



**DISC5371-65, 30**

***Disciple Making Through Small Group Ministry***

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**

**Christian Education Division**

**Fall 2018/19, Term 191**

**CIV from Miami to Orlando**

**Monday 8x Hybrid, 9:00 – 10:50 am**

**Class Dates: 8/27, 9/10, 9/24, 10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/12, 12/3**

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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.

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### **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 deportment.

The core value focus for this academic year is **Doctrinal Integrity**.

### **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.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

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

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

*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 of 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.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: a lecture and interactive discovery-learning format.

### **Textbooks**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

### **Required Texts**

Gladden, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013.

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

***Assigned Texts (these will be assigned the first week of class)***

Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*. revised and expanded ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

Spader, Dann. *4 Chair Discipling: Growing a Movement of Disciple-Makers*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2014.

Stetzer, Ed and Eric Geiger. *Transformational Groups: Creating a Scorecard for Groups*. Nashville, TN: B & H Books, 2014.

**Course Requirements**

**All assignments** should be submitted on time via blackboard for this course. In the blackboard shell, click the “Upload Assignments” link to upload your work. Please note that every assignment that is uploaded is time stamped with the date and time of the upload.

**Disciple Making Is Summaries – 20 points (class dates)**

Students will summarize findings in the book, *Disciple Making Is* by Early and Dempsey, on **four** assigned chapters in the book. The assigned chapters will be provided the first week of the course. After reading the **assigned chapter**, you should **present** to class:

- A list of **three** quotes from the assigned chapters which are significant for your own personal discipleship, leadership development and/or for the discipleship of other ministry leaders. After each *quote*:
- You should include a **3-5 sentence paragraph** with **explanation** of the quote’s significance or life-changing truth.
- You should also include how **future usage for personal growth and in church ministry** of the quote’s significance or life-changing truth with **at least one practical application** for implementation in local church ministry.

**Exegetical Research Paper – 25 points (Due October 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

You will create a clear and concise **10-page** critical reflection paper (body) on a Small Group leadership and management necessity for local church ministry (20 pts). Your paper will consist of a synthesis and analysis of the pertinent literature as well as a proposal for the integration of disciple making concepts to this specific local church ministry context. (*Always begin a paper with the **theological basis** before entering into the philosophical concerns.*) Students should use a minimum of **ten (10) sources** for this assignment. The paper should be written using Turabian formatting. A grading rubric is found in the online shell. You will provide your research findings to the teacher via Powerpoint presentation. Your presentation will be included in the grading of this assignment (5 pts).

The following are reflection papers to choose from:

- The Purpose and Mission of a Small Groups
- How to Hire and Fire Small Group Leaders
- How to Recruit New Teachers for Every Age Group in the Church
- Creating and Communicating Expectations and Job Descriptions for Teacher and Leaders of Small Groups
- How to Assimilate People from the Community into the Small Group
- Choosing the Best Curriculum for Age-Graded Small Groups
- Creating and Training a Staff Team that Leads Small Groups
- Creating a Church-wide Space Plan for Small Group Growth

- The Model Small Group Teacher
- The Small Group Pastor's Leadership Attributes
- Principles and Methods of Missional Small Group Classes
- Planning an Annual Small Group Training Event
- The Purpose and Function of Discipleship Making Groups
- The Role and Design of Mentoring in the Church Life

### **Assignment Formatting**

- 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

### **Assigned Text Critique and Review – 10 points (Due Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> and Nov 12<sup>th</sup>)**

You will be assigned two books from the optional list from the required readings. You will provide a written critique and present findings to the class via discussion board. You will turn in a 3-page, type-written report on the assigned book. The book critique 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.

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 how it is applied to church; items on which you are not sure what your stance is when asked to explain.

### **Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups – 30 pts (Due December 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

You will develop a **Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups** for adults in the local church. You 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 disciple-making 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. Model for Implementation
    - d. Weekly schedule and meeting time and length
    - e. New believers assimilation
    - f. Believers only or non-believers in groups
    - g. Child-care and student participation
    - h. Role of video and technology in teaching and accountability

The Personal Statement of Disciple-Making 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.

### **Class Participation and Engagement – 15 points (class dates)**

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 online threads and dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not engaged in the online dialogues on the subject matter. Consequently, the student is expected to:

- Post answers, comments, and questions on the discussion board threads
- Provide on-going biblical, philosophical, or social science research to support your assertions.
- Reflect on an idea presented in one of the textbooks.
- Relate an example or story that conveys an application to the thread.

### **Text Review Readings for Extra Credit – 3% extra credit**

**Due: Dec. 8th**

*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.

### **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Textbook Summaries	20%
Exegetical Research Paper	25%
Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups	30%
Book Critique and Posting	10%
Online Discussion Boards	<u>15%</u>
	100%
Optional Extra Credit (Text Review Readings)	3%

## Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## 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 *Evaluation of Grade* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2018-2019 catalog.

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

## Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. You are expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. You are 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 you are taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

## 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

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Lecture Topic</b>	<b>Due</b>
Unit 1	Introduction	Class Date 8/27
Unit 2	Overview of Discipleship/State of Small Groups	Class Date 9/10/
Unit 3	Discipleship as a Basis for Small Group Ministry	Class Date 9/10/
<b>Assignment</b>	<b><i>Disciple Making Is</i> Summaries Due</b>	<b>Class Meeting Dates</b>
Unit 4	Teams and Equipping Small Groups	September 10
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assigned Text Critique and Review</b>	<b>September 24</b>
Unit 5	Open or Closed Small Groups	September 24
Unit 6	Building Community in Small Groups	September 24
Unit 7	Developing Adult Leaders for Small Groups	October 8
Unit 8	Enlisting for Discipleship Ministry – Spiritual Gifts	October 8
Unit 9	Enlisting for Discipleship Ministry – Personality Assessment	October 8
<b>Break</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	<b>October 16-20</b>
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Exegetical Research Paper</b>	<b>October 22</b>
Unit 10	Removing Barriers for Multiplication	October 22
Unit 11	Strategic Planning for Triads	November 5
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Assigned Text Critique and Review</b>	<b>November 12</b>
Unit 12	Discipleship and Christian Education	November 12
<b>Break</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Break</b>	<b>November 19-23</b>
Unit 13	Discipleship Models	December 3
Unit 14	Discipleship Models	December 3
<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups</b>	<b>December 3</b>

### **Selected Bibliography**

- Anderson, Philip and Phoebe Anderson. *The House Church*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1975.
- Arnold, Jeffrey. *Seven Tools for Building Effective Groups*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1997.
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- Barrett, Lois. *Building the House Church*. Kitchener: Herald, 1986.
- Coleman, Lyman. *Small Group Training Manual*. Littleton, CO: Serendipity, 1991.
- Coleman, Robert Emerson. *The Great Commission Lifestyle: Conforming Your Life to Kingdom Priorities*. Grand Rapids, MI: F.H. Revell, 1992.
- Donahue, Bill. *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Duewel, Wesley L. *Touch the World through Prayer*. Grand Rapids, MI: F. Asbury, 1986.
- Edgemon, Roy T. & Steve Williams. *Leading Discipleship in a Church: 1997-98*. Nashville, TN: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1996.
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- Estep, James R., Michael J. Anthony, and Gregg R. Allison. *A Theology for Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008.
- Galloway, Dale. *20/20 Vision: How to Create a Successful Church With Lay Pastors and Cell Groups*. Portland, OR: Foundations of Hope, 1986.
- Getz, Gene A. and Charles R. Swindoll. *The Walk: Growing into the Fullness of Christ*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2000.
- Gorman, Julie A. *Community That is Christian: A Handbook on Small Groups*. Wheaton, IL: Victor, 1993.
- Hadaway, C. Kirk, Stuart A. Wright, and Francis M. DuBose. *Home Cell Groups and House Churches*. Nashville, TN: Broadman, 1987.
- Hellebein, Frances, Marshall Goldsmith, and Richard Beckhard, eds. *The Leader of the Future: New Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the Next Era*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1996.
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- Hemphill, Ken, and R. Wayne Jones. *Growing an Evangelistic Sunday School*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1989.



- Icenogle, Gareth Weldom. *Biblical Foundation for Small Group Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1994.
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- Mack, Michael C. *The Synergy Church: A Strategy for Integrating Small Groups and Sunday School*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Developing a Vision for Ministry in the Twenty-first Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1992.
- Mancini, Will. *Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, and Create Movement*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008.
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- Mims, Gene. *Kingdom Principles for Church Growth* (rev.). Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 2001.
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- Rhodes, David. *Cell Church or Traditional?: Reflections on the Church*. Cambridge, MA: Grove, 1996.
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- Warren, Rick. *The Purpose-Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
- Welch, Bobby H. *Evangelism Through Sunday School: A Journey of Faith*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 1997.
- White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1997.

## 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/studentservices](http://www.nobts.edu/studentservices), email us at [studentservices@nobts.edu](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:studentservices@nobts.edu">studentservices@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3312	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising">www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising</a>
Advising – Undergraduate Program	<a href="mailto:lcadminasst@nobts.edu">lcadminasst@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8590	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege">www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege</a>
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	<a href="mailto:cmr@nobts.edu">cmr@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3291	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/CMR">www.nobts.edu/CMR</a>
Financial Aid	<a href="mailto:financialaid@nobts.edu">financialaid@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3348	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/financialaid">www.nobts.edu/financialaid</a>
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	<a href="mailto:Prepassistant1@nobts.edu">Prepassistant1@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8091	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/prep">www.nobts.edu/prep</a>
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	<a href="mailto:pr@nobts.edu">pr@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8003	<a href="http://nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com">nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com</a>
Information Technology Center	<a href="mailto:itcsupport@nobts.edu">itcsupport@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8180	<a href="http://selfserve.nobts.edu">selfserve.nobts.edu</a>
Help with Blackboard	<a href="mailto:blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu">blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8180	<a href="http://nobts.blackboard.com">nobts.blackboard.com</a>
Library	<a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8018	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/Library">www.nobts.edu/Library</a>
Online library resources	<a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8018	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html">http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html</a>
Writing and Turabian style help	<a href="mailto:library@nobts.edu">library@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8018	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html">http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html</a>
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	<a href="mailto:ph@nobts.edu">ph@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x4455	<a href="http://www.provhouse.com">www.provhouse.com</a>
Student Counseling	<a href="mailto:lmccc@nobts.edu">lmccc@nobts.edu</a>	504.816.8004	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling/services.html">www.nobts.edu/studentservices/counseling/services.html</a>
Women’s Programs	<a href="mailto:womensacademic@nobts.edu">womensacademic@nobts.edu</a>	504.282.4455 x3334	<a href="http://www.nobts.edu/women">www.nobts.edu/women</a>

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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