

2PT5275 Leadership & Discipleship
Fall 2020: Wednesday 8–10 am

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Course Description

This course is a study of philosophy, principles, and skills through which a pastor can lead a session and a congregation in cultivating a culture of discipleship in order to fulfill the church's mission in its life and witness. A variety of discipleship and Christian education topics will be discussed.

Class Texts

Bergler, Thomas. *The Juvenilization of American Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2012.

Cummings, Calvin Knox. *Confessing Christ: A Study of the Christian Faith from a Biblical, Reformed Perspective*. Atlanta: Great Commission Publications, 2016. [Or an equivalent title, upon approval by the instructor]

Parrett, Gary A., and S. Steve Kang. *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful: A Biblical Vision for Education in the Church*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2009.

Witmer, Timothy Z. *The Shepherd Leader: Achieving Effective Shepherding in Your Church*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R, 2010.

Brief Outline of Class Lectures

1. Introduction: Leadership and Discipleship
2. The Theology of Discipleship
 - A. Old Testament
 - B. New Testament
 - C. Reformed Theology and Discipleship
3. The History of Discipleship
 - A. Catechesis: Christian Formation in Church History
 - B. The Rise and Fall (and Return?) of Sunday School
4. The Practice of Discipleship
 - A. Sunday School Curricula
 - B. Communicants Class Instruction
 - C. Youth Ministry
 - D. Educational Options for Parents
 - E. Theological Education
 - F. Family Worship
 - G. Home Visitation

H. Small Groups

Assignments

- Responses (750-1000 words) to the three primary texts: Bergler, Parrett/Kang book, and Witmer (30%).
- Outline of a curriculum for teaching one of the following classes (20%):
 1. New membership class
 2. Officer training class
 3. Pre-marital counseling
- An analysis of the Christian education program of your church (description below) (40%)
- Class attendance and participation (10%)

Evaluation of the Educational Ministry of Your Church

Conduct an analysis of the Christian Education program the church you currently attend, in 10-15 pages. This evaluation might include the following:

- Survey what educational ministry is taking place in all age groups from nursery through older adults. Visit as many classes as you can in each group: children, youth, adult.
- Interview key leaders in these educational ministries: nursery workers, children's ministry leaders, youth leaders, adult teachers, etc.
- Explore special educational ministries (i.e. ministries to special need or age groups).
- Analyze what (if any) philosophy/vision are driving adult discipleship. Are there small groups in the church? What do they do?
- Study the involvement of the pastors and the session in educational ministry leadership or decision-making.
- Describe what you judge to be the strengths and weakness of the educational program.
- What recommendations would you make to improve the educational ministry of the church? If you were the pastor (or a member of the session), what changes would make the Christian education ministry more effective?

Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

Course: Leadership and Discipleship

Professor: Muether

Campus: Orlando

Date: Fall 2020

<u>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<p><i>In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.</i></p> <p><i>*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Strong ➤ Moderate ➤ Minimal ➤ None 	
Articulation (oral & written)	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Minimal	Students will write an evaluation of a church's educational ministry (requires little or no research).
Scripture	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Moderate	Scriptural principles for Christian discipleship will be considered at some length.
Reformed Theology	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Strong	Reformed spirituality and its connection to discipleship (eg. Catechesis) will be a large burden of the class.
Sanctification	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Minimal	The importance of a love for the people of God will be underscored.
Desire for Worldview	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	None	
Winsomely Reformed	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Moderate	Christian and non-Christian wisdom in education be considered and appreciated.
Preach	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	The strengths and weaknesses of catechetical preaching will be discussed (briefly).
Worship	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Moderate	The importance of edification in the practice of worship will be highlighted.
Shepherd	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	Home visitation, small group ministries, and other discipleship programs will be discussed.
Church/World	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Minimal	Debates over Christian/home/public schooling will receive some attention.