



Discipleship Strategies DISC 5260
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
Spring 2016

Professor:

Michael D. Wilburn

Director of Orlando Extension Center, NOBTS

orlandocenterdir@nobts.edu

Office: (407) 514-4412

Cell: (352)-697-5384

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.

Core Value Focus and Curriculum Competencies

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. This course supports the five core values emphasized by the seminary.

The core value for 2015-2016 is *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.

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.

Purpose of the Course

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.

Core Value Focus

1. *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.
2. *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.

3. *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.
4. *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.
5. *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 the 2015-2016 academic year the Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

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.

Student Learning Outcomes

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.

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

- 1 – Barna, George and David Kinnaman, eds. *Churchless: Understanding Today's Unchurched and How to Connect With Them*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2014.
- 2 - Geiger, Eric, Michael Kelley, and Philip Nation. *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2012.
- 3 - Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2009.

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize lecture, group discussion, on-line interaction and dialogue, and an interactive discovery-learning format.

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.

Biblical Overview of Discipleship Paper – 20 points (Due: March 20th 11:59 CST)

Write eight-page paper discussing the Biblical mandate for discipleship. Include an overview of Old Testament and New Testament examples of discipleship. Examine and explain 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. Turabian formatting is required for this assignment.

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

Book Critiques –15 points total (each book is 5 points)

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. 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.

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 it.

Due: Geiger, Kelley, & Nation – *Transformational Discipleship* (Feb 26th 11:59 CST)
Barna and Kinnaman – *Churchless* (March 25th 11:59 CST)
Malphurs - *Strategic Discipleship* (April 22nd 11:59 CST)

Profile for Discipleship Strategy Context Paper – 15 points (Due: April 3rd 11:59 CST)

Create a profile identifying the context for the development of a discipleship strategy (the upcoming 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 4 page paper.

Discipleship Strategy Handbook & Implementation – 40 points (Due: May 1st 11:59 CST)

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. Create a Powerpoint presentation (25 slides) or Publisher Handbook (25 pages), which provides an overview, explanation and rationale for your strategy. This presentation should include a **minimum** of 3 to 6 months detailed description for how to implement your strategy (which can either include planning processes or curriculum and content materials, etc.) should be included in this presentation. Further directions regarding this assignment will be provided during class. Pdf's, Keynote or Pages will not be accepted for this assignment.

This assignment is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is found in the blackboard shell. Please complete the assignment according to provided rubric.

Classroom Decorum and Engagement – 10 points

Participation/attendance 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. Additionally, students cannot participate effectively if you are not engaged in the online dialogues on the **WEEKLY** subject matter. For this hybrid course, students are expected to post

on **7 teaching units** released on weeks the course does not meet on campus. 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.

Final Examination

The professor reserves the right to administer a final exam if the class fails to participate in a manner that is engaging and acceptable.

Course Policies

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 *Learning Activities and Assessments* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2013-2014 catalog.

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

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.

Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Course Schedule

A schedule of class meetings are as follows:

Unit 1: Introduction / What is Biblical Discipleship?

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 1/29/16 by 11:59 CST.
Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 2/5/16 by 11:59 CST.

Unit 2: Stages of Discipleship

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 2/12/16 by 11:59 CST.
Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 2/19/16 by 11:59 CST.

Unit 3: Spiritual Growth Patterns / Discipleship Training & Process

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 2/26/16 by 11:59 CST.
Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 3/4/16 by 11:59 CST.

Unit 4: Strategy Development & Program Approaches

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 3/11/16 by 11:59 CST.
Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 3/18/16 by 11:59 CST.

Unit 5: Five Models of Disciples

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 3/25/16 by 11:59 CST.
Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 4/1/16 by 11:59 CST

Unit 6: Discipleship Assessment

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 4/8/16 by 11:59 CST.
 Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 4/15/16 by 11:59 CST.

Unit 7: Age Graded Discipleship

Discussion Board 1 Submission Due: 4/22/16 by 11:59 CST.
 Discussion Board 1 Responses Due: 4/29/16 by 11:59 CST.

Unit 8: Evaluation of Discipleship

Rubric For Embedded Learning Assignment

Discipleship Strategy Handbook & Implementation Paper				
This rubric describes how you will be evaluated for your Discipleship Strategy Handbook & Implementation Paper.				
	Levels of Achievement			
Criteria	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Deficient
	10 Points	8.5 Points	7 Points	5 Points
Discipleship Content	Strategy is a well-thought out exceptional strategy that supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is clearly communicated. Reflects application of critical thinking. Has a clear goal with prudent time stamps that are appropriate. A variety of sources are referenced. Is biblically accurate.	Strategy is a well-thought out good plan that supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is given. Has application of critical thinking apparent. Has a clear goal with good time stamps. An acceptable number of sources are referenced. Is biblically accurate.	Strategy supports the biblical basis for discipleship. The rationale is vaguely referenced. Has application of critical thinking that is apparent. Has no clear goal and unwise time stamps. A limited number of sources are referenced. Has some inconsistencies.	Strategy provides inconsistent information for the biblical basis for discipleship. No rationale for discipleship is given. Has no apparent application of critical thinking. Has no clear goal and no selected time stamps. A few sources are referenced. Has significant, misconceptions, or misinterpretation on discipleship.
Grammatical Convention	No spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. High-level use of vocabulary and word choice.	Few (1 to 3) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Good use of vocabulary word choice.	Minimal (3 to 5) spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Low-level use of vocabulary and word choice.	More than 5 spelling, grammatical, or punctuation errors. Poor use of vocabulary and word choice.
Strategy Organization	Discipleship strategy is clearly focused in an organized and thoughtful manner. Discipleship strategy is constructed in an exceptional and logical pattern to support the mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Discipleship strategy supports the mission of the church. Plan has a pattern, but occasionally is not focused on specific profile, Strategic steps provided is logical and supports mission of the church in the selected profile context.	Strategy plan has focus but strays from the profile at times. Strategic steps appears to have a pattern, but the pattern is not consistently carried out in the project. Information in the strategy loosely supports the mission of the church in the selected profile	Strategic planning Content is unfocused and haphazard. Information does not support the solution to the challenge to make disciples. Information provided has no apparent pattern to support the mission of the church in the selected profile context.
Presentation Level	Exceptional creativity in visual format with over 20 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is used or referenced to clarify and illustrate the main points. Format enhances the content. Presentation captures audience attention. Presentation is	Good creativity in visual format with 17-19 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is used or referenced to illustrate the main points. Format is appropriate for the content. Presentation captures audience	Acceptable creativity in visual format with 13-16 slides or pages. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) loosely illustrates the main points. Format does not suit the content. Presentation does not capture audience or reader's	Limited creativity in visual format with 12 or less slides or pages. Presentation appears sloppy and/or unfinished. Multimedia (charts, graphs, tables, illustrations, video) is overused or underused. Format does not enhance content. Presentation has no clear organization.
Late Work Penalty	0 Points Not late.	-1 Points One day late.	-2 Points Two days late.	-3 Points Four days late.
Additional Missed Points	0 Points No additional missed points.	-1 Points Reason Provided in Feedback.	-2 Points Reason Provided in Feedback.	-3 Points Reason Provided in Feedback.

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 & 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.
- 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: 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.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master Plan of Evangelism*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1964.
- 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: 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: NavPress, 2006.
- Hull, Bill. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- Hunt, Josh, and Larry Mays. *Disciple-Making Teachers: How to Equip Adults for Growth and Action*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing Inc., 1998.
- 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.
- 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.
- Mancini, Will. *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series)*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.

- 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. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2003.
- 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.
- 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, Kregel Publications, 2008.
- Pope, Randy, and Kitti 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: B & H Publishing Group, 2008.
- Scazzero, Peter L., and Warren Bird. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship That Actually Changes Lives*. Updated & Expanded ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- 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.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988.
- Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.