

MN531 MAKING DISCIPLES 1 - AUGUST 2018 (REGISTER ALSO FOR MN532 MAKING DISCIPLES 2 – FALL 2018)

2 Credits: letter grade only

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Course Description

This course, part one of a required two-course series with MN532, explores the role and practice of the teaching and discipling ministries of the church as graced means of cultivating the character of Christ personally and corporately. An incarnational model of teaching and learning—engaging the whole person—will be emphasized. Students will reflect on their own experiences of these ministries, both as teacher and student; engage texts on teaching, contemplative attention, spiritual formation in children and youth, virtue formation, and catechesis; and practice practical theological reflection as they build skills for teaching in various contexts. Models for learning, recent cognitive research, and instructional design models will be dialogue partners as students select and describe a context of teaching and learning; then design, teach, and evaluate a teaching/learning experience.



Course Objectives By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Learn and practice a method of contemplative practical theological reflection in a variety of contexts;
2. Articulate the characteristics and impact of cultural formation, with regards to formation as a disciple of Christ;
3. Gain an introductory awareness of teaching and learning models, human development patterns, and brain research on learning so as to communicate Gospel truths in ways that meet people in their particular stage of developmental and learning needs;
4. Be able to describe and assess the ways that a particular Christian community approaches the tasks of Christian teaching and discipleship;
5. Explore discipleship needs and approaches for children, youth, emerging adults;
6. Explore models of adult catechesis and on-going mystagogy;
7. Explore best practices and develop personal skills relevant to teaching and learning.

M.Div. Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Be formed by, live in, and minister out of Scripture and the historical and theological tradition of the Church.
- Educate and equip individuals and congregations to live and minister joyfully and faithfully as part of their own denomination and the ecumenical church.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MAMD Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

Requirements

1. Attendance, pre-load reading, and attentive participation in the class – 30%
2. Book summaries – 30%
3. Ministry Context Description and Analysis – 30%
4. Proposal for the learning experience you want to teach during Fall semester - 10%

Required Course Texts (for both MN531 & MN532)

- Depending on your denomination: Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Common Worship*, United Methodist Church *Book of Worship*, Episcopal Church *Book of Common Prayer*, etc. For students from ecclesial traditions without a common prayer book, choose one of the above.
- Anderson, Keith. *The Digital Cathedral: Networked Ministry in a Wireless World*. Morehouse, 2015. ISBN-13: 978-0819229953
- Lichtmann, Maria. *The Teacher's Way: Teaching and the Contemplative Life*. Paulist Press, 2005. ISBN 0-8091-4303-8
- Smith, James K. A. *You Are What You Love*. Brazos Press, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1587433801
- Sousa, David A., *How the Brain Learns*, Fifth Edition, Corwin Press, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1506346304.
- Stonehouse, Catherine. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith*. Baker Books, 1998. ISBN 0-8010-5807-4
- Twenge, Jean M. *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy--and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood--and What That Means for the Rest of Us*. Atria Books, 2017. ISBN-13: 978-1501151989
- Yaconelli, Mark. *Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus*. Zondervan, 2006. ISBN 0-310-26777-3