



**DISC5371 Disciplemaking Through Small Group  
Ministry**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Church Ministry Division  
Spring 2022 Online Term (March 14-May 5)

**Professor:**

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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 evaluating of the ministry of a church that utilizes a small group strategy.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

1. Understand biblical concepts for the 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 Readings**

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

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

Hartwig, Ryan T., Courtney W. Davis and Jason A. Sniff. *Leading Small Groups that Thrive: Five Shifts to Take Your Group to the Next Level*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2020.

Search, Bill and Amy Jackson. *The Essential Guide for Small Groups*. Carol Stream, IL: Christianity Today International, 2017.

### Course Teaching Methodology

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

Unit 1: Introduction

Unit 2: Disciplemaking in the Local Church

Unit 3: State of Disciplemaking Groups

Unit 4: Disciplemaking as a basis for Small Groups

Unit 5: Open groups

Unit 6: Closed groups

Unit 7: Strategy Development

Unit 8: Developing Leadership

Unit 9: Enlisting Leadership

Unit 10: Growing the Organization

Unit 11: Outreach Ministry in Small Groups

Unit 12: Starting New Groups

Unit 13: Choosing Curriculum

Unit 14: Quality Small Group Standards

### Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

**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.

#### **Annotated Bibliography (cognitive) – 15 pts**

**Due: March 26<sup>th</sup>**

Create a four to five-sentence, single-spaced annotation for two of the 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. These two selected texts should be submitted in one document. **Following the annotation, indicate whether or not you read the text in its entirety.**

- *Breathing Life into Sunday School: 12 Essentials to Revive your Most Important Ministry*

#### **Book Critiques (cognitive) – 10 pts**

**Due: April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**

You will provide a written critique. On the assigned day, you turn in a 3-page, type-written report on the assigned book. The book review 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 for pages two and three. The following should be included with each significant idea: a) the book page number, b) at least one of each of the three identified categories below, and c) brief reflective personal comments. A double-space between each entry of the list is expected. **Following the critique, indicate whether or not you read the text in its entirety.**

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
  - *Leading Small Groups that Thrive* – **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

- *The Essential Guide for Small Groups* – April 9<sup>th</sup>

### **Discussion Board Engagement – 15 pts**

**Due: Weekly**

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.

### **Exegetical Research Paper (affective) – 25 pts + 5 pts = 30 pts total Due: April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

You will create a clear and concise 8-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 eight 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 for the Exegetical Research Paper**

- 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

**Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups (psychomotor) – 30 pts Due: (May 4<sup>th</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. Weekly schedule and meeting time and length
  - d. New believers assimilation
  - e. Believers only or non-believers in groups
  - f. Child-care and student participation
  - g. 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.

**Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Annotated Bibliography	15%
Exegetical Research Paper and Presentation	30%
Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups	30%
Book Critiques	10%
Online Decorum/Discussion	<u>15%</u>
	100%

**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>

### **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 2016-2017 catalog.

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

### **Web-based Course Reminder/Warning**

Web-based courses are, by nature, a different kind of learning experience than courses taught in the traditional classroom. Because of this structure, this web-based course is more reading and writing intensive than traditional classroom courses. Rigorous study of the deep things of God can be a rewarding experience for anyone who participates in it, but it also calls for extra diligence and integrity in completing the work. This reality does not mean that a web-based course cannot be successful in equipping you, the student, for effective, God-honoring ministry. It simply means utilizing a different strategy. Internet courses allow room for independent learners to thrive—to work at a responsible pace, to engage in student-led discussions, and to take ownership of the learning of course content. Note that your instructors are praying for your success.

### **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.

### **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.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Leading Discipleship in a Church*. Nashville, TN: Baptist Sunday School Board, 1997.
- 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.
- Hemphill, Ken. *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 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.
- Long, Jimmy. *Small Group Leaders' Handbook: The Next Generation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1995.
- Mack, Michael C. *The Synergy Church: A Strategy for Integrating Small Groups and Sunday School*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1996.
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- \_\_\_\_\_ and Brad Smith. *The Equipping Church Guidebook*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Advanced Strategic Planning: A New Model for Church and Ministry Leaders*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1999.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *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.
- McBride, Neal F. *How To Build A Small Groups Ministry*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1995.
- McIntosh, Gary. *Make Room for the Boom...or Bust: Six Models for Reaching Three Generations*. Tarrytown, NY: Revell, 1997.
- Mims, Gene. *Kingdom Principles for Church Growth* (rev.). Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 2001.
- Poling, Wayne, ed. *Sunday School Manual*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 2009.
- Rhodes, David. *Cell Church or Traditional?: Reflections on the Church*. Cambridge, MA: Grove, 1996.
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- 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/student-services](http://www.nobts.edu/student-services), 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/student-services/counseling-services.html">www.nobts.edu/student-services/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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