



DSC 202 Discipleship & Spiritual Practices V

4C Ministry Institute

1 Unit

Course Description

This is the fifth 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

Russ Howard	russ@wearepraxis.org
Jeffrey Derico, PhD	jeffrey.derico@gmail.com
Anna Ellison (Teaching Assistant)	acellison32@gmail.com

Textbooks

The Bible (preferably the New International Version or New American Standard Bible)
Nouwen, Henri: *In the Name of Jesus*; Crossroad Publishing, 1992.

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.

Leadership and participation (70% of the overall grade) (O3; O4)

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

Book review (15% of the overall grade) (O1; O2; O3; O4)

Leadership and Participation

Students must be present, prepared, and engaged in the leadership of the discipleship group. 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. 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 different passages may be selected and assigned. 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 18

Week 7: Matthew 24

Week 13: Luke 2

Week 2: Matthew 19

Week 8: Matthew 25

Week 14: Luke 3

Week 3: Matthew 20

Week 9: Matthew 26

Week 15: Luke 4

Week 4: Matthew 21

Week 10: Matthew 27

Week 16: Luke 5

Week 5: Matthew 22

Week 11: Matthew 28

Week 17: Luke 6

Week 6: Matthew 23

Week 12: Luke 1

Book review

Students will write and submit a 3-5 page book review on Nouwen. Do NOT simply summarize the content of the book. Instead, the book review should address questions similar to, though not necessarily limited to, the following:

- What was the author's primary goal for writing this book?
- What were some key claims, principles, or strategies that you believe are particularly useful and why?
- What were some key claims, principles, or strategies that you believe are wrong or unhelpful, and why?
- How do the key claims, principles, or strategies in this book differ from other discipleship literature?
- To what degree and in what ways should this book contribute to a church's discipleship strategies?
- In what specific ways will this book inform and influence your personal pursuit of spiritual growth?

Grading Scale

DSC 202 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%.

Book Review

The book review is due one week prior to the last day of the discipleship term (the specific date is noted in Top Hat). Book reviews 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.

