



**DISC6392 Special Topics in Discipleship**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Xcelerate Conference 2017  
Fall Semester, Oct 18-20, 2017

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*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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**NOBTS Core Values and Core Value Focus**

*Doctrinal Integrity* – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

*Spiritual Vitality* – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

*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.

*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.

*Servant Leadership* – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2017-2018 academic year the Core Value is *Servant Leadership*.

## **Course Description**

This learning experience melds the opportunity to attend a seminar, retreat, professional meeting, or other extra-curricular activity related to a specific discipline of study. Prior to the regular registration cycle for the semester, the student will petition to the appropriate professor of the academic discipline for the attendance to the event. The application will include the scope of the event, the title, place, leadership, and other pertinent information to inform the professor about the relevance of the event to the curriculum of study the student is pursuing. Prior to the event the professor will establish the expected pre- and post-event academic requirements. The faculty member will establish the criteria for the completion of the project. The special topics event will require a minimum of two faculty-to-student meetings. The evaluation of the student's involvement in the event will be the responsibility of the academic professor who established the criteria for attendance.

## **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical Exposition*: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately by examining what God has declared in His Word about Christian education and the ministry philosophy promoted by the various conference presenters.
2. *Disciple Making*: To stimulate church health through equipping and mobilizing Christian men and women for disciple making and fulfillment of the Great Commission.
3. *Interpersonal Skills*: To perform Christian brotherly and sisterly care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
4. *Servant Leadership*: To serve one another effectively through collaborative ministry efforts and support collegial relationships and development in Christian education.
5. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: To promote Christ-honoring leadership development with emphasis on character, speech, integrity, faith, conduct, love, and purity of leaders.

## **Course Objectives**

In order to serve churches effectively through Christian Education, by the end of the course, you should:

1. Attend conferences, take appropriate notes, and assess the implications of presentations to a variety of areas of the discipleship ministry.
2. Participate in class meetings, discussing current trends and classic methodologies in light of conference presentations.
3. Identify transferable components of presentations and design or adapt a strategy to appropriately apply to your ministry setting.

## **Textbooks Required**

Anders, Max. *Brave New Discipleship: Cultivating Scripture-Driven Christian in a Culture-Driven World*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson. 2015.

Coleman, Robert. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Revell. 2010  
(ISBN:978-0-8007-8808-7)

Geiger, Eric, Michael Kelley, Phillip Nation. *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing. 2012. (ISBN:9781433678554)

### **Recommended**

Harrington, Bobby and Josh Patrick. *The Disciple Maker's Handbook: Seven Elements of a Discipleship Lifestyle*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan. 2017.

Reid, Alvin. *Evangelism Handbook: Biblical, Spiritual, Intentional, Missional*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing. 2009.

### **Workshop Requirements**

**Conference Fee:** In addition to tuition, course requires a \$29 *Xcelerate* Discipleship Conference fee. You will be registered for the conference and your student account will be assessed this fee with no exceptions allowed. Additional conference information and details will be available prior to the event. Details are available online at <http://www.nobts.edu/discipleship/Xcelerate-2017.html>

**Housing and Meals:** All travel, room and extra meal costs are the responsibility of the student. You will be provided a link to make arrangements should you choose to take advantage of student discounts in Providence Guest House.

### **Teaching Method**

This course will emphasize observation and listening comprehension skills during the conference sessions and require conversation and analysis skills for assignment completion and discussions.

### **Delivery Format**

The course will be delivered in a conference setting with group interaction incorporated at various times during the conference schedule and a pre- and post-conference discussion via Blackboard.

### **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

You are expected to complete the course assignments in alignment with the student learning outcomes.

1. **Textbook Reading, Verification: (15% - 5 ea.)** **Due: October 18, 2017**  
Reading Assignment: You will read the **Coleman** text prior to the conference and the **Anders** and **Kelley** books after. You will be asked to indicate their reading percentage of the required texts **\*\*Textbook Reading Verification will be conducted via Blackboard (online).**

2. **Blackboard Discussion: (10%)** **Due: October 18, and Dec 1, 2017**  
 You will be responsible for participating in two discussion boards for the course. The pre-conference discussion board via Blackboard should be completed by **April 6**. The post-conference discussion board via Blackboard should be completed by **April 23**. Discussion questions and guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.  
*This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #2.*
  
3. **Conference Participation: (15%)** **Due: October 20, 2017**  
 You are expected to participate fully in the pre-conference and post-conference sessions (Wednesday – Friday). This portion of the course grade will be evaluated by the professor with regard to attendance notifications, meaningful interaction during conference, and evidence of discussion engagement. You are expected to attend the pre-conference meeting Wednesday afternoon and a debriefing meeting immediately after the conference concludes. The required class meeting will be **2:00-4:30pm on Wednesday afternoon**. *This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #3.*
  
4. **Conference Journal & Evaluation: (15%)** **Due: November 10, 2017**  
 During the conference, you should make notations about each conference presenters, each breakout session leader, event displays and any resources provided (i.e., have a **conference journal** (electronic or written) recording the two days of presenters and activities). At the conclusion of the conference, you will be required to evaluate the event by writing a review. The review should include a **2 page summary** of the sessions and activities with **main concepts learned** followed by a **2-page critical analysis** of the event worth/value regarding church disciple making, personal discipleship practices (i.e., will you be a “better” or more “effective” disciple maker because of attending?). Provide specific examples of how you were equipped to make disciples. Paper should not exceed a total of 5 - full pages of content and then include a Turabian cover sheet.  
*This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #1 and #3.*
  
5. **Top Ten Disciple-Making Principles. (15%)** **Due: December 1, 2017.**  
 Synthesize course content to compile a list of disciple-making principles. Critically review the textbooks, cogitate on the conference presentations, and synthesize the information into an annotated list of 10 principles or practices (2-4 paragraphs about each) most relevant to your current context or future endeavors. Provide biblical support for each principle cited. *This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #2.*
  
6. **Reflection Paper. (10%)** **Due: November 17, 2017.**  
 Prepare and submit a 4 page Reflection Paper (double-spaced, typewritten, and in Turabian form) comparing and contrasting the issues raised in the conference. Include a reflection on the impact and implications of these issues for your personal disciple making approach. Include at least two key ideas or strategies that you will initiate in your personal life or ministry context. Include any necessary proper citations and a bibliography.  
*This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #4 and #5.*
  
7. **Disciple-Making Interviews. (10%)** **Due: December 1, 2017.**  
 Interview three pastors, staff or ministry leaders to determine their experience in and strategy for disciple-making. Discover the history of their disciple-making journey and

the strategy they currently pursue. Investigate how they are responding to the cultural changes in the American church field, especially related to making disciples. Compare the responses to the Top Ten Principles synthesized in this course (see assignment #5). Submit a 4-5 page synopsis of your findings including at least one page of reaction and response to the interviews. *This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #1 and #3.*

8. **PowerPoint Presentation: (15%)** **Due: December 8, 2017.**  
 Create and submit a PowerPoint slide deck of the principles and concepts (see assignment #5) with a personal or congregational application. A minimum of 12 slides of content are required for the assignment, but no more than 25 slides should be submitted. Do not count title slide, endnotes slide and/or selected bibliography in your slides count. *This assignment aligns with student learning outcome #1 and #2.*

### Course Evaluation

The professor will prescribe a grade based upon the student's satisfactorily completion of the following:

<u>Assignment</u>		<u>Due Date</u>
Textbook Reading	15%	Oct 18
Blackboard Discussion	10%	Oct 18, Dec 1
Conference Participation	15%	Oct 20
Conference Journal & Evaluation	15%	Nov 10
Top Ten Principles	15%	Dec 1
Reflection Paper	10%	Nov 17
Disciple-making Interviews	10%	Dec 1
PowerPoint Presentation	10%	Dec 8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>	

### Grading Scale

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

### Course Policies

**Blackboard:** The student is responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents and announcements. The student is responsible for maintaining current information regarding e-mail address on the Blackboard system and Self-Serve.

### Assignment Submission

Assignments are due on the date indicated in the "Assignments and Evaluation Criteria" section of the syllabus. Assignments not submitted via Blackboard by the assigned date are considered late and will **be penalized 5 points per day**. Assignments should **not** be e-mailed to the professor.

Course pre-assignments (i.e., textbook reading and discussion board) are due before the conference begins. Course pre-assignments not completed are considered late and must

submitted no later than the final conference session or a zero will be earned for the assignments. All other late assignments are due no later than 5 weeks after conference, no exceptions. **If all course assignments are not uploaded to Blackboard by the sixth week after the conference, a grade of zero is automatically earned for all missing assignments.**

### **Assignment Format**

All assignments are to be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and 1-inch margins unless otherwise indicated. Assignment should include a Turabian format cover page that includes name, date of submission and assignment title. A Turabian style guide is available in the NOBTS library and located on the NOBTS web site.

**Netiquette:** Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Academic Honesty Policy**

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

### **Absences**

Class attendance is essential for effective learning and according to the NOBTS Graduate Catalog, **no absences** are allowed in conference courses, Saturday classes, academic workshops, or one-week summer courses. Arriving late to conference sessions or leaving early will count as an absence. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the minimum number of course hours.

**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 notification via Blackboard.

**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. The student is responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. Students must do the proper paperwork to ensure that they will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if they choose not to engage online once they are enrolled in the course.

**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](tel:800-662-8701). We are glad to assist you!

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