



Flourish Courses Developed by Gordon-Conwell.

MC512 – Discipleship and Disciple-making

Course Developer and Instructor: Dr. Jim Singleton

Spring 2022 (February 8th – May 16th)

Required Web Class Meetings:

- Tuesday, February 8th (8-9 PM ET / 5-6 PM PT)
- Tuesday, March 8th (8-9 PM ET / 5-6 PM PT)
- Tuesday, April 5th (8-9 PM ET / 5-6 PM PT)
- Tuesday, May 3rd (8-9 PM ET / 5-6 PM PT)

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end.”
– Matthew 28:19-20

Contacts

Course Instructor: Dr. Jim Singleton jsingleton@gordonconwell.edu

Flourish: registrar@flourishmovement.org

Course Description

The course provides a comprehensive and practical introduction to the theology and practice of discipleship, particularly in and through the local church. It is designed to prepare pastors and church leaders in fostering the discipleship and equipping of individuals and of the congregation as a whole. The course focuses on the nature of congregational life and how it impacts the type of discipleship and missional texture it promotes. Further, there is attention to the change process associated with moving a congregation into a new direction.

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Gain familiarity with some of the best current representative works in the field of discipleship.
- Articulate a theology of discipleship and spiritual growth that is faithful to Scripture in content and consistent with our larger historic evangelical heritage across the centuries.

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- Grow in the understanding of how discipleship is impacted by various social sizes.
- Gain skill in understanding the context for implementing plans of discipleship in the local church, by creating discipleship curricula.

Course Modality

This course is offered online at flourishmovement.org. This online course has a fixed start and end date with scheduled weekly Lessons and associated Assignments and Activities. Although this course is primarily asynchronous (meaning that students usually do not have to be online at certain times to complete course requirements), students will need to adhere to weekly due dates. In addition, students will have to be present for four (4) web meetings scheduled by the Instructor. There are also four assignments that require students to work with a partner via email and/or Zoom. More information can be found within the course site.

Those taking the course for personal enrichment are strongly encouraged to stay on track with the schedule for credit-seeking students. Access to course content is not guaranteed after the course end date.

Course Schedule

The course is organized into eleven content weeks called “Lessons,” one holiday week, and two additional weeks focused on completing major summative assignments. Weeks begin on a Tuesday and end on a Monday.

Week	Dates	Lesson Title
1	Feb. 8-14	Introduction to Discipleship
2	Feb. 15-21	Definitions of Discipleship
3	Feb. 22-28	The Fall and Its Impact
4	Mar. 1-7	Six Values of Discipleship, Part 1
5	Mar. 8-14	Six Values of Discipleship, Part 2
6	Mar. 15-21	Six Values of Discipleship, Part 3
7	Mar. 22-28	More Values and Plans of Discipleship
8	Mar. 29-Apr. 4	Discipleship in Larger Groups
9	Apr. 5-11	Shaping a Discipleship Culture
10	Apr. 12-18	Holy Week – No New Content
11	Apr. 19-25	Obstacles to Discipleship
12	Apr. 26-May 2	Discipleship and Renewal
13-14	May 3-16	Final Course Assignments Completion Period

Course Requirements

I. Readings and Reading Reports

Students are required to obtain and read several books for this course. Books can be obtained through the [Gordon-Conwell Charlotte Bookstore](#) or any online retailer. Weekly reading assignments are posted in the course site. Students are required to complete the readings to pass the course and will submit a course report on March 23 (mid-term report) and at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others). It is best to try to write your report weekly to stay current.

Students may choose to read half of the books if they choose a reader partner who will read the other half. If this joint option is chosen, then each team of readers will meet weekly for 30 minutes online or by phone to discuss what they learned from their reading. For these joint readers there will be a joint reading report turned in with an additional paragraph of what the non-reader learned from the reader (Note: both persons will read the Allin book and take the assessment provided).

There is also opportunity for you to indicate substitute or extra reading in consultation with the instructor.

Required Books

Students should purchase the following books:

- Allin, Dana. *Simple Discipleship: Equipping Your Church for Individual Growth and Community Transformation*. (Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2018) (181 pages). ISBN: 978-1-63146-713-4
- Byassee, Jason and Andria Irwin. *Following: Embodied Discipleship in a Digital Age*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2021) (185 pages). ISBN: 978-1-5409-6227-0
- Choung, James. *Real Life: A Christianity Worth Living Out*. (Downers Grove, 2012) (244 pages). ISBN: 978-0-8308-3654-3
- Harrington, Bobby and Alex Absalom. *Discipleship That Fits: The Five Kinds of Relationships God Uses to Help Us Grow*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2016) (238 pages).
- Logan, Robert E and Charles R. Ridley. *The Discipleship Difference: Making Disciples While Growing as Disciples*. (Logan Group, 2015) (216 pages). ISBN: 978-1-944955-00-3
- Mancini, Will and Cory Hartman. *Future Church: Seven Laws of Real Church Growth*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2020) (268 pages). ISBN: 978-1-5409-0061-6

- Ogden, Greg. *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ*. (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP, 1998, 2007) (232 pages).
- Scazzero, Peter. *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from Shallow Christianity to Deep Transformation*. (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021) (258 pages). ISBN: 978-0-310-10948-8

Recommended Books

The following books are recommended by the Course Developer, but are not required for purchase:

- Kibbe, Michael. *From Topic to Thesis: A Guide to Theological Research*. (Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015) ISBN-13: 978-0830851317
- Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Ninth Ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018). ISBN-13: 978-0226430577
- Zissner, William. *On Writing Well: The Classic Guide to Writing Non-Fiction*. 30th Anniversary Ed. (New York, Harper Perennial, 2016). ISBN-13: 978-0060891541

The texts provide a practical foundation for the ministry of evangelism and discipleship in a local church. My desire is to entice you to a life-long love of reading in these fields.

Each student will write a **Reading Report** for each work read, first describing the **central thesis** of the book (usually one or two paragraph), followed by a critical analysis of what in this book was helpful in crafting your ministry (two paragraphs).

Due dates for Reading Reports are located in the course site.

II. Lectures

Students are required to watch weekly lecture videos. These videos are posted in the course site. Students are required to watch all of the lecture videos to pass the course and will submit a course report at the end of the course attesting that they have completed this requirement (and others).

III. Activities and Assignments

Students will complete various activities and assignments associated with the content of the Lessons. For four of the assignments, students taking the course for credit (whether taking for CLP credit alone or those taking it for both CLP and Gordon-Conwell credit) will work with a partner via email and/or Zoom. Instructions and due dates for all the activities and assignments can be found within the course site.

IV. Web-Meetings with Instructor

There are four web meetings during the semester (60 minutes) with the Course Instructor to discuss course content, learnings, and your projects. Meeting dates are provided at the top of the syllabus. A meeting verification will be required at the end of the course.

V. Four Week Discipleship Project

To experience discipleship during the course, each student will lead four sessions of discipleship with two younger believers. You will need to recruit two people willing to be your practice partner for 4 weeks. I suggest that you disciple the two in a group together with you (1 on 2). You will all study the book of Philippians and do one chapter per week. An alternative would be to do any four chapters in the Ogden book. Write a one-page reflection after each discipleship meeting and turn them in together as a summary of the project. Full descriptions of this project, including due dates, can be found in the course site.

VI. Project/Final Paper

In lieu of a final exam, students will complete a written project that provides the student with practical experience in shaping a culture for discipleship. Start assembling ideas for this project from day one. Detailed instructions are available in the course site.

VII. Course Reports

At the end of the course, students will complete a Course Report verifying completion of all non-graded activities including reading, lecture viewing, and class web-meetings attendance.

Assignment Formatting and Submission

Writing assignments should be submitted as either a Microsoft Word document or PDF file in the course site (email submissions are not accepted).

All assignment file names should follow this convention:

FirstinitialLastname_AssignmentName_MMDDYY
example: JSmith_ResearchPaper_123119

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All written assignments should be double-spaced with one-inch margins and a 12-point standard font and **should follow the most recent edition of Turabian (Chicago Style for Students and Researchers) for paper formatting and citations.**

Course Grading

All course grading will be completed by the Course Instructor. **All assignments and activities must be completed to pass the course.**

Assignments and Weighting

Assignment	Weighting
Lesson Assignments and Activities	15%
Reading Reports	15%
Meetings with Course Instructor	10%
4 Week Discipleship Project	20%
Final Project and Report	40%
Course Report (pass/fail) includes:	
Reading	Must complete to pass course.
Lecture Viewing	Must complete to pass course.
Class Web Sessions	Must attend to pass course.
Total	100%

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	B+	87-89%	C+	77-79%	D+	67-69%		
		B	83-86%	C	73-76%	D	63-66%	F	Below 60
A-	90-92%	B-	80-82%	C-	70-72%	D-	60-62%		

Academic Standards

All submitted materials should be of graduate level academic quality and edited to reflect the student's best effort. Students should ensure that their submitted work is free from spelling, grammatical, and formatting errors. Students who are not confident that their writing meets graduate level standards or who are looking to improve their writing abilities are encouraged to enroll in one or both of the following courses through Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary:

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- CT490 – Writing Skills Workshop. CT490 is a one-credit-hour online refresher course that introduces seminary students to essential grammar and composition skills necessary for pursuit of graduate-level writing.
- CT500 – Introduction to Theological Research and Writing. CT500 introduces students to graduate-level research and writing skills with specific attention to academic writing, theological research, integrating sources, understanding and avoiding plagiarism, and the proper citation of sources following the Turabian style manual.

To enroll in one of these courses, please contact charlotteadmissions@gordonconwell.edu.

Cheating and plagiarism are considered serious breaches of personal and academic integrity. Cheating involves, but is not necessarily limited to, the use of unauthorized sources of information during an examination or the submission of the same (or substantially same) work for credit in two or more courses without the knowledge and consent of the instructors. Plagiarism involves the use of another person's distinctive ideas or words, whether published or unpublished, and representing them as one's own instead of giving proper credit to the source. Plagiarism can also involve over-dependence on other source material for the scope and substance of one's writing. Such breaches in academic standards often result in a failing grade as well as other corrective measures.

Accommodations, Dropping the Course, and Extensions

If you are a student in need of accommodation due to disability, please contact registrar@flourishmovement.org for guidelines and next steps. It is the responsibility of the student to notify the Instructor of the documented accommodations at the beginning of the semester.

If you would like to drop the course, you are able to do so. The deadlines and amount you will be refunded or asked to pay depends on the type of student you are.

If you are a CLP2 student, you have until the start of the 7th week to drop the course for no additional charge. If you drop after the start of the 7th week, you will be asked to pay a \$150 drop fee. For the spring semester, the date to drop by, with no extra fee, would be March 30th.

If you are a Flourish or CLP1 student, the deadlines and refund percentages are below:

- February 18th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 100% refund
- March 4th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 80% refund
- March 18th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) for 50% refund
- May 13th – Last day to drop Spring course(s) with no refund

Once May 13th passes, and you have not completed the coursework, you will be asked to take an "incomplete" for the course.

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When you request to drop a class, you will be asked to fill out a form for our records with the name of the course, the reason you are dropping the course, and confirmation that you have paid the additional fee (if applicable) and notified your professor.

Arrangements for submission of late work at a date on or before the end date for the semester are made between the student and Instructor. However, course work to be submitted after the publicized end date for the semester or term must be approved by Taylor Woods. *An Extension Petition must be submitted to registrar@flourishmovement.org no later than the Friday before the last day of the course.* Extensions are only available for those with exigent and unforeseen circumstances and are generally not granted for work, ministry, or educational overload. There will be a fee for extensions of \$40 that will need to be paid when the student submits their Extension Petition. To request an Extension Petition, please email Taylor Woods at registrar@flourishmovement.org with the name of the course and the deadline you and your instructor agreed upon.