



Special Topics in Discipleship

DISC 6192/6292/6392

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Discipleship & Ministry Leadership Division
Spring 2020 **REVISED**

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Mission Statement

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

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.

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The core value focus for the academic year 2019-2020 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.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the professional discipline of Christian ministry leadership and administration through interaction with practitioners in the field. A variety of topics will be explored through the annual meeting of the Baptist Association of Christian educators. ~~The 2020 annual meeting of BACE will be held at the Forrest Hills Baptist Church in Nashville, TN (2101 Old Hickory Blvd., Nashville, TN 37215).~~ Students will engage with leaders of Christian education for mentorship and information to lead discipleship in any church setting. **REVISED: The conference this year will be held virtually on May 14, 2020 – 9:00 – 5:00 pm. In addition, students will meet virtually with the professor one hour on May 13th. Note: Because of the move to a virtual conference students will not have travel expenses for this year’s conference.**

Learning Outcomes

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current approaches, topics, and available resources for leadership and administration in the local church.
2. Be able to gain skills in the area of analyzing and developing leadership skills in a local church context.
3. Value personal leadership skills and developing leadership skills in other ministry leaders in the church.

Required Texts

Eims, LeRoy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2009. (978-0-310-83206-5). Note: Various editions of this book are available. All are acceptable.

Lewis, Dharti. *Among Wolves: Disciple-Making in the City*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2017. (978-1-4336-4402-3)

Sweet, Leonard. *Rings of Fire: Walking in Faith through a Volcanic Future*. Colorado Spring, NavPress, 2019. (978-1-6314-6394-5)

Course Teaching Methodology

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

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Conference Participation & Outline & Summary:

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Due: May 29, 2020.

All students (DISC 6192/6292/6392) should complete Assignment 1. The student is expected to participate fully in all conference sessions Thursday through Friday. The student is expected to attend at least one debriefing meeting during a meal time or break time at the conference. (See additional information under Course Schedule.) The student will submit an annotated outline and summary of plenary conferences and breakout conferences attended. It is anticipated that these notes will be typed and at least five pages in length. Formal writing and documentation is not required.

2. Conference Analysis and Reflection

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Due May 29, 2020

Students taking this course for two or three hours credit (DISC 6292 and 6392) are expected to submit a four page reflection and analysis of the conference sessions and content gleaned. Plans for incorporating or implementing the conference content into their ministry setting should be addressed in the paper.

3. Book Critiques:

Book Critique Date Not REVISED

Due May 9, 2020

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DISC 6192 – No book critique required.

DISC 6292 – One book critique from the three textbooks. Student choice.

DISC 6392 – **Two book critiques from the three textbooks. REVISED**

Write a 2 page single spaced critique for each required textbook. (Note: The critique should begin with a summary of the discipleship strategy presented in the text. Strengths and weakness should then be presented for the local church context for implementing that strategy. The critique should conclude with implications for discipleship in the local church and how the theories or practices presented contribute to carrying out ministries of the local church.

Course Schedule

A conference schedule (**The virtual conference will be held on May 14th**) is available from the Baptist Association of Christian Educators (baptisteducators.org). In addition students in this special topics seminar will meet with the professor at a time to be determined. **This one hour meeting will occur on May 13th. The virtual conference will have four keynote presentations and four breakout conference time selecting from various choices.**

Please be aware that students must register for the conference itself as well as enrolling in the selected course. This special topics course will meet at the conference location both days – Thursday and Friday – of the conference. **Note: On the website (baptisteducators.org) look for Membership Packages. There is a \$55 rate for students that includes the annual membership, the virtual conference, subscription to Ministry Grid, subscription to Right Now Media, and other discounts as well as various training videos and print resources. Obviously, this year there are no travel or lodging expenses.**

Course Policies

Assignment Formatting

- **Submit assignments through Blackboard directly to the professor through email.**
- Unless otherwise noted, type all assignments according to Turabian format
- All papers must be written in third person and double-spaced
- Use 12 point Times New Roman or similar 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

Late Assignments

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Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are due by 4:00 pm on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments not submitted at this time 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 by the final course session, a grade of "F" is automatically earned for the course.**

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online in discussion board dialogues or whenever interaction occurs through the 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.

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 2019-2020 catalog.

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

A grade of "F" may require the student to retake the course to complete the degree.

No grades of INCOMPLETE will be issued in this course.

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.

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Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <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.

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.

Selected Bibliography

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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.

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