



Disciple Making through Small Group Ministry DISC5371

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division

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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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the area of disciple making the context of the local church.

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 2014-2015 academic year that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

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

2. *Servant Leadership*: Determine how the Senior Pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required.
3. *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

The purpose of this course is to engage students in a comprehensive look at strategies, principles, aims, and procedures that facilitate qualitative and quantitative growth of the church (disciple making) through a small group ministry. Students will develop skills in assessing, planning, organizing, leading, and evaluation the ministry of a church which utilizes a small group strategy.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand biblical concepts for administration of the small groups in the local church, and analyze these administrative practices in terms of a biblical worldview.
2. Students will demonstrate administrative principles and practices to the planning, organizing, leading and evaluating the small group ministries of the local church.
3. Value the importance of the discipleship mandate given to all believers in Scripture.

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

1. Gladen, Steve. *Small Groups With Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Grand Rapids, Mn: Baker Books, 2013.
2. Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
3. Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville, Tn: B & H Academic, 2013.

Assigned/Optional Texts

1. Stetzer, Ed and Eric Geiger. *Transformational Groups: Creating a Scorecard For Groups*. Nashville, Tn: B & H Books, 2014.
2. Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2012.
3. Spader, Dann. *4 Chair Discipling: Growing a Movement of Disciple-Makers*. Chicago, Ill: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize a lecture and interactive discovery-learning format.

Teaching Units:

- Unit 1: Introductions
- Unit 2: Overview of Discipleship
- Unit 3: Discipleship as a Basis for Small Group Ministry
- Unit 4: Sunday School and small groups
- Unit 5: Open or Closed small groups
- Unit 6: Church Growth and Discipleship
- Unit 7: Non-traditional Small Group Ministry
- Unit 8: Programmed Discipleship Ministry
- Unit 9: Observation of Small Group Ministry
- Unit 10: Motivating Generations
- Unit 11: Strategic Planning
- Unit 12: Discipleship and Christian Education
- Unit 13: Review and Conclusion

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Annotated Bibliographies (cognitive) – 15%

Create a three to four sentence single-spaced annotation for each of the course texts to meet the reading requirement. Each Annotated bibliography should contain the correct format as cited in Turabian 9.36 with the addition of the number of pages of the referenced work at the end of the citation. Each annotation that follows should contain of your appraisal and considerations on the text not just a synopsis of the text. Following the annotation, indicate whether or not you read the text in its entirety.

- Disciple-Making Is – **February 10th**
- Small Groups with a Purpose – **March 3rd**
- Transforming Discipleship – **April 21st**

Exegetical Research Paper (affective) – 30%

Create a clear and concise eight-page research paper on small group disciple-making principles that can be derived from Scripture. The paper will consist of a synthesis and analysis of the pertinent literature in light of the exegetical themes of discipleship throughout the Scriptures, and include **eight** principles for integration in a local church team ministry setting. Student will teach their research findings to class via PowerPoint presentation. Student's presentation will be included in the grading of this paper. *(Always begin a research paper with the theological basis before entering into the philosophical concerns.)* **Pay close attention to the Assignment Formatting section of this syllabus!** **Due on March 17th**

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

Personal Statement of Disciple-making through Small Groups (psychomotor) - 30%

Students will develop a personal statement of disciple making through small groups for **adults** in the local church. Students should identify the biblical basis for several vital components of and the organization and development of the small groups. Consideration should be given to both an individual's personal spiritual formation as well as the role of others in a small group setting. This personal philosophy statement will be guided by the following aspects:

1. Identify the biblical basis for the following aspects of Disciplemaking in small groups.
 - a. Role of other believers – the Body
 - b. Use of God's word - Curriculum
 - c. Work of the Holy Spirit – Spiritual Formation
 - d. The Glory and Worship of God – Goal and purpose
 - e. Missions and Ministry deployment – evidences of growth
 - f. The role of spiritual disciplines (bible intake, scripture memory, prayer, etc.)
 - g. The levels or depths of individual spiritual maturity (pre-conversion to maturity)
2. Organization and development of the Small Groups
 - a. Leadership development or mentoring
 - b. Birth and Multiplication launches
 - c. Weekly schedule and meeting time and length
 - d. New believers assimilation
 - e. Believer only or non-believers in groups
 - f. Child-care and student participation
 - g. Role of video and technology in teaching and accountability

The personal statement of Disciplemaking should be a minimum of 5-6 pages in length, single spaced and organized by bullets and numbers in paragraph style. Other aspects may be considered in the development of the statement. **Due May 4th.**

Book Critiques and Presentations – 10%

Students will be assigned a book from the optional list from the required readings. Students will provide a written critique and present findings to class. 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. More guidelines will be provided in class.

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.

Classroom Decorum/Group Work – 15%

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 classroom presentations and classroom 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.
- To use laptops appropriately.

Note: Students will participate in interactive group work in a shared google document each day of the workshop. The group/individual work will be reviewed and graded according to the assignment for the day. Students will be required to use a personal computer or tablet to interact with the other students and the professor in class. The group work is designed for students to develop practical training materials and resources to use for discipling in the local church.

Text Review Readings for Extra Credit – 3% extra credit

OPTIONAL: Create a five-page text review for a book selection not already required or read for the course. The text selected *must be pre-approved* and consist of at least 150 pages. The text review should include a brief summary, the vital concepts, and your appraisal and considerations on the text.

Course Policies

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 *Learning Activities and Assessments* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2011-2012 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.

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