



DISC5300 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Church Ministry Division

Fall 2022

Tuesday/Thursday 2:00-3:20pm

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Students will be equipped for leading a biblical discipleship ministry by exploring a variety of personal and church-wide discipleship principles, methods and approaches. They will develop skills for evaluating and applying discipleship models as part of a contextual disciple making strategy to fulfill the Great Commission.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Understanding of discipleship by developing a plan for personal discipleship and how to assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan
- Skill in the ability to practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.
- Comprehension of discipleship by evaluating a variety of discipleship strategies utilized in a local church.
- Ability to develop a discipleship strategy, which can be implemented in the student's specific ministry setting.

Required Textbooks

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, eds. *Together We Equip*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

Im, Daniel. *No Silver Bullets: 5 Small Shifts That Will Transform Your Ministry*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2017.

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

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ - 20th Anniversary Edition*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2021.

Suggested Textbooks

Allin, Dana and Alex Absalom. *Simple Discipleship: Grow Your Faith, Transform Your Community*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2018.

Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2006.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1998.

Mancini, Will and Cory Hartman. *Future Church: Seven Laws of Real Church Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020.

Course Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, classroom lectures and discussions, and individual learning assignments.

Embedded Assignment

This course has been identified as a core course and therefore an embedded assignment exists for this course. See assignment #3 below.

Course Requirements

All assignments must be submitted electronically on Canvas. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due before midnight on the due date. See Course Schedule (last page) for due dates.

1. Classroom Decorum and Engagement (10%)

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 in class 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 to 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 turn cell phones on silent and do 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, website updates, etc.) during class sessions.

2. Scripture Memory (5%)

Each student will memorize and recite selected scripture verses related to personal spiritual growth, discipleship, and disciple-making. Students will select six verses (not six passages) of

scripture to memorize from the following list: Psalm 16:8; Psalm 63:1-3; Psalm 84:5-7; Psalm 103:1-2; Psalm 139:7-10; Matthew 11:28-30; Ephesians 3:16-20.

3. Personal Discipleship Map (10%) **Embedded Assignment**

Each student will create a creative and visual personal discipleship map that depicts spiritual formation and his/her discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity, spiritual disciplines, and relationships. The map should include a biblical foundation for spiritual formation, personal spiritual disciplines/devotional practices, and engagement in relationships through mentoring, and groups.

4. Book Critiques (15% or each book is 5%)

Write a 3-page type-written double-spaced report on three of the textbooks (*Discipleship that Fits*, *No Silver Bullets*, and *Together We Equip*). The book review should include the following two components: 1) A one-page **content summary** 2) A two-page **reflection summary** 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.

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.

5. Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper (20%)

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. Seminary Style Guide is required for this assignment. Refer to the Canvas document “General Considerations for the Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper” for help with this assignment.

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to the Seminary Style Guide format
- All papers must be written in the 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*
- Write the *full* assignment

6. MinistrySafe Sexual Abuse Awareness Training (5%)

Each student must complete the online MinistrySafe Training. Students must submit the completion certificate from MinistrySafe to receive credit for the assignment.

7. Discipleship Strategy Implementation (35%)

Based on the discipleship strategies and the foundational concepts of development discussed in class, the biblical foundations and mandates of discipleship discussed in your **Biblical Overview of Discipleship paper**, and additional personal research, **develop** a discipleship strategy that can be implemented in your specific ministry setting. Create a PowerPoint presentation (25 slides) or PDF document (25 pages) **with annotations**, which provide an overview, explanation, and rationale for your strategy. This presentation should include a **minimum** of 8 to 12 weeks of a detailed description of **how** to implement your strategy (which can either include planning processes or curriculum and content materials, etc.). Refer to the document “Discipleship Strategies Development Guide” on Canvas for help with this assignment. **Students will also select 2-3 slides (2-3 minutes) from this assignment to present on presentation day(s).**

Evaluation of Grade

Classroom Decorum and Engagement	10%
Scripture Memory	5%
Personal Discipleship Paper	10%
Book Critiques (3 at 5% each)	15%
Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper	20%
MinistrySafe Sexual Abuse Awareness Training	5%
Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation	<u>35%</u>
	100%

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

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. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
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.

Course Policies

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Please arrive on time.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Assignments are due before midnight on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized an initial 5 points penalty and one percent for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Submit all assignments electronically on Canvas. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

Style and Formatting

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

In addition, the website Grammarly (www.grammarly.com) will help you become a better writer. Eazypaper (www.eazypaper.com) will help you automatically format your sources.

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.

Grading Scale

Each student's 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

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of their intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00pm) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Selected Bibliography

Adsit, Christopher B. *Personal Disciplemaking: A Step-by-step Guide for Leading a New Christian from New Birth to Maturity*. Orlando, FL: Integrated Resources, 1996.

Blackaby, Henry and Richard. *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishers, 2001.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Macmillan, 1937.

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- Briner, Bob and Ray Pritchard. *The Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A Timeless Model for Today's Leaders*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishers, 1997.
- Bruce, A. B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1971.
- Calkins, Raymond. *How Jesus Dealt With Men*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1942.
- Camp, Lee C. *Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.
- Cloud, Henry, and John Townsend. *How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals About Personal Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Cocklereece, Tom. *Simple Discipleship: How to Make Disciples in the 21st Century*. St. Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources, 2009.
- Cole, Neil. *Search and Rescue: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes a Difference*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.
- Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel-Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Eims, LeRoy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.
- Gangel, Kenneth. "The Meaning of Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- Goleman, Daniel, Richard Boyatis, and Annie McKee. *Primal Leadership: Revitalizing the Power of Emotional Intelligence*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2004.
- Habermas, Ronald T. *Introduction to Christian Education and Formation: A Lifelong Plan for Christ-Centered Restoration*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.
- Hedges, Brian G. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2010.
- Hesselbein, Frances and Marshall Goldsmith, eds. *The Leader of the Future 2: Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the New Era*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- Hodges, Herb. *Tally Ho the Fox: The Foundation for Building World-Visionary, World-Impacting, Reproducing Disciples*. 2 ed. Augusta, GA: Manhattan Source, 2001.
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.

- _____. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- Hunt, Josh, and Larry Mays. *Disciple-Making Teachers: How to Equip Adults for Growth and Action*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing Inc., 1998.
- Huxhold, Harry N. *Twelve Who Followed: The Story of Jesus and His First Disciples*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987.
- Iorg, Jeff. *The Painful Side of Leadership: Moving Forward Even When It Hurts*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2009.
- Issler, Klaus. *Living Into the Life of Jesus: The Formation of Christian Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- Jones, Laurie Beth. *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership*. New York: Hyperion, 1995.
- Koessler, John. *True Discipleship: The Art of Following Jesus*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2003.
- Lane, Timothy S., and Paul David Tripp. *How People Change*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2006.
- Lawless, Chuck. *Disciplined Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2002.
- Mancini, Will. *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series)*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.
- McCallum, Dennis and Jessica Lowery. *Organic Disciplemaking: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership*. Houston, TX: Touch Publications, 2006.
- Mitchell, Michael R. *Leading, Teaching, and Making Disciples: World-Class Christian Education in the Church, School, and Home*. Bloomington, IN: Crossway Books, 2010.
- Ogden, Greg. "Servant Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- _____. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.
- _____ and Daniel Meyer. *Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, Defining Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2007.
- O'Grady, John F. *Disciples and Leaders: The Origins of Christian Ministry in the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.

- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: Encouraging Others to Spiritual Maturity*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007.
- Pettit, Paul, ed. *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2008.
- Pope, Randy, and Kitti Murray. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Putman, David. *Breaking the Discipleship Code*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008.
- Scazzero, Peter. *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from shallow Christianity to deep transformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021.
- _____ and Warren Bird. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives*. Updated & Expanded ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Taylor, Edward Lynn. *The Disciples of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*. London: University Microfilms International, 1980.
- Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988.
- Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

Discipleship Strategy Implementation Rubric

Discipleship Strategy Implementation Paper				
This rubric describes how you will be evaluated for your Discipleship Strategy Implementation Paper.				
	Levels of			
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 at least 25 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 20- 24 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 16-20 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.

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Course Schedule

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule as needed
You are responsible for all assigned readings. All readings may not be covered in class

Date	Reading Due	Assignments Due
Section 1: Servanthood and Personal Devotion		
Unit 1: Introduction to Discipleship & Spiritual Formation		
Aug. 16	Willard, 1	
Aug. 18	Willard, 2-3	
Unit 2: What is Biblical Discipleship?		
Aug. 23	Willard, 4	
Aug. 25	Willard, 5	
Unit 3: Who are My Disciples?		
Aug. 30	Willard, 6-7	
Sept. 1	Willard, 8-9	
Unit 3: Spiritual Disciplines		
Sept. 6	Willard, 10-11	
Sept. 8	Willard, 12-3	
Unit 4: Scripture Memory		
Sept. 13	Dean/Stewart, ch. 1-2	
Sept. 15	Dean/Stewart, ch. 3-4	Scripture Memory due before midnight
Unit 5: Personal Testimony		
Sept. 20	Im, 1-2	
Sept. 22	Im, 3-5	Personal Discipleship Map due before midnight
Section 2: Proclamation and Mission		
Unit 6: The Mission of the Church?		
Sept. 27	Malphurs, 1	
Sept. 29	Malphurs, 2-3	
Oct. 4-6	Fall Break (no class)	
Unit 7: The Pattern of Spiritual Growth		
Oct. 11	Malphurs, 4-9	
Oct. 13	Im, 6-8	
Unit 8: Discipleship Environments and Five Models of Discipleship		
Oct. 18	Absalom/Harrington, 1-3	
Oct. 20	Library Day (no class)	Book Critiques due before midnight

Unit 9: Strategy Development		
Oct. 25	Dean/Stewart, 5-8	
Oct. 27	Library Day (no class)	
Unit 10: Mentoring Men and Women		
Nov. 1	Dean/Stewart, 14	
Nov. 3	Dean/Stewart, 15	Biblical Overview due before midnight
Nov. 8-10	Library Days (no class)	
Unit 11: Age-graded Discipleship		
Nov. 15	Dean/Stewart, 9-10	
Nov. 17	Dean/Stewart, 11-13	
Nov. 22-24	Thanksgiving Break (no class)	
Unit 12: Evaluation of Discipleship Strategies		
Nov. 29	Absalom/Harrington, ch. 4-8	
Unit 13: MinistrySafe		
Dec. 1		Submit MinistrySafe completion certificate
Unit 14: Discipleship Strategy Presentation		
Dec. 6	Class Presentations	Submit Discipleship Strategy Implementation before midnight Strategy Highlights Presentation Day