



DISC5300 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Church Ministry Division

Online Fall 2022

Professor Name

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Ministry-Based Professor of Discipleship

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Mission Statement

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Students will be equipped for leading a biblical discipleship ministry by exploring a variety of personal and church-wide discipleship principles, methods and approaches. They will develop skills for evaluating and applying discipleship models as part of a contextual disciple making strategy to fulfill the Great Commission.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Understanding of discipleship by developing a plan for personal discipleship and how to assist others to develop a personal discipleship plan
- Skill in the ability to practice appropriate disciplines of the Christian faith.
- Comprehension of discipleship by evaluating a variety of discipleship strategies utilized in a local church.
- Ability to develop a discipleship strategy, which can be implemented in the student's specific ministry setting.

Required Textbooks

Absalom, Alex and Bobby Harrington. *Discipleship that Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.

Allin, Dana. *Simple Discipleship: Grow Your Faith, Transform Your Community*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2018.

Dean, Jody and Hal Stewart, eds. *Together We Equip*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting on the Character of Christ - 20th Anniversary Edition*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2021.

Suggested Textbooks

Bridges, Jerry and Bob Bevington. *The Bookends of the Christian Life*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell, 2006.

Foster, Richard J. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1998.

Course Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, classroom lecture and discussion, and individual learning assignments.

Embedded Assignment

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

Course Requirements

All assignments must be submitted electronically in Canvas. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due before midnight on the due date. See Course Schedule (last page) for due dates.

1. Classroom Decorum and Engagement (10%)

Attendance/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 in-class/online threads and 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 turn cell phones on silent and to not accept any phone calls during class.
- Use laptops, iPads and other electronic devices appropriately to enhance class participation and abstain from social media (i.e., Facebook, messaging, etc.) and ministry responsibilities (e-mails, web site updates, etc.) during class sessions.

2. Scripture Memory (5%)

Each student will memorize and recite selected scripture passages related to personal spiritual growth, discipleship, and disciple making.

3. Personal Discipleship Map (10%) **Embedded Assignment**

Each student will create a creative and visual personal discipleship map that depicts spiritual formation and his/her discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity, spiritual disciplines, and relationships. The map should include a biblical foundation for spiritual formation, personal spiritual disciplines/devotional practices, and engagement in relationships through mentoring, and groups.

4. Book Critiques (15% or each book is 5%)

Write a 3-page type-written double-spaced report on three of the textbooks (*Discipleship that Fits*, *Simple Discipleship*, and *Together We Equip*). The book review should include the following two components: 1) A one-page **content summary** 2) A two-page **reflection summary** 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.

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.

5. Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper (20%)

Write an 8-page paper discussing the biblical mandate for discipleship. Include an overview of Old Testament and New Testament examples of discipleship. Examine how this mandate and the examples included are applicable to the local church. Use at least eight sources including the Bible and the course texts, preferably scholarly works. Seminary Style Guide is required for this assignment. Refer to the Blackboard document “General Considerations for the Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper” for help with this assignment.

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to Seminary Style Guide 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*
- Write the *full* assignment

6. MinistrySafe Sexual Abuse Awareness Training (5%)

Each student must complete the online MinistrySafe Training. Students must submit the completion certificate from MinistrySafe to receive credit for the assignment.

7. Discipleship Strategy Implementation (35%)

Based on the discipleship strategies and the foundational concepts of development discussed in class, the biblical foundations and mandates of discipleship discussed in your **Biblical Overview**

of Discipleship paper, and additional personal research, **develop** a discipleship strategy which can be implemented in your specific ministry setting. Create a PowerPoint presentation (25 slides) or PDF document (25 pages) **with annotations**, which provide an overview, explanation and rationale for your strategy. This presentation should include a **minimum** of 8 to 12 weeks detailed description for **how** to implement your strategy (which can either include planning processes or curriculum and content materials, etc.). Refer to the document “Discipleship Strategies Development Guide” on Blackboard for help with this assignment. **Students will also select 2-3 slides (2-3 minutes) from this assignment to present on presentation day(s).**

Evaluation of Grade

Classroom Decorum and Engagement	10%
Scripture Memory	5%
Personal Discipleship Map	10%
Book Critiques (3 at 5% each)	15%
Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper	20%
MinistrySafe Sexual Abuse Awareness Training	5%
Discipleship Strategy Handbook and Implementation	<u>35%</u>
	100%

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. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu
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.

Course Policies

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Please arrive on time.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

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.

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 of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through 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

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>

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 helps and guidelines.

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.

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.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/studentservices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related 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*](#).

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

Policy for Graduating Seniors

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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.

Attendance Policy

Intensive and Weekend Hybrid Classes: Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

Online: Students are expected to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and other course delivery methods. Students who fail to participate consistently in course activities may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

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.

Selected Bibliography

- 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.
- Blackaby, Henry and Richard. *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishers, 2001.
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- Bruce, A. B. *The Training of the Twelve*. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1971.
- Calkins, Raymond. *How Jesus Dealt With Men*. New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1942.
- Camp, Lee C. *Mere Discipleship: Radical Christianity in a Rebellious World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2008.
- 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.
- Cole, Neil. *Search and Rescue: Becoming a Disciple Who Makes a Difference*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.
- Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel-Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Eims, LeRoy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.
- Gangel, Kenneth. "The Meaning of Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
- Goleman, Daniel, Richard Boyatis, and Annie McKee. *Primal Leadership: Revitalizing the Power of Emotional Intelligence*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2004.
- Habermas, Ronald T. *Introduction to Christian Education and Formation: A Lifelong Plan for Christ-Centered Restoration*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.
- Hedges, Brian G. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2010.
- Hesselbein, Frances and Marshall Goldsmith, eds. *The Leader of the Future 2: Visions, Strategies, and Practices for the New Era*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.

- Hodges, Herb. *Tally Ho the Fox: The Foundation for Building World-Visionary, World-Impacting, Reproducing Disciples*. 2 ed. Augusta, GA: Manhattan Source, 2001.
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.
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- Huxhold, Harry N. *Twelve Who Followed: The Story of Jesus and His First Disciples*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987.
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- Im, Daniel. *No Silver Bullets: 5 Small Shifts That Will Transform Your Ministry*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2017.
- Issler, Klaus. *Living Into the Life of Jesus: The Formation of Christian Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- Jones, Laurie Beth. *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership*. New York: Hyperion, 1995.
- Koessler, John. *True Discipleship: The Art of Following Jesus*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2003.
- Lane, Timothy S., and Paul David Tripp. *How People Change*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2006.
- Lawless, Chuck. *Discipled Warriors: Growing Healthy Churches That Are Equipped for Spiritual Warfare*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2002.
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- McCallum, Dennis and Jessica Lowery. *Organic Disciplemaking: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership*. Houston, TX: Touch Publications, 2006.
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- Ogden, Greg. "Servant Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.
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- and Daniel Meyer. *Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, Defining Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Connect, 2007.
- O'Grady, John F. *Disciples and Leaders: The Origins of Christian Ministry in the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.
- Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship: Encouraging Others to Spiritual Maturity*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007.
- Pettit, Paul, ed. *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2008.
- Pope, Randy, and Kittie Murray. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Putman, David. *Breaking the Discipleship Code*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing Group, 2008.
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- Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
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- Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.

RUBRIC FOR GRADING A SUMMATIVE PROJECT – PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP MAP IN THE COURSE DISC5300: DISCIPLESHIP AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Assignment Description:

Each student will design a creative and visual personal discipleship map that depicts spiritual formation and his/her discipleship plan relating to the importance of spiritual maturity, spiritual disciplines, and relationships. The map should include a biblical foundation for spiritual formation, personal spiritual disciplines/devotional practices, and engagement in relationships through mentoring, and groups.

Element	SLOs	Inadequate (1 PT)	BASIC (2PTS)	COMPETENT (3 PTS)	GOOD (4 PTS)	EXCELLENT (5 PTS)	POINTS
<u>UNDERSTANDING</u>	Understand the basic marks of personal spiritual disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.	Shows an inadequate understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.	Shows a minimal understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship.	Shows an adequate understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth and discipleship. Student lists one or two spiritual disciplines.	Shows a good understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth, and discipleship. Student lists and three spiritual disciplines.	Shows an exemplary understanding of personal disciplines, spiritual growth, and discipleship. The student lists four spiritual disciplines.	
<u>APPLICATION</u>	Develop a positive response to lifelong spiritual growth through the practice of spiritual disciplines.	Makes poor application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines	Makes minimal application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines	Makes one practical applications to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	Makes two applications to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	Makes three practical application to respond to lifelong spiritual growth through spiritual disciplines.	
<u>COMMUNICATION</u>	Represents a personal discipleship plan and leads others in spiritual disciplines within a small group setting.	An incoherent visual representation that fails to communicate a plan to help others grow spiritually.	An inconsistent visual representation that fails to communicate a plan to help others grow spiritually.	A partial visual representation that communicates a competent plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.	A good visual representation that communicates a competent plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.	An exemplary visual representation that communicates a competent plan to help others grow spiritually by valuing relationships.	<u>Aver. Score</u>

Scale: 0-1 = Inadequate _____ 1-2 = Basic _____ 2-3 = Competent _____ 3-4 = Good _____ 4-5 = Excellent _____

Instructor: _____

Semester _____

Teaching Venue _____

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Course Schedule

The professor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule as needed
You are responsible for all assigned readings. All readings may not be covered in class

Date	Reading Due	Assignments Due
Section 1: Servanthood and Personal Devotion		
Unit 1: Introduction to Discipleship & Spiritual Formation		
	Willard, 1-3 Allin, 1	
Unit 2: What is Biblical Discipleship?		
	Willard, 4-5 Allin, 2-3	
Unit 3: Who are My Disciples?		
	Willard, 6-9 Allin, 4-5	
Unit 3: Spiritual Disciplines		
	Willard, 10-13	Scripture Memory due before midnight
Unit 4: Scripture Memory		
	Dean/Stewart, ch. 1-4 Allin, 6-7	
Unit 5: Personal Testimony		
	Allin, 8	Personal Discipleship Map due before midnight
Section 2: Proclamation and Mission		
Unit 6: The Mission of the Church?		
	Malphurs, 1-3	
Unit 7: The Pattern of Spiritual Growth		
	Malphurs, 4-9	
Unit 8: Discipleship Environments and Five Models of Discipleship		
	Absalom/Harrington, 1-3 Allin, 10	Book Critiques due before midnight
Unit 9: Strategy Development		
	Dean/Stewart, 5-8	
Unit 10: Mentoring Men and Women		
	Dean/Stewart, 14-15 Allin, 9	Biblical Overview due before midnight
Unit 11: Age-graded Discipleship		
	Dean/Stewart, 9-13	
Unit 12: Evaluation of Discipleship Strategies		

	Absalom/Harrington, ch. 4-8 Allin, Appendix A, B, C	
Unit 13: Ministry Safe		
		Discipleship Strategy Implementation due before midnight Submit MinistrySafe completion certificate
Unit 14: Discipleship Strategy Presentation		
		Strategy Highlights Presentation Day