

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

DSMN 500

DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the biblical, general and specific steps to enable a person first to be a disciple, then to discover systems, biblical principles, and methods that create a disciple making context. The systems will cover both the macro level and the micro level. Once this has been discovered and discussed the student will select a disciple making system and create a micro-level disciple making plan for a local church.

RATIONALE

DSMN 500 is a portal course serving as an introduction to discipleship ministries. The purpose of the course is to equip the student with a comprehensive description of what discipleship is from a biblical and Christ-centered perspective. This course will also explore the structure of the discipline as well as address the essential activities of disciple-making. Whether for individual or church ministries, these principles form the underlying and foundational components necessary for effective ministry within the local church context.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Evaluate the teachings of Jesus regarding what it meant to be a disciple and how to make disciples.

- B. Analyze the foundational directions of being and making disciples of Jesus.
- C. Examine the approach of Jesus in the disciple making process.
- D. Explain the role of the local church in the disciple making process.
- E. Evaluate the different small group philosophies related to making disciples.
- F. Review the four different church structures pertaining to making disciples.
- G. Create a detailed discipleship project.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations/notes
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (2)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student will participate in 2 Discussion Board Forums that will consist of a thread and 2 replies in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 300–500 words and must cite 2 scholarly sources in current Turabian format to support the content in the thread. Each reply must be 150–200 words.

- D. Written Assignments (4)

The Written Assignments will address 4 critical areas relating to disciples, discipleship, and the formation of a healthy church body through discipleship ministries. Each assignment must be at least 5 pages and must utilize at least 5 scholarly sources. Each paper must be in current Turabian format.

- E. Disciple-Making Plan

The student will create a comprehensive discipleship ministry plan as a personal strategy to develop disciples for Christ. Based on the written assignments completed for this course, the student will thoroughly discuss 5 major areas of discipleship and disciple-making in ministry. The student will develop a coordinated plan that covers the 5 V's of ministry (Vision, Values, Views, Vehicles, and Verifiers) and that can be implemented in a local church or other ministry organization context.

- F. Course Reflection

The student will write a 1,000–1,200-word reflection essay in current Turabian format. The essay will answer the question “How has this course shaped your thinking in the following areas related to the ministry of discipleship: 1) stages of discipleship, 2) discipleship in the local church, and 3) healthy church characteristics?”

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 150 pts)	300
Written Assignments (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Disciple-Making Plan	200
Course Reflection	100
Total	1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the Turabian style manual (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*). Discussion assignments and essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

D. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

E. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

F. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

DSMN 500

Textbooks: Bonhoeffer, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer Works, Volume 4* (2003).
 Earley & Dempsey, *Disciple Making Is...* (2013).
 Earley & Dempsey, *Spiritual Formation Is...* (2018).
 Putman et al., *DiscipleShift* (2013).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Earley & Dempsey (2013): ch. 2 Putman et al.: ch. 2 2 presentations 2 lecture notes 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 150
2	Earley & Dempsey (2018): chs. 1, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12 1 presentation 2 lecture notes	WA 1 – Spiritual Formation and Discipleship	100
3	Bonhoeffer: ch. 2 Earley & Dempsey (2013): chs. 6–11 Putman et al.: chs. 3–4 1 presentation 1 PDF	WA 2 – Spheres and Stages of Discipleship	100
4	Earley & Dempsey (2013): chs. 4, 19, 24–29 1 presentation 2 lecture notes	WA 3 – Disciple-Making in a Healthy Church	100
5	Earley & Dempsey (2018): chs. 18–22 1 presentation 4 lecture notes	DB Forum 2	150
6	Earley & Dempsey (2013): chs. 20–23 Putman et al.: chs. 5–6 1 presentation 3 lecture notes	WA 4 – The Connection between Discipleship and Leadership	100
7	Earley & Dempsey (2013): chs. 29–30 Earley & Dempsey (2018): Conclusion Putman et al.: chs. 11–12 1 presentation 1 lecture note	Disciple-Making Plan	200
8	Bonhoeffer: chs. 1, 2 (review), 3–5 1 presentation 3 lecture notes	Course Reflection	100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

WA = Written Assignment

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.