



DSC 101 Discipleship & Spiritual Practices I

4C Ministry Institute

1 Unit

Course Description

This is the first of a multi-term course sequence that prepares and empowers students to become disciples who make disciples. This term is focused on assimilating students into a group under the guidance of a trained mentor who models strategies for practicing the ways of Jesus in community. The ways of Jesus are reflected in three major life rhythms: 1) He enjoyed life with God, 2) together with others, 3) for the good of the world.

Course Rationale

Discipleship is a foundational part of the Christian life. Christ followers are called to be disciples by continuing to grow in their imitation of Him and they are also called to inspire others to become more like Jesus by their example. Therefore, acquiring and demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and behaviors necessary to effectively disciple others are essential outcomes for anyone who is training for ministry.

Course Objectives

Students who complete this course sequence will:

- O1. Describe the Biblical definition and rationale for discipleship.
- O2. Assess models of discipleship to determine their effectiveness and contextual relevance.
- O3. Utilize the rhythms of Jesus as described in the Bible as a model for discipling others.
- O4. Design a personal practice for discipling by analyzing current models for discipleship.

Professors

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Textbooks

The Bible (preferably the New International Version or New American Standard Bible)

Course Requirements and Grade Weights

All assignments must be completed to pass this course. Assignment details are provided in Top Hat and must be uploaded to that system unless otherwise instructed.

Attendance and participation (70% of the overall grade) (O3)

Bible reading (15% of the overall grade) (O1; O3)

Reflection paper (15% of the overall grade) (O1; O2; O3; O4)

Attendance and Participation

Discipleship groups are expected to meet for a minimum of one hour per week. In some instances, groups may meet less frequently but the cumulative meeting time must equate to an average of one hour/week throughout the semester. Due to the nature of this discipleship model, it is essential that students actively participate in their discipleship groups. Each absence may result in a 10-point grade reduction. Students who miss more than four group sessions will receive an FA (Failure Due to Absences) for the term.

Bible reading

Students will read the Bible every week, typically following the following schedule, though the discipleship group leader may assign different passages. Each assigned passage must be read four times in preparation for the discipleship group meeting. *Students will take a one-question quiz in Top Hat at the end of the term to identify the percentage of the total reading assignment that was completed.*

Week 1: Matthew 1	Week 6: Matthew 6	Week 11: Matthew 11	Week 16: Matthew 16
Week 2: Matthew 2	Week 7: Matthew 7	Week 12: Matthew 12	Week 17: Matthew 17
Week 3: Matthew 3	Week 8: Matthew 8	Week 13: Matthew 13	
Week 4: Matthew 4	Week 9: Matthew 9	Week 14: Matthew 14	
Week 5: Matthew 5	Week 10: Matthew 10	Week 15: Matthew 15	

Reflection paper

Students will write a 3-5 page summative reflection paper at the end of the term that address topics similar to, but not necessarily limited to, the following prompts:

- What new discipleship concepts and/or tools were introduced to you during the term, and to what degree were they impactful and productive?
- Describe your personal commitment and contribution to the discipleship process, and reflect on specific ways your level of investment impacted your personal growth and the growth in others.
- What were the key experiences this term that contributed to your spiritual growth, and why/how?
- What are specific ways in which you grew spiritually as a direct result of your discipleship community?
- How will your experiences this term help you prioritize discipleship and disciple others in the future?

Grading Scale

DSC 101 is a Pass/Fail course. **Students must earn a 77% or higher in the course to pass.**

Deadlines

Monthly Evaluations

Monthly evaluation forms will be open on the first Monday-Thursday of each month. Information provided on the monthly evaluation form must provide an accurate reflection of the student's engagement, experiences, and work during the previous month. A student who fails to complete a monthly form may request permission to submit the evaluation late, though late submission may be penalized 50%.

Reflection Paper

The reflection paper is due one week prior to the last day of the discipleship term (the specific date is noted in Top Hat). Reflection papers submitted after the due date may be penalized 10%/day, and no work will be accepted after the last date of the discipleship term.

Writing Assignments

Assignments must be type-written, double-spaced, using no larger than standard 12 pt font in Microsoft Word. Assignment subject and student name should be clearly noted.

Academic Integrity

All work, other than material properly cited, is to be the *original* product of the student. Plagiarism will result in failure of an assignment and potential failure of the class. See the 4CMI catalog/handbook for more information.

Make-Up Work

Students are *personally* responsible for securing and making up missed work. If an absence is required, it should be communicated ahead of time to avoid a penalty. Assignments are still due on the scheduled dates.

Academic Support

Students who require academic accommodations due to a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability should request assistance from the professor within the first week of class.

