

**CEDI9401 Discipleship and Spiritual Formation** New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Division of Christian Education Spring 2017

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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: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. <u>The core value focus for this academic year is *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.</u>

## **Curriculum Competencies**

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

- 1. *Disciple Making*: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth
- 2. *Interpersonal Skills:* Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church
- 3. *Servant Leadership:* Determine how the senior pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required to minister to families
- 4. *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 seminar is to provide quality theological education for students in the area of discipleship and spiritual formation understandings and skills within the context of the local church. This seminar is designed to survey discipleship and spiritual formation by researching biblical and social science findings. Needs that can be addressed through discipleship definitions and terms, discipleship endeavors, and current discipleship practices in local Baptist churches are identified and researched with the consideration of personal spiritual formation. Special attention is given to the introduction and application of both pertinent and current literature in the field.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

- 1. Synthesize your analysis of both past and current literature in the field of discipleship and spiritual formation to create a standard of excellence for discipleship in the local church.
- 2. Prioritize and value discipleship and spiritual formation in academic and ministry practice.
- 3. Demonstrate special understanding of one aspect of discipleship and spiritual formation for extensive research.
- 4. Utilize a discipleship/spiritual formation survey instrument to measure spiritual maturity among a selected group in the local church.

#### **Embedded Assignment**

This course has not been identified as a core course and therefore has no embedded assignment.

### **Required Textbooks**

- Anderson, Neil T. Becoming a Disciple Making Church: A Proven Method for Growing Spiritually Mature Christians. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2016.
- Boa, Kenneth. Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Chandler, Diane J. Christian Spiritual Formation: An Integrated Approach for Personal and Relational Wholeness. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2014.
- Eims, LeRoy. The Lost Art of Disciple Making. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.
- Hedges, Brian G. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2010.
- Henderson, D. Michael. A Model for Making Disciples: John Wesley's Class Meeting. Anderson, IN: Francis Asbury Press, 1997.
- Ogden, Greg. *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*, 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2016.
- Setran, David P. and Chris A. Kiesling. Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood: A Practical Theology for College and Young Adult Ministry. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2013.
- Wilkins, Michael J. Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1992.
- Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship*. New York: Harper One, 2006.

### **Optional Textbooks**

- Harrington, Bobby and Alex Absalom. *Discipleship that Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- Foster, Richard J. Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth. San Francisco, CA: HarperCollins, 1998.
- Issler, Klaus. *Living into the Life of Jesus: The Formation of Christian Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- Marshall, Colin and Tony Payne. *The Trellis and the Vine: The Ministry Mind-Shift that Changes Everything*. Kingsford, Australia: Matthias Media, 2009.
- Ortberg, John. *The Life You've Always Wanted: Spiritual Disciplines for Ordinary People*. expanded edition. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002.
- Peterson, Eugene. A Long Obedience in the Same Direction. revised and expanded edition. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

- Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. revised and expanded edition. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2014.
- Willard, Dallas. The Divine Conspiracy: Rediscovering Our Hidden Life in God. San Francisco, CA: Harper, 1998.

#### Journals

- Issler, Klaus. "Six Themes to Guide Spiritual Formation Ministry Based On Jesus' Sermon On the Mount." *Christian Education Journal* series 3, vol. 7, no. 2 (2010): 366-88. **[A digital copy of this journal article is available in the course Blackboard shell.]**
- Vanden Berg, Mary L. "Bonhoeffer's Discipleship: Theology for the Purpose of Christian Formation." *Calvin Theological Journal* 44 (2009): 333-50. [A digital copy of this journal article is available in the course Blackboard shell.]
- Vanhoozer, Kevin J. "Putting On Christ: Spiritual Formation and the Drama of Discipleship." *Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care* 8, no. 2 (2015): 147-71. [A digital copy of this journal article is available in the course Blackboard shell.]
- Williams, Myron. "Community, Discipleship, and Social Media." *Christian Education Journal* series 3, vol. 12, no. 2 (2015): 375-83. [A digital copy of this journal article is available in the course Blackboard shell.]

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

The course will involve the following methodologies: The seminar will be introduced by the professors via Blackboard on January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 in order to allow students to acquire books and begin work. The Discussion Boards will open up on the first day of the semester. The course will utilize group discussions, problem-based learning, student presentations, case studies, research and discussion utilizing critical thinking skills.

### **Course Requirements**

- Personal Introductions Due the first week of the semester
- Online Learning Forums (15 pts) **Ongoing throughout the Semester**
- Preliminary Research and Executive Summaries (25 pts) Due: 2/23
- Research Paper (20 pts) Due: Submitted online 4/1 (Seminar meets 4/6-7)
- Selected Biographies and Blog Articles (10 pts) Due: 3/2 and 3/9
- Training Objectives for Discipleship Model (30 pts) -Due: Submitted online 5/4 (Seminar meets 5/4-5)

### **Personal Introductions**

During the first week of the semester introduce yourself to the rest of the seminar via the seminar Blackboard site.

### **Online Learning Forums**

Students are expected to engage with critical analysis in Blackboard discussions throughout the semester. The professor will create forums for discussion based on the assigned text: *The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by Leroy Eims. Chapters in this text will be discussed on a weekly basis.

### **Preliminary Research and Executive Summaries**

Each student will complete a thorough literature review to cover the milieu on discipleship and spiritual formation by reading assigned classic, pertinent, and/or current books that address the field of research. Students are assigned the following books that offer a preferred and viable explanation, understanding, and practice of discipleship and spiritual formation.

- 1. Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation Boa
- 2. Christian Spiritual Formation: An Integrated Approach for Personal and Relational Wholeness Chandler
- 3. Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood: A Practical Theology for College and Young Adult Ministry Setran and Keisling
- 4. Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus Wilkins

## 5. The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship - Willard

Students will write a total of 5 executive summaries on the assigned books. Particular attention should be given to understanding the theoretical, philosophical, and biblical underpinnings of each book. Students should be prepared to thoroughly defend, discuss, and explain each book at the first meeting of the semester by having a significant understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of each book. Students will present selected summaries to the cohort at the first meeting in February. <u>Please post a copy of each in blackboard and bring 1 hard copy of each executive summary for the professor</u>. For this assignment, please refer to the executive summary criteria document in the blackboard shell. **Due: 2/23** 

### Selected Biography and Blog Article

Students will chose 2 persons from the annals of church history who have demonstrated remarkable personal spiritual formation. The article should pinpoint **one particular aspect** of spiritual formation that was remarkably demonstrated in a lifetime or a season of the selected person's life. After selections are approved by the professor, students will write a 350-400 word blog article for publication on the *Center for Discipleship and Spiritual Formation* webpage. This titled self-published article must be 1) developed logically, 2) error-free in grammar, 3) limited in citations/references of sources and 4) affable writing style for online readers. **Due: 3/2** and **3/9** 

### **Research Paper**

Students will write a 3,500 to 4000 word research paper (Turabian style) introducing 7 principles for discipleship and spiritual formation chosen and agreed upon by the cohort at the first seminar meeting. The principles will be discussed and debated not merely by opinion, but by providing supporting researched evidence to support given assertions. After the principles are determined using problem-based learning skills, the professor will approve or redirect for clarification or resubmission. Following the seminar each seminar student will develop their own discipleship model that should be introduced in this paper. This model should be developed by applying the 7 principles agreed upon by the cohort, in addition to the student's methodological application of the principles for a local church setting. Organization and content development of this paper is expected using a table of contents, as well as the usage of figures, headings and sub-headings throughout the paper.

Present the research paper during the April seminar weekend using a creative and professional PowerPoint presentation. During the presentation and discussion of your paper at the April seminar, students should be able to introduce supporting research using required books and journals regarding their particular discipleship model. The preliminary research from the executive summaries should contribute to the research. Additionally, other sources may include books, periodicals, (online) journals, electronic databases, interviews, and magazines. Papers must be posted on Blackboard or e-mailed to each seminar participant and professor in a MS Word or .pdf format. <u>Please bring a hard copy for the professor</u>. **Due 4/1** 

\*Note: While it is expected that all students carefully will read each contribution, papers will be assigned a responder/reviewer who will examine the paper for form, style, and logic (flow, sequence of arguments, interpretation of survey results) issues. The responder should mark the paper for spelling, grammar, flow, style, and Turabian format before the last seminar. Each presentation will conclude with a response from the designated seminar colleague who will comment on content, style, and presentation.

### **Training Objectives for Discipleship Model**

Each student will develop at least 25-30 discipleship training objectives based on their researched and presented discipleship model. Each training objective aims to advance the disciple toward growth in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ by grounding their faith. Although the objectives should address the 7 principles of discipleship and spiritual formation, they are not necessary sequential, but should be adaptable to individual needs for spiritual growth. The training objectives should be written in a specific manner to describe what is expected and how it will be accomplished and measured. Include the following for all training objectives: 1) Objective, 2) Biblical basis/Scriptures, 3) Selected learning activities, 4) Supporting resources/books, 5) Assignment/follow-up for disciple.

Present the training objectives during the May seminar weekend using a creative and professional PowerPoint presentation. <u>Please bring a hard copy of the objectives to the professors</u>. Presentations will be in random order. The professor will evaluate objectives for content. **Due 5/4** 

# **Evaluation of Grade**

The student's grade will be computed as follows:	
Online Learning Forums	15 points
Preliminary Research and Executive Summaries	25 points
Research Paper	20 points
Selected Biography and Blog Article	10 points
Training Objectives for Discipleship Model	<u>30 points</u>
	100 points

# **Technical Assistance**

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

- 1. <u>Selfserve@nobts.edu</u> Email for technical questions/support requests with the <u>Selfserve.nobts.edu</u> site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- <u>BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu</u> Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System <u>NOBTS.Blackboard.com</u>.
- 3. <u>ITCSupport@nobts.edu</u> Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- 4. <u>www.NOBTS.edu/itc/</u> General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

### Absences

Due to the nature of this Ph.D. seminar format there are no absences permitted.

### Late Assignments

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are expected on the due date as indicated in the Course Schedule. The due dates for the assignments to be submitted electronically to professor and/or other students is listed above in the "Required Assignments Summary." Submission after the date/time will result in a grade no higher than a B in the seminar.

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Required Assignments Summary* 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

## 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**

### **Discipleship and Spiritual Formation**

- Alexander, Donald L., ed. Christian Spirituality: Five Views of Sanctification. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 1988.
- Andrews, Alan, ed. *The Kingdom Life: A Practical Theology of Discipleship and Spiritual Formation*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010.
- 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.

- Bennett, Ron. Intentional Disciplemaking: Cultivating Spiritual Maturity in the Local Church. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.
- Boa, Kenneth. Conformed to His Image: Biblical and Practical Approaches to Spiritual Formation. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Bridges, Jerry. The Practice of Godliness. Revised ed. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2008.
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- Bruce, A. B. The Training of the Twelve. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 1971.
- 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. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 2000.
- Daloz, Laurent A. Mentor: Guiding the Journey of Adult Learners. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1999.
- Dodson, Jonathan K. Gospel-Centered Discipleship. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.
- Dunn, Richard R., and Jana L. Sundene. Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults: Life-Giving Rhythms for Spiritual Transformation. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- Earley, Dave, and Rod Dempsey. *Disciple Making Is...: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2013.
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- Fowler, James W. Becoming Adult, Becoming Christian: Adult Development and Christian Faith. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2000.
- Gangel, Kenneth O., and James C. Wilhoit, eds. *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997.
- Geiger, Eric, Michael Kelley, and Philip Nation. *Transformational Discipleship: How People Really Grow*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2012.
- Gladen, Steve. *Small Groups with Purpose: How to Create Healthy Communities*. Reprint ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013.
- Habermas, Ronald T. Introduction to Christian Education and Formation: A Lifelong Plan for Christ-Centered Restoration. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.
- Hanks, Billie and William A. Shell, eds. *Discipleship: Great Insights from the Most Experienced Disciple Makers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1993.
- Hedges, Brian G. *Christ Formed in You: The Power of the Gospel for Personal Change*. Wapwallopen, PA: Shepherd Press, 2010.

- Hendricks, Howard. As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
- Henrichsen, Walter A. Disciples Are Made Not Born. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1974.
- Hodges, Herb. Fox Fever: Exploring the Will and the Skill to Obey Christ's Great Commission to Turn People into Disciples. Chelsea, MI: Sheridan Books, 2006.
- . *Tally Ho the Fox: The Foundation for Building World-Visionary, World-Impacting, Reproducing Disciples.* 2 ed. Augusta, GA: Manhattan Source, 2001.
- Hull, Bill. Conversion and Discipleship: You Can't Have One Without the Other. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- . The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2006.
- Hunt, Josh, and Larry Mays. *Disciple-Making Teachers: How to Equip Adults for Growth and Action*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing Inc., 1998.
- Issler, Klaus. *Living Into the Life of Jesus: The Formation of Christian Character*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2012.
- Keller, Timothy. Serving a Movement: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Shaped by the Gospel: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Loving the City: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016.
- Koessler, John. True Discipleship: The Art of Following Jesus. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2003.
- Lamb, Richard. *Following Jesus in the Real World: Discipleship for the Post-College Years*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_. Mentor: How Along-the-way Discipleship Will Change Your Life. Nashville, TN: LifeWay Press, 2011.
- Linhart, Terry, ed. *Teaching the Next Generations: A Comprehensive Guide for Teaching Christian Formation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Lunde, Jonathan. Following Jesus, the Servant King: a Biblical Theology of Covenantal Discipleship (Biblical Theology for Life). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- MacDonald, William. True Discipleship. Kansas City, KS: Walterick Publishers, 1975.

- Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategic Disciple Making: A Practical Tool for Successful Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.
- . Strategy 2000: Churches Making Disciples for the Next Millennium. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Resources, 1996.
- Mancini, Will. Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series). Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.
- Mitchell, Michael R. Leading, Teaching, and Making Disciples: World-Class Christian Education in the Church, School and Home. Bloomington, IN: CrossBooks Publishing, 2010.
- Montgomery, Daniel, and Mike Cosper. *Faithmapping: A Gospel Atlas for Your Spiritual Journey*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2013.
- Newton, Gary C. Heart-Deep Teaching: Engaging Students for Transformed Lives. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2012.
- Newton, Gary C. et al. Growing Toward Spiritual Maturity. Wheaton, IL: Evangelical Training Association, 1988.
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- Parrett, Gary A., and S. Steve Kang. *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful: A Biblical Vision for Education in the Church*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2009.
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- Pettit, Paul, ed. *Foundations of Spiritual Formation: A Community Approach to Becoming Like Christ*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2008.
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- Platt, David. Follow Me: a Call to Die. a Call to Live. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2013.
- Pope, Randy and Kitti Murray. Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
- Putman, Jim. Real-Life Discipleship: Building Churches That Make Disciples. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2010.
- and Bobby Harrington. Discipleshift: Five Steps That Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples (Exponential Series). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.
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- Rutledge, D. Mason. Memorize This: TMS 3.0. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress (Th1nk Books), 2003.
- 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.

- Stetzer, Ed, and Eric Geiger. *Transformational Groups: Creating a New Scorecard for Groups*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2014.
- Whitney, Donald S. Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1991.
- Wilhoit, James C. Spiritual Formation as if the Church Mattered: Growing in Christ through Community. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.
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- . *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco, CA: Harper & Row Publishers, 1988.
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- Wright, N.T. Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995.