



Special Topics in Christian Education CEAL6292
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
Spring 2017

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Mission Statement

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.

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 worshiping 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 department.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Characteristic Excellence**.

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 education 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 2017 annual meeting of BACE will be held on the campus of NOBTS. Students will engage with leaders of Christian education for mentorship and information to lead discipleship in any church setting.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

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 developing discipleship in the local church.
2. Be able to gain skills in the area of analyzing and developing discipleship ministries in a local church context.
3. Value personal discipleship development as a ministry leader and discipling other ministry leaders in the church to strive for vibrant relationships with Christ.

Required Texts

Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2013.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Making Disciples*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009.

Mancini, Will. *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series)*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.

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. Book Critiques (Cognitive) (3 textbooks) – 45 points (15 points each)
Write a 2 page single spaced critique for each textbook. The critique should begin with a summary of the discipleship-making strategy or strategies 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 disciple-making in the local church and how the theories or practices presented contribute to carrying out the Great Commission. Due April 28, 2017.
2. Research Paper: (30%) Due: April 28, 2017.
The student will write a 6 - 8 page research paper for one educational concept presented during the conference. The paper may be either argumentative or analytical, but must be biblically supported.
 - a. Argumentative: The student will introduce the topic and inform the reader of

exactly which position the student intends to take (thesis statement). Since the goal is to persuade the reader, the topic should be debatable and controversial. The student should support this thesis throughout the paper with a minimum of 5 primary sources (excluding course textbooks) with the intent to persuade the reader to a particular interpretation of the discipleship topic.

b. Analytical: The student will ask a research question upon which he or she has taken no stance, but rather is seeking to offer a critical interpretation of primary and secondary sources for the purpose of informing the reader of a particular discipleship topic. The paper must be supported with a minimum of 5 sources (excluding course textbooks). Special Event: Catalyst Conference DISC5399 Page 5 The paper should be written in Turabian form using Times New Roman 12 pt font including page numbers and cover page. A grading rubric for the research paper is posted on Blackboard.

3. Conference Participation: (25%) Due: March 20-13, 2017.

The student is expected to participate fully in all the 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 write a 5 page reflection and analysis of the conference sessions and content gleaned. Plans for implementing the content learned into their ministry setting should be addressed in the paper. This debriefing paper is due April 29, 1027.

Course Policies

Assignment Formatting

- 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 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

Late Assignments

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 2011-2012 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.

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.

Course Schedule

A conference schedule is available from the Baptist Association of Christian Educators (baptisteducators.org). In addition students in this special topics seminar will meet with the professor during these time periods:

Breakfast, Thursday, March 30 – 8:00 am in River City Café.

Breakfast, Friday, March 31-- 8:00 am in River City Café.

Selected Bibliography

Anderson, Keith R. and Randy D. Reese. *Spiritual Mentoring: A Guide for Seeking and Giving Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Ventura, CA: Issachar Resources, 2000.

- Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Fryling, Alice, ed. *The Disciplemakers' Handbook*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1989.
- Goldsmith, Malcolm. *Knowing Me Knowing God: Exploring Your Spirituality With Myers-Briggs*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.
- Hahn, Todd and David Verhaagen. *Generation Xers After God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Hanks, Billie and William A. Shell, eds. *Discipleship: Great Insights from the Most Experienced Disciple Makers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Henderson, D. Michael. *John Wesley's Class Meeting: A Model for Making Disciples*. Nappanee, IN: Francis Asbury Press, 1997.
- Hendricks, Howard. *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
- Henrichsen, Walter A. *Disciples Are Made, Not Born*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1974.
- Hull, Bill. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- Lamb, Richard. *Following Jesus in the Real World: Discipleship for the Post-College Years*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Laurie, Greg. *Discipleship: The Next Step in Following Jesus*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1999.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategy 2000: Churches Making Disciples for the Next Millennium*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Resources, 1996.
- Marsh, F. E. *Discipler's Manual*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980.
- Morton, Scott. *Down to Earth Discipling*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.

Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship*. Colorado Springs: Nav Press, 1993.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On The Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper, 2000.

Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.