



DISC6300 Lifespan Discipleship
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Fall 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.*

The Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to educate students on the content and process of discipleship in the local church, giving students useful tools for designing age-appropriate discipleship activities across the lifespan.

Core Values

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 worshipping 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 the 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.
2. *Disciple Making*: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
3. *Servant Leadership*: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

4. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

Course Description

Students will examine discipleship through the lens of developmental stages across the lifespan—birth through older adult. Methodology will involve course readings, class discussion, and related course assignments. Emphasis is given to application in the local church context. There are no prerequisites for this course, though it is recommended the student first complete CEEF6306 Lifespan Development.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course you should be able to:

1. Understand the cognitive, social, physical, moral, and spiritual development of each stage of the lifespan. (cognitive)
2. Identify basic components of a discipleship ministry. (cognitive)
3. Appreciate the need to implement a sound discipleship program that ministers to each age group in the local church. (affective)
4. Design a discipleship curriculum for a specific local church ministry reflecting age-appropriate content and learning activities. (psychomotor)

Required Reading

Jackson, Allen. *DISCIPLE: The Ordinary Person's Guide to Discipling Teenagers*. Birmingham, AL: YM360, 2015.

Rutledge, Mason. *Memorize This*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress 2003.

See Assigned Reading in Course Schedule. Most assigned reading available via Blackboard shell for the course.

Recommended Reading

Geiger, Eric, Michael Kelly, and Philip Nation, *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing 2012.

Holibaugh, Anne Lincoln, "How to Talk to Your Children about Baptism and Communion." <http://www.thevillagechurch.net/the-village-blog/how-to-talk-with-your-children-about-baptism-and-communion/>

Ogden, Greg, *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

Setran David P. and Chris A. Kiesling. *Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood: A Practical Theology for College and Young Adult Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Preschool Christian Education*. Coppel, Texas, Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Children's Christian Education*. Coppel, Texas, Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Youth /Collegiate Christian Education*. Coppel, Texas, Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Adult Christian Education*. Coppel, Texas, Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Michael, David and Sally Michael. "Children & Prayer," http://www.brookhills.org/pdfs/preschool/children_and_prayer.pdf (all articles on this page)
Stetzer, Ed. "Discipleship, Young Adults, and Deeper Teaching." Presentations at the D6 Conference, Frisco, TX, September 2012.

Course Teaching Methodology

Units

1- Overview of Development and Discipleship

Development over a Lifespan - Read pdf, "Introduction to Lifespan Development"
Focus on Spiritual Development Across the Lifespan

What is Discipleship? - Read "A Discipleship Primer" by Dennis Rogers

Groups: Small, Large, Open, Closed
Scripture Memory and Hermeneutics
Doctrine, Ethics, Polity, Theology

2- Discipleship for Preschoolers – Read Transcript from *Five Views on Infants & Children in the Church* (conference at NOBTS, April 27, 2015)

3- Discipleship for Children - Read "A Vision for Child & Youth Discipleship" by Sally and David Michael

4- Discipleship for Youth - Read *Disciple* by Allen Jackson

"What Should I do when My Kid Says, "I'm Not Going to Church?" by Brad Griffin (Fuller Youth Institute)

5- Discipleship for Young Adults - Read, "Narrative Discipleship: Guiding Emerging Adults to "Connect the Dots" of Life and Faith" by Nathan Byrd

6- Discipleship for Middle Adults - Read, Chapter 4, "Implications for an Adult Religious Education for Spiritual Development," in *The Spiritual Development of Adults in Mid-Life and Spiritual Direction: Implications for Adult Religious Education* (EdD Dissertation, NOBTS, 1987)

7- Discipleship for Senior Adults - Interview Dr. Loretta Rivers regarding Faith Formation for Senior Adults

8- Facilitating Discipleship in - Read D. Mason Rutledge, *Memorize This*

the Local Church

Testimony: Sharing our Story
Evangelism: Sharing the Story of Jesus
Missions
Disciplemaking
Role of Parents

Methodology

Methods used in this course include lecture, group work, a group presentation, guest speakers, individual learning assignments, and online interaction.

Format

This course is taught on the main campus in a Tuesday/Thursday format.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

A rubric for each of the following assignments may be found on Blackboard in the “Assignments” link.

1. Reading Assignments: (10%)

All reading assignments should be completed prior to class so you can actively engage and process all class discussions. The assigned reading for each class period appears in the “Course Schedule” section of the syllabus. Reading is extremely important as class discussions will not cover all of the assigned reading material but are designed to supplement text reading and provide opportunities to process what you have read. A minimum of one to two hours of reading and studying is needed to prepare for each class. Students will be asked to report a percentage of the reading they have completed. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcome #1.*

2. Blackboard Interaction and/or Classroom Engagement: (10%)

Due: See Course Schedule

In order to help you acclimate to the conversation about Lifespan Discipleship, online interaction throughout the semester may be necessary. Any assigned Blackboard submission is due at the designated time in the course schedule. The assignment is successfully completed after two responses to your classmates are uploaded to Blackboard by the date indicated in the course schedule. Successful classroom engagement is active participation in *all* discussions as well as notetaking at some level. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1 and #4.*

3. Unit Quizzes: (5% each, Total = 40%)

Due: See Course Schedule

You are expected to take all examinations at the scheduled times. Unless otherwise indicated, exams are NOT open book/open note. Tests will cover materials presented through class discussions, presentations, and assigned reading. Exams will consist of objective questions (true/false and multiple choice) and subjective questions (essay/short answer). **Make-up exams are approved by the seminary (not the instructor).** The final exam is comprehensive. *These assignments are related to Student Learning Outcome #1.*

4. Group Discipleship Design (25%)

Due: Thursday, Dec 3

You will be assigned to a group, and your group will design a one-year discipleship program for all ages in a local church. Assume a church large enough to have critical mass at each stage of the lifespan. Success in this assignment is a comprehensive plan, presented in chart form including the biblical rationale, discipleship knowledge, attitude or skill, curriculum utilized (or written), and time frame for the units. Your group will then present your unit **as if you were presenting to the volunteers at your church.** Be ready to identify resources needed (human, space, financial). A rubric will be provided prior to group assignments showing how the presentation will be evaluated. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcome #3.*

5. Lifespan Development Article Review (10%)

Due: Tuesday, Oct 27

Locate an academic journal article concerning one aspect (physical, cognitive, social, moral/spiritual) of one age group (infancy through senior adult) of the Lifespan. Write a 3-page review of the research summarizing the conclusions and suggesting application in the local church. *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1 and #4.*

6. Class Participation (5%)

You are expected to participate fully throughout the course. This portion of the course grade will be evaluated by the professor with regard to attendance, meaningful participation, assignment completion, the timely submission of assignments, and evidence of engagement with course materials. You begin with a grade of 100. The class participation grade will be reduced one point for each absence (max of 5). A rubric for class participation may be found in the “Assignments” link on Blackboard. The rubric includes a report option for students who feel a group member did not contribute adequately to the Group Discipleship Design assignment (#4 above). *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1 and #4.*

Course Evaluation

Reading Assignments	10%
Blackboard Interaction/Classroom Engagement	10%
Unit Quizzes (8 at 5% each)	40%
Group Discipleship Design	25%
Article Review	10%
Class Participation	5%

Course Policies

Absences: You are permitted a maximum of 9 hours of absence from this course. However, class participation in this course is partially based on attendance. You cannot participate if you are absent.

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.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All written assignments must be submitted as Word, WordPerfect, or .pdf documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted to at the beginning class on the due date unless otherwise indicated. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient. Blackboard submissions are due by 11:59 p.m. on the date indicated in the Course Schedule section of this syllabus.

Classroom Decorum: Your participation is required for every class session. You are expected to

- Come to the class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources related to the course topic.
- Dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- Turn off cell phones and ignore any calls and/or text messages during class.
- Use laptops appropriately during class.

Electronic Devices: Electronic devices may be used in class only for taking notes and other activities assigned by the professor. Other activities are strictly prohibited. Laptops may not be open during presentations unless requested by the presenter. Phones must be silenced during class time. Any student found violating this policy may be asked to leave class and will be counted absent.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus, according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

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

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). No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Missed presentations may not be made up.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. 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.

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.

Professor's Absence or Tardiness: If the professor is late in arriving to class, you must wait a full 20 minutes after the start of class before you may leave without being counted absent, or you must follow any written instructions that may be given to you.

Recording Policy: Recordings of class, including any audio and/or video recordings, regardless of the media or format, and regardless of the intended or actual use, are not permitted without prior written permission of the professor. The class will be notified in advance should any such recording be approved. This policy is intended to protect the privacy of the students.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

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. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Additional Information

Blackboard and SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must

update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

Correspondence with the Grader: You should contact the grader via email at ree.reinhardt@gmail.com . The grader responds to email during normal business hours, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays only. The grader may not respond to late night or weekend e-mails until regular “business” hours. Please respect the grader’s personal time. Remember, graders are students as well and have their own coursework and research to complete. Please be respectful in the language you use in your emails to the grader.

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 with any question you may have regarding this course.

Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation: For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1
- WWL Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- www.nobts.edu

Mandatory Evacuation: Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. If the Mayor or the President of NOBTS recommends that you leave the city, then do so. If a mandatory evacuation is called everyone except emergency personnel must leave. Staying on campus is not an option. See the *Student Handbook* for further information regarding hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and shelter.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9-12 or by appointment

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.

Technical Support: Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC using the following contact information.

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 Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com

ITCsupport@nobts.edu Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

**Evaluation Rubric for Reading
and Group Demonstrations (Assignment 1 & 4)**

Assignment #1 is required reading. This question is for you personally. Of the assigned course reading, how much have you read? (Circle a percentage)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Evaluate member participation in your demonstration team. Identify the group member and assign a number from 1-5, using the following as a guide.

1. Did not participate much at all. Not engaged, not accessible
2. Participated moderately. Clearly did not pull their weight.
3. Contributed what was asked. Prepared at a baseline (adequate) level
4. Contributed above what was required. Showed initiative.
5. Contributed with excellence. Demonstrated leadership, creativity, and motivation.

Group Member	Engagement	Contribution to report/research	Contribution to presentation

For *other* groups, evaluate two aspects of the presentation for each group member. Assign a number from 1-10 on your perception of how prepared individuals are for their part.

Group 1

Group Member	Preparedness (1-10)	Contribution to presentation (1-10)	Overall grade (Add columns)

Group 2

Group Member	Engagement	Contribution to report/research	Contribution to presentation

Group 3

Group Member	Engagement	Contribution to report/research	Contribution to presentation

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment Due
Tues, Aug 25	Syllabus Day/Introduction	
Thurs, Aug 27	Unit 1 - Overview	Read "Introduction to Lifespan Development" and "A Discipleship Primer" Unit 1 Quiz
Tues, Sept 1	Unit 2 - Discipleship for Preschoolers	Read all chapters available for "Views of Infants and Children and the Church"
Thurs, Sept 3	Unit 2 - Discipleship for Preschoolers	Unit 2 Quiz
Tues, Sept 8	Unit 3 - Discipleship for Children	Read "A Vision for Child and Youth Discipleship"
Thurs, Sept 10	Unit 3 - Discipleship for Children	Unit 3 Quiz
Tues, Sept 15	Unit 4 - Discipleship for Youth	
Thurs, Sept 17	Unit 4 - Discipleship for Youth	Read <i>DISCIPLE</i>
Tues, Sept 22	Unit 4 - Discipleship for Youth	Unit 4 Quiz
Thurs, Sept 24	Unit 5 - Discipleship for Young Adults	Read "Narrative Discipleship"
Tues, Sept 29	Unit 5 - Discipleship for Young Adults	Unit 5 Quiz
Thurs, Oct 1	Unit 6 - Discipleship for Middle Adults	
Tues, Oct 6	Unit 6 - Discipleship for Middle Adults	Reach Chapter 4 of EdD Dissertation
Thurs, Oct 8	Catch-Up Day & Group Assignments	Unit 6 Quiz
Tues, Oct 13	<i>No Class - Texas Youth Minister's Conclave</i>	
Thurs, Oct 15	Unit 7 - Discipleship for Senior Adults <i>Guest for the day: Dr. Loretta Rivers</i>	
Tues, Oct 20	<i>No Class - Fall Break</i>	
Thurs, Oct 22	<i>No Class - Fall Break</i>	
Tues, Oct 27	Unit 7 - Discipleship for Senior Adults (Debrief Dr. Rivers' Session)	Article Review Due
Thurs, Oct 29	Student Presentations (Informal): Article Reviews discussed in class	Unit 7 Quiz

Tues, Nov 3	Unit 8 - Facilitating Discipleship (Testimony)	
Thurs, Nov 5	Unit 8 - Facilitating Discipleship (Evangelism)	
Tues, Nov 10	Unit 8 - Facilitating Discipleship (Missions)	
Thurs, Nov 12	Unit 8 - Facilitating Discipleship (Disciplemaking)	
Tues, Nov 17	Unit 8 - Facilitating Discipleship (Role of Parents)	Unit 8 Quiz
Thurs, Nov 19	Catch-Up Day	
Tues, Nov 24	<i>No Class - Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Thurs, Nov 26	<i>No Class - Thanksgiving Break</i>	
Tues, Dec 1	Final Designated Group Time	
Thurs, Dec 3	Group Discipleship Design Presentations	Groups: Preschool, Children, Youth
Tues, Dec 8	Group Discipleship Design Presentations	Groups: Young Adult, Middle Adult, & Senior Adult
Thurs, Dec 10	Final Thoughts & Closing	
Thurs, Dec 17	Final Exam 9:00am - 11:00am	

*Professor reserves the right to adjust course content and material as needed.

Selected Bibliography

- Arnett, Jeffrey J. *Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach*, 5th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2013.
- Baugh, Ken and Rich Hurst. *The Quest for Christ: Discipling Today's Young Adults*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2002.
- Castor, Ken and Katie Edwards. *The Skinny on Discipleship: A Big Youth Ministry Topic in a Single Little Book*. Loveland, CO: Simply Youth Ministry, 2015.
- Craker, Lorilee and Fleming H. Revell. *The Wide-eyed Wonder Years: A Mommy Guide to the Preschool Daze*. Ada, MI: Revell, 2006.
- Dunn, Richard and Jana L. Sundene. *Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults: Life-Giving Rhythms for Spiritual Transformation*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Eastman, Brett, Dee Eastman, Todd Wendorff, Denise Wendorff, and Karen Lee-Thorp. *Growing to Be Like Christ: Six Sessions on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Goodwin, Debbie Salter. *Raising Kids to Extraordinary Faith: Helping Parents and Teachers Disciple the Next Generation*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2008.
- Main, Bruce. *If Jesus Were a Sophomore: Discipleship for College Students*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Manyara, Daniel. *Adult Discipleship*. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2014.
- Naylor, Beth and Sheila Seifert. *Talking with God*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2006.
- Shafer, Barry. *Unleashing God's Word in Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2009.
- Rolph, Thana. *God's Mirror Discipleship for Overcomers*. Dunamas Publishing, 2010.
- Spear, Kevin. *What's a Bathtub Doing in My Church?: Fifteen Questions Kids Ask about Baptism, Salvation and Snorkels*. Anderson, IN: Warner Press Publishers, 2006.
- Turner, Rachel. *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith: Helping Children to Meet and Know God*. Oxford, UK: Bible Reading Fellowship, 2010.
- Wilson, Christopher W. *Passage Into Discipleship: Guide to Baptism*. Atlanta, GA: Chalice Press, 2009.
- Wilson, Valerie. *Welcome to the Family*. Schaumburg, IL: Regular Baptist Press.