Northern Seminary
ED 409 BUILDING A DISCIPLING COMMUNITY
Masters Credit – 7 Hrs.
Fall 2013
Professor: Dr. Mark Herringshaw
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Prerequisites:

Students must first be accepted into a 3DM Learning Community in order to register for this module. You can find more about 3DM and register for a Learning Community at www.weare3dm.com

Course Description

Building a Discipling Community is the first of four modules offered in partnership with 3DM through Learning Communities (www.3dmlearningcommunities.com). This module will begin with a four-day “Immersion” and takes place over two quarters.

The imperative of the Great Commission is that we make disciples. We are in a discipleship crisis in the United States to such a degree that most Christian leaders have little idea how to intentionally make disciples who are then able to go and do the same. One of the problems is that mission is not sustainable without a culture of reproducible discipleship. In this immersion experience, we will explore how to make disciples who can them themselves make disciples and what this will practically look like in the local ministry context. The purpose of this module is not only to engage students in critical biblical and theological reflection regarding the nature and purpose of discipleship, but to coach and train them through actually beginning to build a discipling culture within their church or ministry setting.

Course Objectives

1. Understand and be able to articulate, in both biblical and theological terms, the relationship between discipleship, the gospel, and the Church. To be able to define what constitutes a “discipleship culture” within a congregation. Show evidence of thoughtful integration of gender and multi-cultural learning in one’s theology of discipleship.

2. Develop and implement a six-month, strategic ministry plan related to building a discipling culture in your church or ministry setting.

3. Learn how to identify and discern, with increasing ability, how God is speaking and at work in your life and in the lives of those you are discipling.

4. Demonstrate personal growth and maturity as a disciple.

5. Understand how huddles can be used as vehicles for discipleship.

6. Lead a huddle.

Required Reading

ISBN: 0020838506; 352 pages; $20.00


Additionally, students should read the Gospel of Luke twice per month, paying special attention to Luke’s treatment of the place and nature of discipleship. Though not required, you may find it helpful to journal your thoughts, reflections, and anything you sense the Lord speaking to you as you do this reading.

*If students have already read any of the assigned texts they should consult with the professor on alternative reading options.*

**Course Requirements**

1. Participate in the four-day, Building a Discipling Culture, intensive

Interspersed with times of prayer, worship, and ministry, this four-day intensive will feature the integration of lecture-style content delivery in large group sessions (approx. 120 leaders), processing opportunities in smaller, social space contexts (approx. 40 leaders), and work sessions in which students begin to build strategic ministry plans based on how their learning intersects with their ministry context (individual or small teams).

   **Teaching Input 1: Jesus’ Dream for Discipleship**
   **Teaching Input 2: Jesus’ Principles for Missionary Disciples**
   **Teaching Input 3: The Intersection of God’s Kingdom and Your Context**
   **Teaching Input 4: The Call and Rhythms of Jesus**

2. Participation in a weekly huddle facilitated by a 3DM certified coach and supervised by the professor for six months following the immersion experience.
These weekly huddle calls have three primary aims:

- Directed engagement in a process of personal spiritual formation and discipleship
- Providing space for students to glean from and contribute to the questions, issues, and perspectives of huddle members
- Creating an opportunity for students to exhibit how they are integrating their biblical/theological reflection with their ministry experience as they develop the skill-set of a missionary leader

3. Submit a 5 to 6-page, Strategic Ministry Plan that will guide your ministry experience following the immersion experience

You will begin to outline this plan during the intensive under the guidance of social space leaders. Your finished plan will be due approximately one week after the end of the intensive. Your Professor and Huddle Leader will provide further guidance and instructions.

Your finished strategic plan will include:

- 2-3 pages of your integrated thought based on your experience at the “Building a Discipling Culture” intensive, an evaluation of your ministry context, and any of the particular ways that you feel God is speaking to and leading you as a leader
- A 2-page, “Strategic Planning Tool” provided by 3DM that you will craft for your own ministry context
- A short prayer that you plan to pray regularly over the course of the next six months that will center, guide, and sustain you as you seek to focus on God’s work in and through you

4. In 7-pages, critique Reveal according to the thinking of Yoder, Willard, Hauerwas and McKnight’s books and critically analyze the relationship of culture to discipleship.

5. In 8-pages, develop and defend a concise Biblical, Theological, and Ministerial Philosophy and Method of Discipleship for your own ministerial context. Examine and name the limitations of your philosophy and method. Reflect upon multicultural and gender issues which you may or may not have attended to which you are now aware of due to reading *A Many Colored Kingdom* and/or other personal experiences. What is important to you and “why” theologically?

**NOTES:**
Reading Reflection Paper
At the end of the course, students should provide a statement noting the percentage of reading completed.

**ALL WORK IS DUE BY March 30, 2014.** Please email everything to Dr. Mark Herringshaw at mherringshaw@faculty.seminary.edu.

**Grading**

Reading: 5%
4-Day Immersion: 15%
Huddle Calls and Formation: 15%
5-page Strategic Ministry Plan: 15%
7-page Reveal Critique Paper: 20%
8-page Method of Discipleship Paper: 30%

**Grading Scale**

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A &= 100-95 \\
A- &= 94-90 \\
B+ &= 89-87 \\
B &= 86-83 \\
B- &= 82-80 \\
C+ &= 79-7 \\
C &= 76-73 \\
C- &= 72-70 \\
D+ &= 69-67 \\
D &= 66-63 \\
D- &= 62-60 \\
F &= 59 and below
\end{align*}
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**Course Evaluation**

Students must complete an online course evaluation using the seminary Moodle system at [http://moodle.edu](http://moodle.edu) in order to receive a final grade in the course. The evaluation will be opened on March 30, 2014 after all coursework has been completed. If you need assistance connecting to Moodle or accessing the evaluation, please send an email to ithelpdesk@seminary.edu.