

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

## *PTH 650 Building the Disciple-Making Ministry*

Dr. Steve Lim

Fall 2010

### COURSE SYLLABUS

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A thorough study of the process and means for developing disciples, based on the model of Jesus and the early Church. This course addresses the hindrances to discipleship in the contemporary church, society, and life of the believer. It considers the motivations and means needed for sustained discipleship. In addition, it provides a holistic examination of the values and actions of a disciple in the areas of spiritual life, daily living, relationships, and servanthood and mission. Finally, it examines the relationship between personal growth and discipleship.

#### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

To satisfactorily complete this course, the student will achieve these objectives:

1. Develop an understanding of how Jesus and the early church made disciples.
2. Identify the personal, organizational, and cultural hindrances to discipleship.
3. Discover the motivations for and means of discipleship.
4. Be aware of various contemporary models of discipleship in churches and parachurch organizations.
5. Identify the actions and attitudes of a disciple in the major areas of life.
6. Appreciate the relationship between personal growth and discipleship.

#### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS**

*If you have previously read any of these books, please substitute another of your choice from the list of recommended readings.*

Lim, Steve. *Transforming Believers into Growing Disciples* (Alternative title: *Why Churches Don't Disciple & How Yours Can*). Manuscript in progress: The newest version will be **available from the Academic Dean's Office on July 15, 2010.**

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 2003. ISBN-10: 0310246547

## **TEXTBOOK OF THE STUDENT'S CHOICE**

***Choose one book, which you have not previously read:***

### **Theology, Hindrances, & Process**

#### **• Theology of Discipleship**

Longenecker, Richard N. *Patterns of Discipleship in the New Testament*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. (This is meaty reading.)

Wilkins, Michael J. *Following the Master: Discipleship in the Steps of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

#### **• Hindrances: Flawed Paradigms & Proposals**

Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples: New Strategies for Producing Genuine Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2001.

Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission*. Harper San Francisco, 2006.

#### **• Hindrances: Cultural Seductions**

Keller, Tim. *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope that Matters*. Dutton Adult, 2009.

#### **• Means: Education**

Silver, Harvey F. et. al. *So Each May Learn: Integrating Learning Styles and Multiple Intelligences*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, 2000.

#### **• Means: Spiritual Disciplines**

Foster, Richard. *Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1978.

#### **• Means: Personal Growth**

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *Boundaries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1992.

- Means: Community

Crabb, Larry. *Connecting: Healing for Ourselves and Our Relationships*. Nashville: Word, 1997.

Gorman, Julie A. *Community that Is Christian—A Handbook on Small Groups*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993, 2002.

### **Specific Areas of Discipleship**

- Leisure, Entertainment, & Popular Culture

Anker, Roy M. *Catching Light: Looking for God in the Movies*. Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004. (Analysis of selected Academy Award winning films)

Detweiler, Craig. *Into the Dark: Seeing the Sacred in the Top Films of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008.

Ryken, Leland. *Redeeming the Time: A Christian Approach to Work and Leisure*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995.

McDonald, John C. *The Gospel According to Star Wars: Faith, Hope, & the Force*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007. (A theologian's evaluation)

Pinsky, Mark I. *The Gospel According to the Simpsons*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2001. (A religious journalist's evaluation)

- Sexuality

Balswick, Judith K. & Jack O. Balswick. *Authentic Human Sexuality: An Integrated Christian Approach*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Academic, 2008

Hollinger, Dennis P. *The Meaning of Sex: A Framework for the Moral Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2009.

- Romantic Love

Warren, Neil Clark. *Finding the Love of Your Life: Ten Principles for Choosing the Right Marriage Partner*. Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family Publishing, 1992.

- Money & Possessions

Alcorn, Randy. *Money, Possessions and Eternity*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2003.

Foster, Richard. *Freedom of Simplicity*. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1997.

• Servanthood

Abbate, Michael. *Gardening Eden: How Creation Care Can Change Your Faith, Your Life, and Our World*. Waterbrook/Multnomah, 2009.

Miller, Donald E. & Tetsunao Yamamori. *Global Pentecostalism: The New Face of Christian Social Engagement*. Berkeley, CA: The University of California Press, 2007.

Rusaw, Rick & Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland, CO: GroupPublishing, 2004. (Servanthood through the local church)

• Work

Ryken, Leland. *Redeeming the Time: A Christian Approach to Work and Leisure*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1995.

Sherman, Doug & William Hendricks. *Your Work Matters to God*. Colorado Springs, CO: Navpress, 1987.

• Success

Seligman, Martin E.P. *Authentic Happiness*. New York: Free Press, 2002.

Myers, David G. *The Pursuit of Happiness*. New York: Avon Books, 1992.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The American Paradox: Spiritual Hunger in an Age of Plenty*. New Haven: Yale Nota Bene, 2000.

**COURSE OUTLINE**

I. BIBLICAL MODEL OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. Jesus
2. Early Church

II. HINDRANCES TO DISCIPLESHIP

1. Ministry weaknesses: inferior goals and approaches
2. Cultural subversion: seductions and misbeliefs
3. Personal issues: misplaced priorities and intrapersonal deficiencies

### III. THE PROCESS AND MEANS OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. Activity and enabling of God's Spirit
2. Motivating factors
3. Understanding and applying of God's Word
4. Spiritual disciplines
5. Community—modeling, prayer, support, vulnerability, accountability, shared experiences
6. Life circumstances
7. Disciplers and potential disciples

### IV. CONTEMPORARY MODELS OF DISCIPLESHIP

1. Church models
2. Para-church models

### V. DISCIPLESHIP IN SPIRITUAL LIFE

1. Passion for God
2. Prayer life
3. Knowledge of and obedience to God's Word
4. Trust in God's provision
5. Minimizing the old nature, dealing with temptation and sin
6. Character of Jesus
7. Sensitivity and obedience to God's Spirit
8. Fullness of God's Spirit
9. Development of spiritual gifts for service
10. Commitment to life stewardship and mission
11. Decision-making and God's will
12. Spiritual warfare
13. Ongoing renewal and growth

### VI. DISCIPLESHIP IN DAILY LIVING

1. Work
2. Success
3. Money and possessions
4. Time issues—busyness, stress, priorities
5. Values and integrity
6. Personal improvement
7. Recreation and entertainment

### VII. DISCIPLESHIP IN RELATIONSHIPS

1. Family
2. Church

3. Opposite sex: dating, romantic love, sexual morality
4. Authority and government
5. Spiritually lost
6. Needy people

#### VIII. DISCIPLESHIP IN SERVANTHOOD

1. Concern for a lost world
2. Compassion for the needy: relief and development
3. Concern for social and economic justice
4. Care for the environment

#### IX. DISCIPLESHIP AND PERSONAL GROWTH

1. Overcoming low emotional intelligence
2. Overcoming low self-esteem
3. Overcoming emotional pain
4. Overcoming evasions of truth
5. Overcoming compulsive behaviors

### METHODOLOGY

Class and small group discussions, brief student presentations, class notes, select readings, and lectures will facilitate learning. Papers will be assigned to enhance knowledge in a specific area of discipleship selected by each student.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attend on time and participate in all **class sessions**. Bring textbooks to class on the first day and on other days as specified.
2. Read each of the **textbooks** and prepare a two page **Reading Analysis** for each. Cite useful insights, other benefits, limitations, and its overall value to you. Do **not** simply summarize the content, rather give your **evaluation** of specific material. **Be concise**, so that you can **include more insights**. These are **due at the beginning of class** on:
 

<i>Transforming Believers into Growing Disciples</i>	September 4
<i>Emotionally Healthy Church</i>	October 8
A book of your choice from the list above	November 5
3. Make a 5 minute **presentation in class** of the book you have chosen. Share the insights most valuable to you. **Provide each student with a copy of your Reading Analysis**. Most of these will be done during the weekend of November 5-6. Some may be done during the weekend of October 8-9, if the student so chooses.
4. Take a **course examination**. This will be sent to students on Tuesday, October 12. It is due no later than Monday, October 18.

5. Write a **strategy** or **research paper**. Due: **Friday, December 3, 2010**. If convenient, submit hard copy to the Faculty Secretary; otherwise, send by email attachment.

### Option A

**Design strategies for developing or enhancing disciple-making in a specific ministry context.** This may be a church or ministry in which you had past or have present involvement, or it may be an anticipated ministry in your future. This project should *integrate insights gained* from your reading, class participation, and experiences in making disciples (*documented by footnotes or endnotes*). It should contain no less than 10 full pages of your creation or more than 12 pages. Write concisely to maximize content.

- a. Begin with a brief description of your ministry context (community and church) in terms of **relevant** demographics, history, subcultures, and worldviews. Describe what the church or ministry is presently doing to make disciples. (Approximately 2 pages)
- b. The body of the paper deals with the proposed developments or enhancements you would make, explaining why you are including some strategies and excluding others. *Show why these proposals are relevant for your context of ministry.* Also, *they should be substantiated* by references to the literature and to insights from class notes and content, rather than merely an expression of your opinion. (**At least 7 pages**; up to 9 pages)
- c. The paper should conclude with a brief description of a realistic time sequence for accomplishing these goals (1-2 pages), appreciating the time needed to change paradigms or ministry culture, to develop or procure the necessary resources and/or personnel, and to adequately teach and train.

### Option B

Choose one of the following options, and prepare a **research paper** of 10-12 full pages of your own creation. Instead of trying to cover the entire field, *focus on a specific area*. For example, instead of trying to cover the entire topic of compassionate servanthood, you may choose to write on “Christian influence on the abolition of slavery in the United States” or “the revival of social concern in contemporary American Evangelicalism” or “fighting human trafficking in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.” This enables you to provide the *depth needed* for a graduate paper. Include a minimum of 10 references from appropriate sources through footnotes or endnotes. If you use footnotes, increase the minimum page requirement to 11 pages. *Limit the citations from the class notes to one or two.*

Cultural Seductions which Hinder Discipleship  
 Personal Issues which Hinder Discipleship  
 Motivation for Discipleship  
 Circumstantial Means of Growth

Connecting Spiritual and Personal Growth  
 Work  
 Success  
 Money and Possessions  
 Time Issues—busyness, stress, priorities  
 Values and Integrity  
 Recreation and Entertainment  
 Sexuality  
 Compassionate Servanthood  
 Social and/or Economic Justice  
 Care for the Environment

In graduate papers, do **not** simply summarize content or quote from sources, but **analyze, evaluate, and synthesize** your research. Summaries and lists which exceed one-quarter of a page should be placed in appendices. Be sure to cite your sources through an attached bibliography and endnotes/footnotes. The purpose of this paper is to help you **understand and develop** material on topics of interest to you. **Be concise**, so that you can include more insights; this will have significant bearing on your grade. A minimum of 6 sources should be meaningfully utilized in your research and incorporated into your paper.

**Format:** Use Times-New Roman font, 12 point type. Make all margins 1” and place page numbers in the upper right hand corner. Quotes longer than two lines should be single-spaced and indented as a block quote.

**Recommendations for Papers.** Strive to write at a graduate level, realizing that what may have been acceptable in undergraduate work may not be for Master’s degree papers. While the quality of your content is the most important, the use of poor grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style detracts. Deficiencies in these areas will result in a lower grade. (After graduation, they will reflect poorly on your ministry.) If possible, ask several people knowledgeable in English and writing to thoroughly critique your work before submission. Recognize, as all good writers do, that extensive rewriting is a normal part of writing well. Allow time for the process of revision, which may require several drafts.

### **GRADING PROCEDURE**

Reading analysis: Lim	10 points	5%
Reading analysis: Cloud & Townsend	10 points	5%
Reading analysis & class presentation, from one of listed options	10 points	5%
Other class participation	10 points	5%
Examination	100 points	40%

Paper	100 points	40%
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TOTAL	240 points	100%

**Penalties for late submission**

Reading analysis: 2 points per day or fraction thereof

Examination: 4 points per day or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of one week

Paper: 4 points per day or fraction thereof, up to a maximum of one week.

**SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY**: This will be distributed during the course

**SPECIFIC DATA**: Syllabus by Steve Lim, May 2010