



Disciple Making through Small Group Ministry DISC5371

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Fall 2021-22 (NOLA2U Flex)

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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.

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 the ministry of a church, which utilizes a small group strategy.

Student Learning Outcomes

By successfully completing this course, you should:

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.

Required Textbooks

Braddy, Ken. *Breathing Life into Sunday School: 12 Essentials to Revive your Most Important Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Resources. 2019.

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

Search, Bill. *The Essential Guide for Small Group Leaders*. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today. 2017.

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

Assigned or Recommended Texts

- Boren, Scott. *Making Cell Groups Work: Navigating the Transformation to a Cell Based Church*. Houston, TX: Touch Outreach Ministries. 2002.
- Cole, Neil, *Cultivating a Life for God: Multiplying Disciples Through Life Transformation Groups*. Long Beach, CA: CMA Resources. 2014.
- Comisky, Joel. *2000 Years of Small Groups: A History of Cell Ministry in the Church*. Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing. 2015.
- Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, Ill: Crossway, 2012.
- Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2013.
- Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 2003.
- Parr, Steve. *Sunday School that Really Works: A Strategy for Connecting Congregations to Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2010.
- Spader, Dann. *4 Chair Discippling: Growing a Movement of Disciple-Makers*. Chicago, Ill: Moody Publishers, 2014.
- Taylor, Allan. *Sunday School in HD*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2009.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize lecture, interactive discovery learning, class discussions, as well as personal and group presentations. The class is on campus and NOLA2U Flex format.

Teaching Units:

- Unit 1: Introductions
- Unit 2: Overview of Discipleship

Know the Possibilities

- Unit 3: Sunday School and Small Groups

Enlarge the Organization

- Unit 4: Open or Closed Small Groups
- Unit 5: Starting New Groups

Enlist and Train Workers

- Unit 6: Leadership Positions and Roles
- Unit 7: Training Models & Content

Provide the Space

- Unit 8: Evaluating & Utilizing Space

Go After the People

- Unit 9: Outreach through Small Groups
- Unit 10: Evangelism through Small Groups

Strategic Planning

Unit 11: Christian Education, Discipleship, & Spiritual Formation

Best Small Group Practices

Unit 12: Creating & Managing Group Experiences

Unit 13: Effective Bible Teaching & Curriculum Mapping

The Final Product

Unit 14: Review and Conclusion

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Writing Style Guide

Unless otherwise noted all writing assignments should adhere to the Writing Style Guide.

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Assignment 1. Annotated Bibliographies – 10%

Create a three to four paragraph single-spaced annotation for two designated texts to meet the reading requirement. Each annotated bibliography should contain the correct format as cited in Turabian 9.36 with the addition of the number of pages of the referenced work at the end of the citation. Each annotation that follows should contain your appraisal and considerations on the text, not just a synopsis of the text. Following the annotation, indicate whether or not you read the text in its entirety. You may use parenthetical references.

- *Transformational Groups* – **September 3, 2021**
- *Small Groups with a Purpose* – **September 17, 2021**

Assignment 2. Book Summary and Critique – 10% (Due October 17th)

Students can choose (or be assigned) a book from the optional list from the required readings. Students will provide a written summary and critique. On or before the due date, submit a 3-page type-written report on the assigned book. The book review should include the following two components: 1) A one page (double-spaced) **content summary** and 2) A two page (single-spaced) **summary and critique** 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. More guidelines will be provided in class.

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; items on which you are not sure what your stance is.

*This assignment should be posted in a designated discussion board in Blackboard **and** assignments.*

Assignment 3. Quizzes – 15% (5 points each)

Three quizzes will be given online. The dates and subject matter will be announced at least one week prior to the test date. The test questions will be drawn from required textbooks and class presentations.

Assignment 4. Biblical Research Paper – 20% (Due October 29, 2021)

Create a clear and concise (6-8 page) research paper on small group disciple-making principles derived from Scripture. The paper will consist of a synthesis and analysis of the pertinent literature in light of the exegetical themes of discipleship throughout the Bible. Students should discern five to seven fundamental principles for integration in a local church team ministry setting. Students will be prepared to report their research findings to class via PowerPoint presentation. Students' presentation will be included in the grading of this paper. **Pay close attention to the *Assignment Formatting* section of this syllabus!** You may want to submit your paper to the Writing Center for evaluation.

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment 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

Assignment 5. Case Study - 25% (Due November 28, 2021)

Using the fundamental principles discovered in the **Biblical Research Paper** and the best practices covered in the literature and class presentations, describe a local small group ministry, assess the strengths and weaknesses, and make recommendations for improvements.

- 1. Description of Existing Small Group Ministry. (2-3 pages)**
- 2. Assessment of Strengths and Challenges. (2-3 pages)**
- 3. Recommendations for Improvements. (2-3 pages)**

The Small Group Ministry case study should be 7-9 pages in length, single-spaced and organized. Diagrams, charts, and bullet points are welcomed and encouraged. Individual reports will be discussed in class. *This assignment should also be posted in a designated discussion board in Blackboard and assignments.*

Final Exam – 15% (December 7, 9, 2021)

During the final exam, expect to communicate a personal statement of disciple making through small groups in the local church. Evaluation is based on your ability to synthesize content from the course including the biblical foundation, organization, development and leadership of a small group ministry in a local congregation.

Classroom Decorum/Group Work – 5%

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 classroom presentations and classroom dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not focused on the subject matter while in the classroom. Consequently, the student is expected:

- To come to class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources on the course topic in discussion groups and classroom dialogues.
- To dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook. *This means no flip-flops and no ball caps!*
- To turn off cell phones and to not accept any phone calls during class.
- To use laptops appropriately.

Extra Credit – 5% extra credit (Due by Dec 7, 2021)

OPTIONAL: Write a three-page text review for a book selection not already required or read for the course. The text selected *must be pre-approved* and at least 150 pages in length. The text review should include a brief summary, the vital concepts, and your appraisal and considerations on the text.

Course Evaluation

Annotated Bibliography	10%
Exegetical Research Paper	20%
Quizzes	15%
Book Summary and Critique	10%
Case Study	25%
Final Exam	15%
Classroom Decorum/Group Work	5%
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	100%

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [assignment by professor] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

Course Policies

Academic Policies: Academic policies relate to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

Absences: Absences are not permitted. You must see the Associate Dean, Research Doctoral Programs, for any exception to this policy.

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.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will be accepted.

Assignment Grading: Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Feedback on graded assignments is provided through the grading rubric located in Blackboard. You will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

Cell phones: Phones must be silenced during class time. The use of a cell phone for the purposes of texting, email or other social media is not permitted. Anyone who is observed text messaging or using an electronic device during class may be asked to drop the course

Classroom Decorum: Your participation is required for every session. You are expected to:

- Come to the sessions with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources related to the course topic.
- Dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- Turn off cell phones and not accept any calls and/or text messages during class.
- Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
- Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Disabilities and Accommodations: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary does not discriminate against applicants/ students on the basis of personal disabilities. The Seminary, in voluntary compliance with the American Disabilities Act, will provide reasonable institutional accommodations, modifications, and adjustments to enable and empower students with disabilities to participate in Seminary programs and activities to the fullest extent possible. However, NOBTS cannot support accommodations that place undue hardship on the Seminary or its resources or which alter the essential requirements of curriculum and academic progress. While the seminary does not provide direct assistance to students in the form of equipment or

personnel, accommodations may be made by individual professors at their discretion. These accommodations usually take the form of early access to lecture materials in electronic format and additional time to complete tests and assignments. The most efficient way to pursue such accommodations is to provide the Director of Testing and Counseling (Dr. Jeff Nave, jnave@nobts.edu, 504-282-4455 ext. 8004) with documentation of the condition for which you seek accommodation, an explanation of helpful accommodations received in the past, and a description of the specific accommodations you desire. The Director of Testing and Counseling will document your request and communicate on your behalf with the professors who teach the course(s) for which you are registered. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for “special” accommodations on a case by case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

Diversity: NOBTS affirms the Christian doctrinal position that God created man in His own image, and that Christ died for man; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. We believe our students and graduates have the opportunity to be “salt and light” (Matthew 5:13-16) whatever their places of service, and that a robust appreciation for and sensitivity to human diversity is key to that end. Further, a learning environment diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. Students and faculty benefit from diversity. The quality of learning, research, scholarship, and creative activities are enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding, and appreciation of the full range of human experience. We are committed to nurturing and training a diverse student body in an atmosphere of mutual respect and appreciation of differences. As a result, NOBTS is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society, reflected in our local community, and aligned with the core values of the NOBTS community.

Laptops: Laptops may be used in class only for taking notes and other activities assigned by the professor. Other activities are strictly prohibited. Laptops may not be open during presentations unless requested by the presenter. Anyone observed using a laptop in a way that violates this policy may be asked to drop the course.

Late Assignments: Late assignments will be accepted with a penalty. Expect a 10% grade reduction for each week late. Approval to submit a late assignment must be obtained. Contact the professor to explain your rationale for a late submission.

Netiquette: Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. 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.

Plagiarism: 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.

Recording Policy: Recordings of class, including any audio and/or video recordings, regardless of the media or format, and regardless of the intended or actual use, are not permitted without prior written permission of the professor. The class will be notified in advance should any such recording be approved. This policy is intended to protect the privacy of the students.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F."

Additional Information

Blackboard and CampusNexus Student: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and CNS. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and CNS do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard.

You are enrolled in two Blackboard shells for this course – Teaching in Higher Education in which you will be enrolled as a student and Teaching in Higher Education Practice Shell, in which you will be enrolled as an instructor. *You will post assignments to both shells.* Pay careful attention to the instructions related to each assignment.

Correspondence with the Professor: Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any question you may have regarding this course.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

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 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: Sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

Special Needs: (See Disabilities and Accommodations) If you need an accommodation for any other special need, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s).

Technical Assistance

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

1. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
2. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
3. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Selected Bibliography

- Anderson, Philip and Phoebe Anderson. *The House Church*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1975.
- Arnold, Jeffrey. *Seven Tools for Building Effective Groups*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.
- _____. *The Big Book of Small Groups*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1994.
- 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: F.H. Revell, 1992.
- Donahue, Bill. *Leading Life-Changing Small Groups*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002
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- Estep, James R., Michael J. Anthony, and Gregg R. Allison. *A Theology for Christian Education*. Nashville: 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: Broadman and Holman, 2000.
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- Hadaway, C. Kirk, Stuart A. Wright, and Francis M. DuBose. *Home Cell Groups and House Churches*. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.

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- Hemphill, Ken. *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1996.
- _____ and Bill Taylor. *Ten Best Practices To Make Your Sunday School Work*. Nashville: LifeWay, 2001.
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- Mallory, Sue. *The Equipping Church: Serving Together to Transform Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
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- Stanley, Andy and Ed Young. *Can We Do That: 24 Innovative Practices that Will Change the Way You Do Church*. Howard Publishing, 2002.
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