

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 630

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ministry of Small Groups prepares the individual to serve and equip the church to embrace, plan for, implement and evaluate small group ministry. In addition to helping establish a clear biblical basis for small groups, this course is divided into two distinct, but related, topics. The first aspect deals with the issue of organizing and ministering small group ministry. The second aspect deals with the dynamics related to small group leadership. The focus is on one leader and one group.

RATIONALE

Jesus told us to “go and make disciples.” This is the clear command from our Lord and Savior. We have the command, and we have principles from the Word of God that help us to understand how to go about the process of making disciples of Jesus Christ. The principles are to love God and love people. The early Church quickly implemented these principles and “turned the world upside down” (Acts 17:6). The Great Commission is still applicable today and so are the principles of God’s Word. Small groups give the church a context for accomplishing the commands of Christ.

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 Word
- E. School of Divinity Writing Guide:
<https://www.liberty.edu/divinity/index.cfm?PID=28160>

IV. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- A. Analyze the principles and practices related to common small group models.
- B. Analyze spiritual leadership in regard to a small group ministry.
- C. Create a plan for developing church attendees into kingdom-minded leaders.
- D. Implement practices and principles related to leading a small group effectively.
- E. Transition a traditional church with Sunday school into a church that has a decentralized model of discipleship and pastoral care.
- F. Implement a small group and/or small group training program.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

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

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

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be 200 words. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

- D. Analysis Papers (4)

The student will write a 4-page analysis paper based on the posed topic. The paper must be written in current Turabian format and include at least 4 references. (MLO): A, B, E)

- E. Small Group Training Manual

The student will compose a Small Group Training Manual that can be implemented in a small group ministry. This will be completed in 2 steps. The manual must be 12–15 pages and cover areas detailed within the course. The manual must include at least 10 sources cited in current Turabian format. (MLO: A, B, C, D, E, F)

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 100 pts ea)	300
Analysis Papers (4 at 100 pts ea)	400
Small Group Training Manual: Step 1	100
Small Group Training Manual: Step 2	200
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 630

Textbooks: Arnold, *The Big Book on Small Groups* (2004).
 Comiskey, *Biblical Foundations for the Cell-Based Church* (2012).
 Earley & Dempsey, *Leading Healthy, Growing, Multiplying Small Groups* (2015).
 House, *Community: Taking Your Small Group off Life Support* (2011).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Earley & Dempsey: chs. 1–4 1 presentation 1 lecture note 1 website	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Comiskey: chs. 2–4 Earley & Dempsey: chs. 5–6 1 presentation 2 lecture notes 1 website	Analysis Paper 1	100
3	Arnold: Introduction, chs. 1–2 Earley & Dempsey: chs. 7–15 1 presentation 1 lecture note 1 website	Analysis Paper 2	100
4	Arnold: ch. 3 Earley & Dempsey: chs. 16–21, 30 1 presentation 2 websites	DB Forum 2	100
5	Arnold: chs. 4–5 Earley & Dempsey: chs. 22–28 1 presentation 1 lecture note	Analysis Paper 3	100
6	Earley & Dempsey: chs. 29–39 House: chs. 4–7 1 presentation 1 lecture note 2 websites	Analysis Paper 4 Small Group Training Manual: Step 1	100 100

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
7	Comiskey: chs. 5–9 Earley & Dempsey: chs. 40-46 1 presentation 2 websites	DB Forum 3	100
8	Arnold: Appendix A–B Earley & Dempsey: chs. 47–51 1 presentation 1 lecture note 1 website	Small Group Training Manual: Step 2	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

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