



Special Topics in Discipleship DISC 6192/6292/6392 New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Church Ministry Division Spring 2021

Note: This course is held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Baptist Association of Christian Educators. Note special information below.

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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values.

- 1. Doctrinal Integrity:** Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. This course addresses Doctrinal Integrity specifically by preparing students to grow in understanding and interpreting of the Bible.
- 2. Spiritual Vitality:** We are a worshipping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word. Spiritual Vitality is addressed by reminding students that a dynamic relationship with God is vital for effective ministry.
- 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. This course addresses Mission Focus by helping students understand the biblical foundations for fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments.
- 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. Characteristic Excellence is addressed by preparing students to excel in their ability to interpret Scripture, which is foundational to effective ministry.

5. **Servant Leadership:** We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Servant Leadership is modeled by classroom department.

The core value focus for the academic year 2020-2021 is **Mission Focus**.

Curriculum Competencies

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following areas:

1. **Biblical Exposition:** to interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.
2. **Christian Theological Heritage:** To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.
3. **Disciple Making:** To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
4. **Interpersonal Skills:** To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
5. **Servant Leadership:** To serve churches effectively through team ministry.
6. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
7. **Worship Leadership:** To facilitate worship effectively.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to the professional discipline of Christian ministry leadership and administration through interaction with practitioners in the field. A variety of topics will be explored through the annual meeting of the Baptist Association of Christian educators. The 2021 BACE conference will be held virtually on March 25, 2021. Students will engage with leaders of Christian education for mentorship and information to lead discipleship in any church setting.

In addition, students will meet virtually with the professor one hour on March 24th (Time TBA) in preparation for the conference. Note: Students will not have travel expenses for this year's conference because the conference has moved to a virtual format.

Student Learning Outcomes

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current approaches, topics, and available resources for leadership and administration in the local church.
2. Be able to gain skills in the area of analyzing and developing leadership skills in a local church context.

3. Value personal leadership skills and developing leadership skills in other ministry leaders in the church.

Required Texts

Bridges, William, and Susan Bridges. *Transitions: Making Sense of Life's Changes*. New York: Hachette Book Group, 2019. (ISBN: 978-0-7382-8540-5)

Dew, James K., Jr, and Mark W. Foreman. *How Do We Know? An Introduction To Epistemology*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2020. (ISBN: 978-0830855124)

Mancini, Will, and Cory Hartman. *Future Church: Seven Laws of Reach Church Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2020. (ISBN: 978-1-4934-2780-2)

Nieuwhof, Carey. *Didn't See It Coming: Overcoming the Seven Greatest Challenges That No One Expects and Everyone Experiences*. New York: WaterBrook, 2018. (ISBN 978-0735291331)

Course Teaching Methodology

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

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Conference Participation & Outline & Summary: Due: April 8, 2021.

All students (DISC 6192/6292/6392) should complete Assignment 1. The student is expected to participate fully in all virtual conference sessions. (See additional information under Course Schedule.) The student will submit an annotated outline and summary of plenary conferences and breakout conferences attended. It is anticipated that these notes will be typed and at least five pages in length. Formal writing and Turabian documentation are not required.

2. Conference Analysis and Reflection Due April 8, 2021

Students taking this course for two or three hours credit (DISC 6292 and 6392) are expected to submit a four page reflection and analysis of the conference sessions and content gleaned. Plans for incorporating or implementing the conference content into their ministry setting should be addressed in the paper.

3. Book Critiques:

Due March 25, 2021

DISC 6192 – One book critique from the four textbooks. Student choice.

DISC 6292 – Two book critiques from the four textbooks. Student choice.

DISC 6392 – Three critiques from the four textbooks. Student choice.

Write a 2 page single spaced critique for each required textbook. (Note: The critique should begin with a complete bibliographic entry. Then include a summary of the discipleship strategy presented in the text. Strengths and weakness should then be presented for the local church context for implementing that strategy. The critique should conclude with implications for discipleship in the local church and how the theories or practices presented contribute to carrying out ministries of the local church.

Course Schedule

A conference schedule will be available from the Baptist Association of Christian Educators (baptisteducators.org). Typically the conference is from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. In addition, students in this special topics seminar will meet with the professor at a time to be determined on March 24th for a one hour time of orientation and preparation for the conference. The virtual conference will have three to four keynote presentations as well as several breakout conference time to be selected from various choices.

Please be aware that students must register for the conference itself as well as enrolling in the selected course. Note: On the website (baptisteducators.org) look for Membership Packages. There is a special rate for students that includes the annual membership, the virtual conference, and other discounts as well as various training videos and print resources. Obviously, this year there are no travel or lodging expenses.

Course Policies

Assignment Formatting

- Submit assignments directly to the professor through email.
- 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 or similar 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

Late Assignments

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are due by 4:00 pm on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments not submitted at this time are considered late and will be automatically penalized 10% for each week late.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online in discussion board dialogues or whenever interaction occurs through the 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.

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 2019-2020 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.

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

Writing Style Guide

Writing assignments should follow the **NOBTS/Leavell College Manual of Form and Style** (*revised August 2019*). To access this manual on the seminary website, please use the following link: <https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>.

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

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Blackaby, Henry & Richard. *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God’s Agenda*. Nashville, TN: 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, TN: 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, 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.

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- 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.
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- 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.
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- 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.
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