

Course Syllabus

Course Number & Title: 511 Discipleship

Semester: Fall 2026

Professor: Dr. Len Pine

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Course Description: A study in basic principles of Christian spiritual growth; definition and biblical examples of discipleship; resources available for discipleship; Scripture memory; preparation of a devotional log; field experience in discipling a young believer. 1 hr.

Delivery: In-person/Zoom, 16-week semester schedule

Course Prerequisite(s): None

Course Goals: In order to enable students to achieve a thorough understanding of what is necessary to help growing believers to advance in their personal walk with Christ to the point of faithful service and leadership, the course examines the discipling techniques of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Apostles, identifies the basic needs of disciples, and provides training in the various stages of development of growth for faithful disciples through both study and practical, evaluated application in the real world. Additionally, this course equips students to disciple believers toward Christian maturity through the ordinary means of grace, faithful participation in the covenant community, and service within the ministry of the local church. Students will develop a biblical, theological, and pastoral philosophy of discipleship that is consistent with the Westminster Standards and the historic Presbyterian understanding of the church.

Student Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand and be able to elucidate the discipling principles and techniques exemplified by our Lord Jesus and the Apostles, and codified in Reformed confessions and practice.
2. Students will commit key passages related to discipleship to memory.

3. Students will demonstrate that they know how to effectively disciple believers toward spiritual maturity.
4. Students will put the lessons learned in class to practical use in the field during the semester, demonstrating how discipleship occurs primarily within the covenant community under the oversight of church officers.
5. Students will develop practical strategies for equipping believers for ministry within the local church.
6. Students will integrate sound doctrine, spiritual formation, and pastoral care into disciple-making.
7. Students will exhibit personal spiritual maturity and servant leadership consistent with biblical qualifications.

Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Objective</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
9/1	Introduction, Need for Discipleship	---
9/8	Jesus the Disciplex, Part 1	Practicum Report; John 17 reading
9/15	Jesus the Disciplex, Part 2	Practicum Report
9/22	Jesus the Disciplex, Part 3	Practicum Report
9/29	Discipleship in the Early Church	Practicum Report
10/6	Discipleship in the Early Church	Practicum Report
10/13	Making Disciples Confessionally	Practicum Report; Matthew reading
10/20	Midterm Week (No Class or Exam)	
10/27	Making Disciples – Means of Grace	Practicum Report
11/3	Call and Cost of Discipleship	Practicum Report
11/10	Call and Cost of Discipleship	Text Due
11/17	Milk to Meat	Practicum Report
11/24	Developing Basic Needs	Practicum Report
12/1	Developing Workers	Practicum Report
12/8	Developing Leadership	Practicum Report, Paper Due
12/15	Final Exam	Practicum Report

Course Requirements and Grading:

READING – 20%

Bill Hull, *Jesus Christ Disciple Maker*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming J. Revell Company, 1984. Reprint edition, with study guide, 1990. ISBN 0-8007-1636-1

Scripture Readings: John 17 (read 10x); Matthew 4:18-25:46 (3x). Due as noted in schedule.

MEMORY WORK – 5%

You must memorize Acts 18:24-28 and Hebrews 5:11-6:3, 7-8 (any conservative translation – please specify). Memory work must be written in the presence of a proctor and submitted anytime in November.

PRACTICUM – 20%

Working under the guidance of your church leadership, take on a discipleship ministry with either an individual or a group in the church or community at large (your family is also an appropriate group with which to work). Put your goals, methods, and time frame (1-3 months in duration) into writing and submit it to me via email at lempine@gmail.com by the second week of class. I will approve it for the purposes of our class, and then require a detailed report on your work in which you evaluate goal achievement, methodology, and problem-solving through the course of your ministry.

PAPER – 25%

Write a 2000-word essay on the topic of integrating the Westminster Standards and the means of grace into a comprehensive discipleship program in a local church. Style is to be in conformity with the latest version of the writing manual approved by WRS.

FINAL EXAM – 15%

The Final will cover lecture material only. You will take it in the last class period (I will be online), and submit it to me for grading that day.

ATTENDANCE/CLASS PARTICIPATION – 15%

The class rubric for overall evaluation comes into play especially here, in addition to how the student performs in the other assignments.

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