



Discipleship Strategies
DISC 5260
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division

***Disclaimer:** This syllabus is intended to give the student a general idea of the content, format, and textbooks used for this class. The professor will submit a full syllabus at the beginning of the class which will contain a course schedule and the instructor's information.

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.

Purpose of the Course and Core Value Focus

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the area of discipleship strategies in the context of the local church. The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned annually by the Administrative Council.

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.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Interpersonal Skills:* Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church.
2. *Servant Leadership:* Determine how the Senior Pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required.
3. *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

This course is designed to equip students for leading discipleship ministries in a local church by exploring a variety of methods and approaches used in a response to the Great Commission mandate in churches today. Students are exposed to select and different materials and methods of discipleship in correlation to the Bible Study programs in local churches to provide basis for future adaptation. The student is also introduced to developmental processes currently available.

Learning Objectives

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for discipleship strategies within the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to accomplish the following:

- Examine a variety of discipleship strategies that can be utilized in local church praxis.
- Understand and be able to discuss foundational concepts related to current developmental processes for various age groups.
- Value/Appreciate the importance of the discipleship mandate given to all believers in Scripture.
- Develop a discipleship strategy, which can be implemented in the student's specific ministry setting.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize group discussion and an interactive discovery-learning format.

Required Readings

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

Required Texts

Hull, Bill. *The Disciple Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2010.

Mitchell, Michael R. *Leading, Teaching, and Making Disciples*. Bloomington: CrossBooks, 2010.

Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

The following learning activities and assessments are to be completed as described below by the scheduled dates. All assignments are to be submitted to this course's Digital Dropbox by 12:30 p.m. on the assigned due date.

Assignment Formatting

- Unless otherwise noted, type all assignments 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

Required Assignments Summary – 100 points

- Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper – 25 points
- Profile for Discipleship Strategy Context Paper – 25 points
- Discipleship Strategy Development – 25 points –
- Reading Quizzes – 25 *total* points

Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper – 25 points

Write 8-10 page paper discussing the Biblical mandate for discipleship. Also, include an overview of Old Testament and New Testament examples of discipleship. Discuss how this mandate and the examples you include are applicable to the local church. Use at least 8 sources not including the Bible, preferably scholarly books including commentaries.

Profile for Discipleship Strategy Context Paper – 25 points

Create a profile identifying the context for the development of a discipleship strategy (the next assignment). Include a detailed description of the setting for the strategy (geographic location, ministry setting, needs, etc.) and a detailed description of the individuals involved in the process (age, developmental needs, gender, etc.). This profile should guide your understanding, evaluation, research, and development of your discipleship strategy. Present your findings in a 8-10 page paper. **Pay close attention to the Assignment Formatting section of this syllabus!**

Discipleship Strategy Development – 25 points

Based on the discipleship strategies and the foundational concepts of development laid in class, the Biblical foundations and mandates of discipleship discussed in your Biblical Overview of Discipleship paper, the context profile you created, and personal research, develop a discipleship strategy which can be implemented in your specific ministry setting. Write a 5-page paper, which provides an overview, explanation and rationale for your strategy. Also, include an 8-week detailed description for how to implement your strategy (which can either include planning processes or curriculum and content materials, etc.).

Reading Quizzes

Quizzes will be given to test the student's comprehension of the textbook readings. These quizzes will be posted on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Classroom and Online Decorum

Online participation is determined by postings and responses in the Threaded Discussions held each week. These discussions will be related to the material covered in each week's content. **All students are required to post a minimum of three responses in the main discussion each week: one in answer to the presenting questions, and two in response to classmates' postings.** in order for the threaded discussion to be of maximum benefit to everyone involved it is recommended that you stay as close to the course schedule as possible—so that everyone will participate in the discussion in the same week. **Late postings will be penalized one point for each day late.** Please limit discussions in this venue to the assigned topic. Students may e-mail or use the miscellaneous forum to discuss other topics with your classmates.

Course Policies

The following policies will to be observed in the duration of this course.

Absences

In this course, there are no allotted classroom absences. Arriving late or leaving early from a class will equal an absence. *Please be faithful!!!*

Late Assignments

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are due in the course's Digital Dropbox by 12:30 p.m. on the due date as indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments that not submitted at this time 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 *Learning Activities and Assessments* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2009-2010 catalog.

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

A grade of “F” may require the student to retake the course to complete the degree.

No grades of *INCOMPLETE* will be issued in this course.

Selected Reference List

- Blackaby, Henry & Richard. *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda*. Nashville: B & H Publishers, 2001.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Macmillan, 1937.
- Briner, Bob and Ray Pritchard. *The Leadership Lessons of Jesus: A Timeless Model for Today's Leaders*. Nashville: B & H Publishers, 1997.
- 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: Brazos Press, 2008.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1964.
- Gangel, Kenneth. "The Meaning of Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Goleman, Daniel, Richard Boyatis, and Annie McKee. *Primal Leadership: Revitalizing the Power of Emotional Intelligence*. Boston: Harvard Business School Press, 2004.
- 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.
- Hull, Bill. *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006.
- Hull, Bill. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- Huxhold, Harry N. *Twelve Who Followed: The Story of Jesus and His First Disciples*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1987.
- Iorg, Jeff. *The Painful Side of Leadership: Moving Forward Even When It Hurts*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2009.
- Jones, Laurie Beth. *Jesus CEO: Using Ancient Wisdom for Visionary Leadership*. New York: Hyperion, 1995.
- McCallum, Dennis and Jessica Lowery. *Organic Disciplemaking: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership*. Houston: Touch Publications, 2006.

- Mitchell, Michael R. *Leading, Teaching, and Making Disciples: World-Class Christian Education in the Church, School, and Home*. Bloomington: Crossway Books, 2010.
- Ogden, Greg. "Servant Leadership" in *Leadership Handbook of Management & Administration*. James D. Berkley, ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- Ogden, Greg and Daniel Meyer. *Leadership Essentials: Shaping Vision, Multiplying Influence, Defining Character*. Downers Grove: IVP Connect, 2007.
- O'Grady, John F. *Disciples and Leaders: The Origins of Christian Ministry in the New Testament*. New York: Paulist Press, 1991.
- Pettit, Paul, ed. *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ*. Grand Rapids, Kregel Publications, 2008.
- Powers, Bruce E. *Christian Leadership: A Fresh Look at Leadership that Gives Life*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979.
- Putman, David. *Breaking the Discipleship Code*. Nashville: B & H Publishing Group, 2008.
- Taylor, Edward Lynn. *The Disciples of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark*. London: University Microfilms International, 1980.
- Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: A Biblical Theology of Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.