



DISC5371 Disciple Making Through Small Group Ministry

**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
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Mission Statement

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

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 worshiping 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 this academic year is *Doctrinal Integrity*.

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.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

Interpersonal Skills: Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church.

Servant Leadership: Determine how the Senior Pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required.

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

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 evaluation of the ministry of a church which utilizes a small group strategy.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Understand biblical concepts for 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.

Course Teaching Methodology

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

Teaching Units:

Unit 1: Introduction

Unit 2: Overview of Discipleship

Unit 3: Discipleship as a Basis for Small Group Ministry

Unit 4: Sunday School and small groups

Unit 5: Open or Closed small groups

Unit 6: Church Growth and Discipleship

Unit 7: Non-traditional Small Group Ministry

Unit 8: Programmed Discipleship Ministry

Unit 9: Observation of Small Group Ministry

Unit 10: Motivating Generations

Unit 11: Strategic Planning

Unit 12: Discipleship and Christian Education

Unit 13: Review and Conclusion

Textbooks

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

Required Texts

Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville, TN: B & H Academic, 2013.

Gladden, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013.

Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. revised and expanded ed. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2016.

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

Stetzer, Ed and Eric Geiger. *Transformational Groups: Creating a Scorecard for Groups*. Nashville, TN: B & H Books, 2014.

Course Requirements

Annotated Bibliographies (cognitive) – 15 pts

Due: Feb 9, March 2 & April 13

Create a four to five sentence, single-spaced annotation for each of the course 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. **Following the annotation, indicate whether or not you read the text in its entirety.**

- *Transformational Groups* – February 9
- *Disciple-Making Is* - March 2
- *Small Groups with a Purpose* – April 13

Book Critiques (cognitive) – 10 pts

Due: March 16th, 30th

You will be assigned a book from the optional list from the required readings. You will provide a written critique and present findings to the class. 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. More guidelines will be provided in class.

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
 - *Transforming Discipleship* – March 16th
 - *The Essential Guide for Small Groups* – March 30th

Online 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 24th

You will create a clear and concise **10-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 **ten (10) 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 9th

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 Bibliographies (3 at 5% each)	15%
Exegetical Research Paper and Presentation	30%
Personal Statement of Disciple-Making through Small Groups	30%
Book Critique	10%
Online Decorum/Discussion	<u>15%</u>
	100%

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.

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

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- _____. *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.
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- McIntosh, Gary. *Make Room for the Boom...or Bust: Six Models for Reaching Three Generations*. Tarrytown, NY: Revell, 1997.
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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, email us at 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	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu

Technology Center			
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/student-services/counseling-services.html
Women's Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

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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