**.

6. *Small Group Strategy Comparison Research:* (30%) Due: **November 20, 2015**

As a result of participating in this conference and reading the course textbooks and article, you will be introduced to various models of or approaches to small groups. You will conduct a comparison research project on **3 different approaches to small group ministry in the local church**. You may use one or more of the following research methodologies:

- a. Find 3 churches with different approaches to small groups and conduct interviews with the primary staff members responsible for the small group ministry as well as some of the small group leadership and participants.
- b. Find 3 published resources that describe 3 different approaches to small groups that represent how local churches use small groups to make disciples.
- c. Find at least one small group approach promoted in the 80s, 90s, 2000s and 2010s and study each approach from these four decades to discover the purpose, similarities and differences, leadership training, resources materials, etc.

Once the research has been conducted, a presentation should be developed to communicate the research findings. You may be creative in your presentation such as make a video, write journal article, develop a newsletter, create a presentation, etc.

Written requirements:

- **4-page paper** informing the reader of your research findings from comparing the 3 approaches to small groups; at least one page of content per approach, include introduction and conclusion in paper
- Submit a **selected bibliography of all resources** consulted in research.
- If presentation created to go along with paper content, include **PowerPoint slides**.
- If interviews are conducted, **submit interview questions** used and **a list of the interview participant demographics** – gender, age range, position held, etc.).
- If video is made, **a full-written script** to support video content.

7. *Class & Conference Participation:* (10%) Due: **October 21-23, 2015**

You are expected to participate fully in the class meetings (Wednesday) and the conference sessions (Thursday and Friday). This portion of the course grade will be evaluated by the professor with regard to attendance notifications, meaningful interaction during conference, and evidence of discussion engagement.

### **Course Evaluation**

The professor will prescribe a grade based upon your satisfactory completion of the following:

Textbook Reading & Article Reading	10%
Conference Journal & Evaluation	10%
Conference Speaker Reading	15%
Blackboard Discussion Boards	10%
Leading Small Groups – Biblical Examples	15%
Small Group Comparison Research	30%
Conference Participation	10%

## Grading Scale

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

## Course Policies

The following policies will serve to govern both you and professor for the duration of this course.

**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 Discussion Board Involvement:** You are expected to reflect on the reading and presentations in each unit through Blackboard Discussion. In order to get credit for your involvement in Blackboard Discussion, you must *post at least one substantive response* to the specific unit questions. A substantive response should be concise and may include, but not limited to, the following: a reflection or personal example on a concept from readings, a different perspective on a topic, a quote or link from another source that relates to the topic, an experience you have had in a ministry that relates to the topic.

**Technical Support:** Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC:

[Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

[BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

[ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

**504.816.8180** - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

[www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

If you experience any problems with your Blackboard account you may email [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) or call the ITC at 504-282-4455, ext. 8180.

**Assignment Submission:** Assignments should **not** be e-mailed to the professor. All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard. Course pre-assignments (i.e., textbook reading and discussion board) are due before the conference begins. Course pre-assignments not completed are considered late and must be submitted no later than the final conference session or a zero will be earned for the assignments. All other late assignments are due no later than 5 weeks after conference, *no exceptions*. *If all course assignments are not uploaded to Blackboard by the fifth week after the conference, a grade of zero is automatically earned for all missing assignments.*

**Assignment Format:** Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments must be Word documents. All assignments should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and 1-inch margins written in third person unless otherwise instructed. Assignment pages include a Turabian format cover page that includes name, date of submission and assignment title. A Turabian style guide is available in the NOBTS library and located on the NOBTS web site.

**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).

**Netiquette:** Appropriate Online Behavior. You are expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. You are 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.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate 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:** 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.

### **Absences**

Class attendance is essential for effective learning and according to the NOBTS Graduate Catalog, **no absences** are allowed in conference courses, Saturday classes, academic workshops, or one-week summer courses. Arriving late to conference sessions or leaving early will count as an absence. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the minimum number of course hours.

**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. The student is responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. Students must do the proper paperwork to ensure that they will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if they choose not to engage online once they are enrolled in the course. NOTE: Withdrawal from a conference course must occur before any conference meetings or sessions occur. Otherwise, failure to withdrawal results in a grade of "F."

**Correspondence with the Professor:** Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any question you may have regarding this course.

## Course Schedule

The schedule for the course is dictated by the X-Celerate Conference schedule, October 22-23, 2015. Pre-conference class meeting with professor on October 21, 2015.

### **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21**

1:00PM-4:00PM      Class Meeting – Room Location (TBA)

### **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**

9:05 - 9:35AM      Plenary Session 1: Dr. Chuck Kelley (Leavell Center)

**Conference participation requirement begins at 9:05AM.**

9:40-10:15AM      Plenary Session 2: “Living Sent, Connecting in Communities” – Eddie Mosley (Leavell Center)

10:15AM -10:45AM      Break/Refreshments

10:45AM -11:45AM      Breakout A: George Ross, NAMB Missionary  
Rick Howerton, Lifeway Small Groups Specialist  
Roger Orman, Team Discipleship Leader, MBCB  
David Bond, Evangelism and Church Health Leader,  
Arkansas Baptist Convention

11:45AM -1:00PM      Lunch

1:00PM – 1:55 PM      Plenary Session 3: “Discovering Your Essentials for Small Groups”- Steve Gladden (Leavell Center)

2:00PM - 3:15 PM      Breakout B:  
Scott Sullivan, Equipping Pastor, FBC Houghton, La.  
Eddie Mosley, Pastor of Disciple-Making, LifePoint Church, Smyrna, TN  
David Anderson, Children’s Ministry Strategist, LBC  
Marcus Pegler, Discipleship and Families Strategist, MBCB  
Leroy Fountain, Church Health Specialist, New Orleans Baptist Assoc

3:15PM - 3:45PM      Break/Refreshments

3:45PM – 4:45PM      Plenary Session 4 with Q and A: (Leavell Center)  
“Discovering Your Essentials for Small Groups”- Steve Gladden  
**Conference participation requirement concludes at 5:00PM.**

### **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23**

8:30AM-8:45AM      Welcome and announcements  
**Conference participation requirement begins at 8:30AM.**

8:45AM-10:00AM      Plenary Session 5 and Q&A: Scott Sullivan (Leavell Center)

10:00AM-10:30AM      Break/Refreshments

10:30AM-11:30AM      Breakout C:  
Sean P. Keith, Sunday School/Discipleship Strategist LBC  
Roger Orman, Team Discipleship Leader, MBCB  
David Bond, Evangelism and Church Health Leader, Arkansas BC  
David Anderson, Children’s Ministry Strategist, LBC

11:30AM-12:45PM      Lunch

1:00PM-2:15PM Plenary Session 6 and Q&A: "Changing the World through Groups" –  
Rick Howerton (Leavell Center)  
2:15PM-2:30PM Closing Prayer and Announcements – Hal Stewart  
**Conference participation requirement concludes at 2:30PM.**

### **Selected Bibliography**

A selected bibliography will be provided by the Christian Education faculty (online) to assist the student in accomplishing the course requirements.