



DISC6300 Lifespan Discipleship

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Discipleship and Ministry Leadership Division
Internet - Fall 2017

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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 Course

The purpose of the course is to equip the seminary student to be an effective youth minister in the local church, creating environments which partner with families in discipleship of students.

Our Core Values

The seminary has five core values. The focal core value for 2017-2018 is *Servant Leadership*. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

Servant Leadership: We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

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:

Biblical Exposition: to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

Christian Theological Heritage: To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

Disciple Making: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

Interpersonal Skills: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.

Servant Leadership: To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

Spiritual and Character Formation: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

Worship Leadership: To facilitate worship effectively.

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical Exposition:* Students will explore biblical foundations and rationale for discipleship
2. *Disciple Making:* Students will examine developmental and educational issues that play a significant role in the development of faith.
3. *Servant Leadership:* Students will consider the nature of servant leadership and explore practical application to ministry.
4. *Spiritual and Character Formation:* Students will reflect on their own spiritual and developmental growth.

Course Catalog Description

Students will examine discipleship through the lens of developmental stages across the lifespan—birth through older adult. Methodology will involve course readings, class discussion, and related course assignments. Emphasis is given to application in the local church context. There are no prerequisites for this course, though it is recommended the student first complete CEEF6306 Lifespan Development.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

Cognitive:

- Understand the cognitive, social, physical, moral, and spiritual development of each stage of the lifespan.
- Identify basic components of a discipleship ministry.

Affective:

- Appreciate the need to implement a sound discipleship program that ministers to each age group in the local church.

Psychomotor:

- Design a discipleship curriculum for a specific local church ministry reflecting age-appropriate content and learning activities.

Embedded Assignment

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

Required Texts

Jackson, Allen. *DISCIPLE: The Ordinary Person's Guide to Discipling Teenagers*.

Birmingham, AL: YM360, 2015. (This text can only be purchased from the publisher: <http://youthministry360.com/disciple>).

See “Assigned Reading” in *Course Schedule*. Most assigned reading for the course is available via

Blackboard.

Optional Texts

Geiger, Eric, Michael Kelly, and Philip Nation, *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing 2012.

Holibaugh, Anne Lincoln, "How to Talk to Your Children about Baptism and Communion." <http://www.thevillagechurch.net/the-village-blog/how-to-talk-with-your-children-about-baptism-and-communion/>

Michael, David and Sally Michael. "Children & Prayer," http://www.brookhills.org/pdfs/preschool/children_and_prayer.pdf (all articles on this page)

Ogden, Greg, *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ*. Downer's Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998.

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 Publishing, 2013.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Preschool Christian Education*. Coppell, TX: Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Children's Christian Education*. Coppell, TX: Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Youth /Collegiate Christian Education*. Coppell, TX: Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Spooner, Bernie, Ed. *Adult Christian Education*. Coppell, TX: Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015.

Stetzer, Ed. "Discipleship, Young Adults, and Deeper Teaching." Presentations at the D6 Conference, Frisco, TX, September 2012.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, reviewing lecture material, individual learning assignments, and online interaction.

Format

This course is taught online.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Reading Assignments: (10%)

See Course Schedule for Due Dates

All reading assignments should be completed prior to the deadline so you can actively engage and

process all class materials. The assigned reading for each unit appears in the “Course Schedule” section of the syllabus. Reading is extremely important as the content covered in this class is based on the required reading, and online Blackboard discussion also shows the level to which you are grasping and applying the course content. A minimum of one to two hours of reading and studying is needed to prepare for each unit. **Each student will be asked to report a percentage of the reading you have completed at the end of the course.** *This assignment is related to the Cognitive Student Learning Outcome.*

2. Blackboard Discussion Board (15%)

Due: Weekly

Each student is expected to participate in online interaction through the Blackboard Discussion Board. This is your class participation grade. Discussion board post are due each week before midnight on Sunday night. *This assignment is related to the Cognitive and Psychomotor Student Learning Outcomes.*

3. Unit Quizzes: (2% each, Total = 20%)

See Course Schedule for Due Dates

Each student is expected to take all quizzes at the scheduled times. Unless otherwise indicated, exams are NOT open book/open note. Unit quizzes will cover the content found in the unit’s assigned reading. Unit quizzes will consist of objective questions (true/false, multiple choice, fill-in-the-blank, etc.) and subjective questions (essay questions and short answer questions).

Make-up unit quizzes are approved at the discretion of the professor. *These assignments are related to the Cognitive Student Learning Outcome.*

4. Journal Article Review (10%)

Due: October 1

Locate an academic (peer-reviewed) journal article concerning one aspect (physical, cognitive, social, moral/spiritual) of one age group (infancy through senior adulthood) of the lifespan. Write a 3-page review of the research summarizing the conclusions and suggesting application in the local church. For assistance with this assignment, watch the video “How to Search for Journal Articles at NOBTS” on Blackboard and refer to the **Peer-Reviewed Journal section** of this syllabus. *This assignment is related to the Cognitive and Psychomotor Student Learning Outcomes.*

5. EMBEDDED ASSIGNMENT: Lifespan Discipleship Design (35%)

Due: December 3

Each student will design and submit a one-year discipleship program as a document for ALL of the age segments in a local church (preschool, children, youth, young adults, middle adults, AND senior adults). Assume a church large enough to have critical mass. Success in this assignment is a comprehensive plan, presented in paragraph and chart form including the a) biblical rationale, b) discipleship knowledge, attitude, or skill, c) curriculum utilized (or written), d) time frame for the units, and e) resources needed (human, space, financial). **The paper must be 18-20 pages in length.** A rubric is provided in the syllabus. *This assignment is related to the Affective Student Learning Outcome.*

6. Discipleship Design Presentation (10%)

Due: December 10

Prepare a video of your 12-month discipleship program for ONE of the age segments (preschool, children, youth, young adult, middle adult, OR senior adult). Your presentation should be created as if you were presenting to the volunteers at your church. Your presentation should be **5-8 minutes** in length. A link to your video presentation (YouTube, etc.) must be submitted on

Blackboard by end of the day on the deadline (Dec 1). A tutorial for submitting videos to Blackboard will be provided.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Reading Assignments	10%
Blackboard Discussion Board	15%
Unit Quizzes (10 at 2% each)	20%
Journal Article Review	10%
Lifespan Discipleship Design	35%
Discipleship Design Presentation	10%

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.

Absences

In the online format, attendance is assessed through completed assignments for each unit: Blackboard discussion, Unit Quiz completion during the assigned period of time, and assignment submission by the due date.

Reading Assignments

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

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 10 percent 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 Blackboard. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

Exam Policy

When exams are given via Blackboard, students will have a 24-hour window in which to take the exam. There should be no reason for any exams to be missed. If dire illness, personal emergency, or school-sponsored events prevent access to the internet, the student will be responsible for contacting the professor before the exam to secure permission to schedule the exam and to schedule an appointment for a make-up exam. Failure to do so will result in an automatic grade of zero.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided using the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Style and Formatting

All assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All assignments are to be typed, double-spaced with a 12-point Times New Roman font, with 1-inch margins. Include your name, date of submission, and the assignment title on the cover page.

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

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. This is the official NOBTS Writing Center help site for writing academic papers and essays: www.nobts.edu/writing/

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. Moreover, the YMI resource page (www.youthministryinstitute.org) has several helpful links, including a video to help you create page numbers in Microsoft Word.

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.

Extra Credit

The policy for extra credit in this course is students can submit an additional Journal Article Review for extra credit. The extra journal article review will not substitute or replace any course assignment. The extra credit assignment is worth up to three points on the final grade.

Academic Policies

Academic policies relating to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current graduate online catalog:

http://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf

Policy for Graduating Seniors

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

Special Needs

If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please email me to discuss any modifications you may need.

Withdrawal from the Course

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published on the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must complete the proper paperwork to ensure you will not receive a final grade of “F” in the course if you choose not to engage in the online class once you are enrolled.

Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation

For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1
- WWL Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- www.nobts.edu

Mandatory Evacuation

Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. If the Mayor of New Orleans or the President of NOBTS recommends that you leave the city, then do so. If a mandatory evacuation is called, everyone except emergency personnel must leave. Staying on campus is not an option. See the *Student Handbook* for further information regarding hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and shelter.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service

Once you have established a SelfServe account, you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

Selected Bibliography

Arnett, Jeffrey J. *Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood: A Cultural Approach*, 5th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2013.

Baugh, Ken and Rich Hurst. *The Quest for Christ: Discipling Today's Young Adults*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2002.

Castor, Ken and Katie Edwards. *The Skinny on Discipleship: A Big Youth Ministry Topic in a Single Little Book*. Loveland, CO: Simply Youth Ministry, 2015.

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- Craker, Lorilee and Fleming H. Revell. *The Wide-eyed Wonder Years: A Mommy Guide to the Preschool Daze*. Ada, MI: Revell, 2006.
- Dunn, Richard and Jana L. Sundene. *Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults: Life-Giving Rhythms for Spiritual Transformation*. Westmont, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.
- Eastman, Brett, Dee Eastman, Todd Wendorff, Denise Wendorff, and Karen Lee-Thorp. *Growing to Be Like Christ: Six Sessions on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Goodwin, Debbie Salter. *Raising Kids to Extraordinary Faith: Helping Parents and Teachers Disciple the Next Generation*. Kansas City, MO: Beacon Hill Press, 2008.
- Main, Bruce. *If Jesus Were a Sophomore: Discipleship for College Students*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Manyara, Daniel. *Adult Discipleship*. Saarbrücken, Germany: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2014.
- Naylor, Beth and Sheila Seifert. *Talking with God*. Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2006.
- Shafer, Barry. *Unleashing God's Word in Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2009.
- Rolph, Thana. *God's Mirror Discipleship for Overcomers*. Dunamas Publishing, 2010.
- Spear, Kevin. *What's a Bathtub Doing in My Church?: Fifteen Questions Kids Ask about Baptism, Salvation and Snorkels*. Anderson, IN: Warner Press Publishers, 2006.
- Turner, Rachel. *Parenting Children for a Life of Faith: Helping Children to Meet and Know God*. Oxford, UK: Bible Reading Fellowship, 2010.
- Wilson, Christopher W. *Passage Into Discipleship: Guide to Baptism*. Atlanta, GA: Chalice Press, 2009.
- Wilson, Valerie. *Welcome to the Family*. Schaumburg, IL: Regular Baptist Press.

Peer-Reviewed Journals

Adolescence – available online at EBSCO

Adolescent & Family Health – published by the Institute for Youth Development

Brown University Child & Adolescent Behavior Letter – available online at EBSCO

Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal – published by Chicago State University

European Child & Adolescent Psychiatry – available online at EBSCO

Journal of Adolescence – published by the Association in Professional Services for Adolescents

Journal of Adolescent Health – published by The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Journal of Adolescent Research – available online at EBSCO

Journal of Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing – available online at EBSCO

Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse – published by Routledge

Journal of Early Adolescence – available online at EBSCO

Journal of Research on Adolescence – published by Society for Research on Adolescence

Journal of Youth and Adolescence – published by Springer

Journal of Youth Ministry – published by the Association of Youth Ministry Educators

Journal of Youth and Theology – published by the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry

Developmental Psychology – a journal published by the American Psychological Association

Psychology and Aging - a journal published by the American Psychological Association

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	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR

Relations (for ministry jobs)			
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/studentervices/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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Evaluation Rubric for Embedded Assignment: Lifespan Discipleship Design

Age Segment Chosen: _____ Student Name: _____

Biblical Rationale (0-7)	Discipleship Knowledge (0-7)	Curriculum Utilized, or Written (0-7)	Time frame for the Discipleship Units (0-7)	Resources Needed Identified (0-7)	TOTAL POINTS (35 possible)
Point Value: 0-1 No mention of biblical rationale	Point Value: 0-1 Does not appear to demonstrate basic discipleship knowledge, attitude, or skill throughout the discipleship design; Little knowledge of discipleship	Point Value: 0-1 No mention of curriculum in the discipleship design	Point Value: 0-1 No inclusion of a time frame for the proposed discipleship units in the discipleship design	Point Value: 0-1 No mention of human, space, or financial resources required for the proposed discipleship design	
Point Value: 2-3 Biblical rationale present but weak, not well defined	Point Value: 2-3 Demonstrates basic knowledge, attitude, skills of discipleship yet does not utilize information presented throughout the semester	Point Value: 2-3 Curriculum does not support the 12-month length of the discipleship design	Point Value: 2-3 Time frame presented is shorter than the required one-year/12-month time frame	Point Value: 2-3 Partial mention of resources required, but not complete	
Point Value: 4-5 Biblical rationale present and well explained, clear connection with the overall discipleship design	Point Value: 4-5 Good demonstration of discipleship knowledge, attitude, or skill, utilizes information presented throughout the semester, adequate consideration of development stages in discipleship design	Point Value: 4-5 Curriculum adequately supports the 12-month discipleship design, comprehensive flow apparent among the units over the 12 months	Point Value: 4-5 Time frame presented meets the 12-month/one-year requirement, and includes presentation of strategic dates and calendar considerations	Point Value: 4-5 Adequately addresses all resources needed: human, space, and financial	
Point Value 6-7 Biblical rationale present and compelling, exceeds expectations in regard to the need for a discipleship design for the selected age segment	Point Value: 6-7 Exceeds expectations, excellent application of information presented throughout the semester, demonstrates understanding of discipleship knowledge, attitude, or skills for the selected age segment	Point Value: 6-7 Curriculum thoughtfully constructed to support the 12-month discipleship design	Point Value: 6-7 Creative & thoughtful implementation of discipleship during the 12-month calendar including specific calendar events, exceeds expectations in presentation of the time frame	Point Value: 6-7 Additional attention given to required resources to support and sustain the discipleship design (human, space, financial), logical expectations for resources needed	
				TOTAL	

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Course Schedule

Due Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Unit One: Overview of Development and Discipleship			
8/27	Review Syllabus Introduction to the Course Spiritual Development Across the Lifespan	“Introduction to Lifespan Development” (.pdf in Unit 1 Session 1 on Blackboard)	Discussion Board 1 Quiz 1 (Both due before midnight on Sunday, August 27)
9/3	What is Discipleship?	“A Discipleship Primer” (read all the .pdf files in Unit 1 Session 2); Watch Video “Why is Discipleship Important?”	Discussion Board 2 Quiz 2
Unit Two: Discipleship for Preschoolers			
9/10	Spiritual Development of Preschoolers Preschool Ministry in the Local Church	Transcript from <i>Five View on Infant & Children in the Church</i> (.pdf in Unit 2 Session 1)	Discussion Board 3 Quiz 3
Unit Three: Discipleship for Children			
9/17	Spiritual Development of Children	“A Vision for Child & Youth Discipleship” by Sally & David Michael (.pdf in Unit 3 Session 1); Watch Video “Children’s Ministry Statistics” in Session 1	Quiz 4
9/24	Children’s Ministry in the Local Church	Watch Video “Leading Your Best Kids Discipleship Group” in Session 2	Discussion Board 4 Quiz 5
Unit Four: Discipleship for Youth			
10/1	Spiritual Development of Youth	<i>DISCIPLE</i> by Allen Jackson	Journal Article Review Due
10/8	Youth Discipleship in the Local Church	“What Should I Do When My Kid Says, ‘I’m Not Going To Church?’” by Griffin	Discussion Board 5 Quiz 6
Unit Five: Discipleship for Young Adults (Emerging Adulthood)			
10/15	Spiritual Development of Young Adults	“Narrative Discipleship” by Byrd	Quiz 7
10/22	Fall Break		
10/29	Young Adult Discipleship in the Local Church	Watch Video “Is Church Passé for 18-35 Yr. Olds?”	Discussion Board 6

Unit Six: Discipleship for Middle Adults			
11/5	Spiritual Development of Middle Adults	“Implications for an Adult Religious Education for Spiritual Development”	Quiz 8
Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
11/12	Middle Adult Discipleship in the Local Church	Watch Video: “How Do We Disciple Our Own Families”	Discussion Board 7 Quiz 9
Unit Seven: Discipleship for Senior Adults			
11/19	Spiritual Development of Senior Adults	“Becoming Family” by Bozeman	Quiz 10
11/26	Thanksgiving Break		
12/3	Senior Adult Discipleship in the Local Church	“Churches Responding to the Age Wave” Watch Video “Ellie and Carl: Married Life”	Lifespan Discipleship Design Paper Due
Unit Eight: Facilitating Discipleship in the Local Church			
12/10	Spiritual Disciplines		Lifespan Discipleship Presentation Due <i>(Upload a link to your video presentation to Blackboard by 11:59pm)</i>