



CEDI 9401 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
Fall 2014

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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.

Purpose of the Course and Core Value Focus

The purpose of this seminar is to provide quality theological education for students in the area of discipleship and spiritual formation understandings and skills within the context of the local church. This seminar is designed for students to survey and investigate discipleship and spiritual formation definitions, contexts, methodologies, research and practices in order to fulfill the Great Commission. The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned annually by the Administrative Council.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Disciple Making*: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
2. *Interpersonal Skills*: Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church.
3. *Servant Leadership*: Determine how the senior pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required to minister to families.
4. *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 seminar is designed to survey discipleship and spiritual formation by researching biblical and social science findings. Needs that can be addressed through discipleship definitions and terms, discipleship endeavors, and current discipleship practices in local Baptist churches are identified and researched with the consideration of personal spiritual formation. Special attention is given to the introduction and application of both pertinent and current literature in the field.

Course Objectives

1. Synthesize their analysis of the both past and current literature in the field of discipleship and spiritual formation to create a standard of excellence for discipleship in the local church.
2. Prioritize and value discipleship and spiritual formation in academic and ministry practice.
3. Demonstrate special understanding of one aspect of discipleship and spiritual formation for extensive research.
4. Utilize a discipleship/spiritual formation survey instrument to measure spiritual maturity among a selected group in the local church.

Course Texts

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 Academic, 2013.

Stott, John R.W. *The Radical Disciple: Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2010.

Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus's Essential Teachings on Discipleship*. New York, NY: HarperOne, 2006.

Required Assignments Summary

- Personal Introductions - **Due the first week of the semester**
- Online Learning Forums (15 pts) – **Ongoing throughout the Semester**
- Annotated Bibliographies and Preliminary Research for Papers (20 pts) – **Due: 9/25**
- Minor Paper: Survey and Overview of Five Selected Discipleship and Spiritual Formation Instruments (20 pts) - **Due: Submitted online 10/30 (Seminar meets 11/6-7)**
- Assigned Book Critique (15 pts) - **Due: 10/30 (Seminar meets 11/6-7)**
- Major Paper: Quantitative Research Paper Using One Selected Discipleship and Spiritual Formation Instrument (30 pts) -**Due: Submitted online 11/25 (Seminar meets 12-4/5)**

Personal Introductions

During the first week of the semester introduce yourself to the rest of the seminar via the seminar Blackboard site.

Online Learning Forum

Students are expected to engage with critical analysis in Blackboard discussions throughout the semester. Professors will create forums for discussion based on the assigned text: *The Radical Disciple: Some Neglected Aspects of Our Calling* by John Stott. Chapters in this text will be discussed on a weekly basis.

Preliminary Research and Annotated Bibliographies

Each student will complete a thorough literature review to cover the milieu on discipleship and spiritual formation by selecting classic, pertinent and/or current books that address five groupings within the field of research. Students will choose three books for each of the following

selected groups that offer a preferred and viable explanation, understanding and practice of discipleship.

1. Personal Spiritual Formation (Divine Effort)
2. Spiritual Disciplines Practices (Human Effort)
3. Corporate Discipleship Models (The Body)
 - Age appropriate books in assigned affinity area (preschool, children, youth, emerging adults, adults) will be provided
4. Knowledge, Value, and the Practice of Discipleship (Comprehensive Philosophy)
5. Lifestyle and Intentional Mentoring (Imitation)

Students will write a total of 15 annotated bibliographies. Particular attention should be given to understanding the theoretical, philosophical, and biblical underpinnings of each group. Students should be prepared to thoroughly defend their chosen reading list at the first meeting of the semester by having a significant understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each book. Students will present their selections to the cohort at the first meeting in September. Under the grouping “Corporate Discipleship Models”, students will be assigned by the professors a particular affinity area to select books during the first week of the seminar. Note that some books may address different aspects of each of the former groupings, but the selection of the book is based on the strengths that address the field of research. Please bring 2 hard copies of each Annotated Bibliography for the professors. Due: 9/25

Book Critique and Discussion

Read of *all* the texts for the seminar in their entirety. Write a critical review of an *assigned* text of not less than *five* doubled spaced pages including the following: (1) a bibliographic entry for the text; (2) the purpose of the book; and (3) no less than four pages of your personal critique of the book *both* positive and negative. Selected book critiques will be submitted for publishing in the *Journal for Baptist Theology and Ministry*. Guidelines for the submission of book critiques for the journal will be provided the first week of the semester. Please bring a hard copy for each professor. Due 10/30

Additionally, each student will develop a series of questions for collaboration from the books by Setran and Kiesling, and Willard in order to facilitate discussion in the November meeting of the seminar.

Research for Minor Paper

Students will write a 15-page research paper (Turabian style) that overviews five selected survey instruments with the aim to select one of the instruments to use for their major paper. Select, overview, and evaluate five survey instruments that measure an aspect of spiritual formation and discipleship using the following considerations: 1) Whom is the instrument created for surveying? 2) What aspect of spiritual maturity does the instrument measure? 3) What are the assumptions of the instrument? 4) What is the method of administering the instrument and reporting the results of the instrument? 5) Is the instrument valid and reliable? 6) Is the instrument free and assessable or is permission required? 7) How is the instrument scored? 8) Who created the instrument and for what purpose? 9) When and where was the instrument created? 10) What have the collected and applicable results of the instrument revealed from

previous use? Organization and content development of this paper is expected using a table of contents, as well as the usage of headings and sub-headings throughout the paper.

The preliminary research from the annotated bibliographies should contribute to the literature review. Sources for the minor paper may include books, periodicals, (online) journals, electronic databases, interview and magazines. During the presentation and discussion of the paper, students should be able to introduce to the seminar each of the five survey instruments weighing the positives, negatives, and applicable findings. Papers must be posted on Blackboard or e-mailed to each seminar participant and professor) in a MS Word or pdf format. **Due: 10/30**

*Additionally, in view of the major paper that is due in the December meeting, students should prepare a rough draft of a research question that will be used for the final assignment. This assignment enhances the student's ability to successfully complete the major research project. The selected survey instrument should measure the variables that constitute the research question.

Research for Major Paper

Students will write a 25-page quantitative research designed paper (Turabian style) that describes their project. The student's findings will report on the state of research, a research question, the population, the methodology, the results, and the implications and conclusions. Students will utilize their chosen survey instrument on discipleship and spiritual formation to collect a convenient sample of a minimum of 30 participants. Since students will use an established survey, document its source and indicate permission to use if necessary.

During the presentation and discussion of your paper, students should be able to introduce the seminar to new research regarding discipleship as well as the particular discoveries from the survey. Also, include a literature review and the survey instrument and a selected bibliography. The preliminary research from the annotated bibliographies should contribute to the literature review. Additionally, sources may include books, periodicals, (online) journals, electronic databases, interview and magazines. Papers must be posted on Blackboard or e-mailed to each seminar participant and professor) in a MS Word or pdf format. **Due 11/25**

*Note: While it is expected that all students carefully will read each contribution, papers will be assigned a responder/reviewer who will examine the paper for form, style, and logic (flow, sequence of arguments, interpretation of survey results) issues. The responder should mark the paper for spelling, grammar, flow, style, and Turabian format before the last seminar.

*Note: The following book will provide valuable instructions on the organization and design of a research paper. Pycszak, Fred, and Randall R. Bruce. *Writing Empirical Research Reports: A Basic Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*. 6th ed. Glendale, CA: Pycszak Publishing, 2007.

Present the research paper during the December seminar weekend using a creative and professional PowerPoint presentation. Please bring a hard copy of the paper to each of the professors. Presentations will be in random order. The professor will evaluate papers for content.

Each presentation will conclude with a response from the designated seminar colleague who will comment on content, style, and presentation.

Course Policies

The following policies will to be observed in the duration of this course.

Absences

Due to the nature of this Ph.D. seminar format there are no absences permitted.

Late Assignments

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are expected on the due date as indicated in the Course Schedule. The due dates for the assignments to be submitted electronically to professor and/or other students is listed above in the "Required Assignments Summary." Submission after the date/time will result in a grade no higher than a B in the seminar.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Required Assignments Summary* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2011-2012 catalog.

A: 93-100
and below

B: 85-92

C: 77-84

D: 70-76

F: 69

Selected Bibliography

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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.

Bennett, Ron. *Intentional Disciplemaking: Cultivating Spiritual Maturity in the Local Church*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.

Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Bridges, Jerry. *The Practice of Godliness*. Revised ed. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2008.

Bright, Bill. *A Handbook for Christian Maturity*. San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1982.

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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.

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