

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 830

ENVIRONMENTAL DISCIPLESHIP MODELS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class is designed to examine the biblical foundations for small group discipleship, how to develop small groups, how to grow small groups, how to develop small group leaders and how to transition to a small group (environmental) discipleship model. The focus of the class will be on how to accomplish the Great Commission in a relational context.

RATIONALE

This course will examine the biblical foundation for small group ministries and the practical outworking of developing effective small group models and methods. This course fits in the Discipleship cognate of the Doctor of Ministry as it will equip and empower to students to develop healthy small groups for the Great Commission. Small groups are essential to the growth and development of followers of Jesus 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. Examine the Scriptural foundations for Small Group Ministry.
- B. Examine the historical developments for a Small Group Ministry.
- C. Analyze the different models for a Small Group Ministry.
- D. Evaluate the leadership principles for a Small Group Ministry.
- E. Apply principles to transition, grow, and multiply a Small Group Ministry.

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 is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 500 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 125 words.

- D. Reflection Papers (4)

The student will write four 1200-1500-word reflection papers in current Turabian format that focuses on the question(s) posed during the course. Each paper must include at least 3 references in addition to the course textbooks and the Bible.

- E. Training Manual

The student will create a 16-page (300 words per page) training manual for a local church or a ministry context that will enable the church/ ministry to recruit, train, develop, grow, transition, and multiply disciples in a small group environment.

1. Midpoint

The student will submit the first 8 pages of the project should include 4 sections that:

- a. Explain the Vision/ Dream for Developing Healthy, Growing, Multiplying Small Groups
- b. Quantify the Biblical/ Theological Basis for Small Groups
- c. Comprehend the Historical Development of Small Groups
- d. Propose the specific types of small groups that will be developed

2. Final

The student will submit all 16 pages (300 words per page) of the project to include the previously submitted sections as well as the following:

- a. Explain the Leadership Development structure and the coaching structure
- b. Identify the structure and strategy for growing
- c. Propose the Multiplying structures and strategies for small groups
- d. Identify the Transitioning process for churches or ministries considering small groups.

VI. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (2 at 100 pts ea)	200
Reflection Papers (1 at 150 pts, 3 at 100 pts ea)	450
Training Manual	
Midpoint	150
Final	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 [School of Divinity 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 830

Textbooks: Breen, *Multiplying Missional Leaders* (2014).
 Comiskey, *Biblical Foundations for the Cell Based Church* (2012).
 Dempsey & Earley, *Leading Healthy, Growing, Multiplying Small Groups* (2016).
 Earley, *8 Habits of Successful Small Group Leaders* (2001).
 Ferguson, *Exponential* (2010).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Earley: introduction – ch. 1 1 presentation 4 documents	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 100
2	Comiskey: introduction – ch. 6 Dempsey: chs. 6-7 1 presentation 2 documents	Reflection Paper 1	150
3	1 presentation 2 documents	Reflection Paper 2	100
4	Breen: ch. 2 Ferguson: chs. 6-7 1 presentation 5 documents	Reflection Paper 3	100
5	Breen: ch. 8 Dempsey: chs. 16-28 Ferguson: ch. 8 1 presentation 1 article 3 documents	Training Manual: Midpoint	150
6	Breen: chs. 3-6 Earley: chs. 2-4 1 presentation 1 PowerPoint 2 documents	DB Forum 2	100
7	Dempsey: chs. 40-49 Earley: ch. 6 1 presentation 1 article 2 documents	Reflection Paper 4	100

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
8	Comiskey: ch. 9 Earley: ch. 11 Ferguson: chs. 9-11 1 presentation 3 documents	Training Manual: Final	200
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

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**.