



DISC5260 Discipleship Strategies

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Discipleship & Ministry Leadership Division

Fall 2019 (New Orleans Campus)

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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.

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 worshipping 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 *Spiritual Vitality*.

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.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

- *Interpersonal Skills:* Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church.

- *Servant Leadership*: Determine how the Senior Pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required.
- *Spiritual and Character Formation*: As a leadership team intentionally “grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” (Eph. 4:15b, NKJV).

Course Description

This course is designed to equip students for leading discipleship ministries in a local church by exploring a variety of methods and approaches used in a response to the Great Commission mandate in churches today. Students are exposed to select and different materials and methods of discipleship in correlation to the Bible Study programs in local churches to provide basis for future adaptation. The student is also introduced to developmental processes currently available.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for discipleship strategies within the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to accomplish the following:

- Examine a variety of discipleship strategies that can be utilized in local church praxis.
- Understand and be able to discuss foundational concepts related to current developmental processes for various age groups.
- Value/Appreciate the importance of the discipleship mandate given to all believers in Scripture.
- Develop a discipleship strategy, which can be implemented in the student’s specific ministry setting.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: lecture, group discussion, and an interactive discovery-learning format.

Culminating Course Assignment

Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation – 40 points

Due: December 12

Based on the discipleship strategies and the foundational concepts of development laid in class, the biblical foundations and mandates of discipleship discussed in your Biblical Overview of Discipleship paper, the **context profile** you created, and personal research, **develop** a discipleship strategy which can be implemented in your specific ministry setting. Create a Powerpoint presentation (25 slides) or Publisher Handbook (25 pages), which provides an overview, explanation and rationale for your strategy. This presentation should include a **minimum** of 8 to 12 weeks detailed description for **how** to implement your strategy (which can either include planning processes or curriculum and content materials, etc.) should be included in this presentation. Further directions regarding this assignment will be provided during class. PDF’s, Keynote, or Pages will not be accepted for this assignment.

Please complete the assignment according to provided rubric.

Strategy Handbook and Implementation Paper Rubric

Discipleship Strategy Handbook & Implementation Paper				
This rubric describes how you will be evaluated for your Discipleship Strategy Handbook & Implementation Paper.				
	Levels of Achievement			
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Deficient
	10 Points	8.5 Points	7 Points	5 Points
Discipleship Content	Strategy is a well thought-out, exceptional strategy that supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is clearly communicated. Reflects application of critical thinking. Has a clear goal with prudent time stamps that are appropriate. A variety of sources are referenced. Is biblically accurate.	Strategy is a well thought-out, good plan that supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is given. Has application of critical thinking apparent. Has a clear goal with good time stamps. An acceptable number of sources are referenced. Is biblically accurate.	Strategy supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is vaguely referenced. Has application of critical thinking that is apparent. Has no clear goal and unwise time stamps. A limited number of sources are referenced. Has some inconsistencies.	Strategy provides inconsistent information for the biblical basis for discipleship. No rationale for discipleship is given. Has no apparent application of critical thinking. Has no clear goal and no selected time stamps. A few sources are referenced. Has significant misconceptions or misinterpretation on discipleship.
Grammatical Convention	No spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. High-level use of vocabulary and word choice.	Few (1 to 3) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Good use of vocabulary word choice.	Minimal (3 to 5) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Low-level use of vocabulary and word choice.	More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Poor use of vocabulary and word choice.
Strategy Organization	Discipleship strategy is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner. Discipleship strategy is constructed in an exceptional and logical pattern to support the mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Discipleship strategy supports the mission of the church. Plan has a pattern, but occasionally is unfocused on specific profile. Strategic steps provided are logical and supports mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Strategy plan has focus but strays from the profile at times. Strategic steps appear to have a pattern, but the pattern is not consistently carried out in the project. Information in the strategy loosely supports the mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Strategic planning Content is unfocused and haphazard. Information does not support the solution to the challenge to make disciples. Information provided has no apparent pattern to support the mission of the church in the selected profile context.
Presentation Level	Exceptional creativity in visual format with over 20 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is used or referenced to clarify and illustrate the main points. Format enhances the content. Presentation captures audience attention. Presentation is organized, well planned	Good creativity in visual format with 17-19 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is used or referenced to illustrate the main points. Format is appropriate for the content. Presentation captures audience or reader's attention. Presentation is well organized.	Acceptable creativity in visual format with 13-16 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) loosely illustrates the main points. Format does not suit the content. Presentation does not capture audience or reader's attention. Presentation is loosely organized.	Limited creativity in visual format with 12 or less slides or pages. Presentation appears sloppy and/or unfinished. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is overused or underused. Format does not enhance content. Presentation has no clear organization.
Late Work Penalty	0 Points	-1 Points	-2 Points	-3 Points
Additional Missed Points	0 Points	-1 Points	-2 Points	-3 Points
	No additional missed points.	Reason Provided in Feedback.	Reason Provided in Feedback.	Reason Provided in Feedback.

Textbooks

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

Required Texts

Absalom, Alex and Bobby Harrington. *Discipleship that Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Dean, Jody and Hal Stewart. *Together We Equip: Integrating Discipleship and Ministry Leadership for Holistic Spiritual Formation*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 1993.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.

Course Requirements

All assignments should be submitted on time via blackboard for this course. In the blackboard shell, click the "Upload Assignments" link to upload your work. Please note that every assignment that is uploaded is time stamped with the date and time of the upload.

Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper – 20 points

Due: October 3

Write an 8-page paper discussing the biblical mandate for discipleship. Include an overview of Old Testament and New Testament examples of discipleship. Examine how this mandate and the examples included are applicable to the local church. Use at least eight sources including the Bible and the course texts, preferably scholarly works. Turabian formatting is required for this assignment.

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to Turabian format
- All papers must be written in third person and double-spaced
- Use 12 point Times New Roman font
- Use the same number of references as assigned pages
- Use correct spelling and grammar
- Use proper pagination
- Include your name on the *cover page*
- Staple assignments together as necessary or as required (*no report covers please*)
- Write the *full* assignment

Book Critiques –15 points total (each book is 5 points)

Due: Sept. 12; Oct. 24; Nov. 14

On the assigned day, you turn in a 3-page type-written report on the assigned book. The book review should include the following two components: 1) A **content summary** that is double spaced for page one and 2) A **reflection summary** that is a single-spaced list of significant ideas (direct quotes or general ideas) from the book. The following should be included with each significant idea: a) the book page number; b) one of the three identified categories below and c) brief reflective personal comments. **A double space between each entry of the list is expected.**

1. AGREEMENT – Thoughts with which you are in firm agreement; things that make you say "Yes!" or items that inspire you to action in your life and move your spirit.
2. DISAGREEMENT – Thoughts in which you find dissonance; areas with which you might disagree.
3. MORE THOUGHT – Areas that you want to spend more time thinking about; things that make you wonder; items on which you are not sure what your stance is.

Due: Coleman – *Master Plan of Evangelism* (September 12)
Anders – *Brave New Discipleship* (October 24)
Harrington and Absalom – *Discipleship That Fits* (November 14)

Profile for Discipleship Strategy/Planning Chart– 15 points

Due: December 5

Create a profile identifying the context for the development of a discipleship strategy (the upcoming assignment). Include a half-page detailed description of the setting for the strategy (geographic location, ministry setting, needs,

etc.) and a half-page detailed description of the individuals involved in the process (age, developmental needs, gender, etc.). Fill-out the “Discipleship Planning Chart” using the questionnaire guide provided by the professor. This profile should guide your understanding, evaluation, research, and development of your discipleship strategy handbook/presentation.

Classroom Decorum and Engagement – 10 points

Due: Weekly

Attendance/Participation is required for every course session due to the interactive learning format of the course. A positive attitude can only enhance the learning experience. Therefore, for the purposes of this class, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as productive and interactive engagement with in-class/online threads and dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not focused on the subject matter while in the classroom. Consequently, the student is expected:

- To come class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources on the course topic in discussion groups and classroom dialogues.
- To dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook. *This means no flip-flops and no ball caps!*
- To turn off cell phones and to not accept any phone calls during class.
- Use laptops, iPads and other electronic devices appropriately to enhance class participation and abstain from social media (i.e., Facebook, messaging, etc.) and ministry responsibilities (e-mails, web site updates, etc.) during class sessions.

Final Examination

The professor reserves the right to administer a final exam if the class fails to participate in a manner that is engaging and acceptable.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper	20%
Book Critiques (3 at 5% each)	15%
Profile for Discipleship Strategy Planning Chart	15%
Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation	40%
Classroom Decorum and Engagement	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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.

Late Assignments

Assignments not submitted on the due dates are considered late and will be automatically penalized 10% for each date late including weekends. Late assignments will not be accepted one week beyond the original due date, no exceptions. **No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received, a grade of “F” is automatically earned for the course.**

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Evaluation of Grade* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2016-2017 catalog.

A: 93-100

B: 85-92

C: 77-84

D: 70-76

F: 69 and below

Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Course Schedule

Unit	Lecture Topic	Week
Unit 1	Introduction	August 20
Unit 2	What is the Mission of the Church?	August 27
Unit 3	What is Biblical Discipleship?	September 3
Unit 4	Who is ‘My Disciple’?	September 10
Assignment	Assigned Text Critique and Review	September 12
Unit 5	The Pattern of Spiritual Growth	September 17
Unit 6	Discipleship Shifts & Church Categories	September 24
Unit 7	Approaches to Disciple-Making	October 1
Assignment	Overview of Discipleship Research Paper	October 3
Unit 8	Phases, Stages, & Steps of a Discipleship Strategy	October 8
	Fall Break	October 14-18
Unit 9	Strategy Development, Part One	October 22
Assignment	Assigned Text Critique and Review	October 24
Unit 10	Strategy Development, Part Two	October 29
Unit 11	Mentoring Men and Women	November 5
Unit 12	Preschoolers, Children, and Discipleship	November 12
Assignment	Assigned Text Critique and Review	November 14
Unit 13	Teenagers, Families, and Discipleship	November 19
	Thanksgiving Break	November 25-29
Unit 14	Overview Discipleship Chart and Handbook	December 3
Assignment	Profile/Discipleship Planning Chart	December 5
Assignment	Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation Paper	December 12

Selected Bibliography

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- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Macmillan, 1937.
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- _____. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.
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Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/student-services, email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

Need	Email	Phone	Web Page
Advising – Graduate Program	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/student-services/counseling-services.html
Women's Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



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