

IN521 DISCIPLE FORMATION

Space for God - Fall 2020

.5 credit; Graded

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Course Description

In Disciple Formation 1, students will define and discuss strategies and challenges of making space for God in the midst of life and ministry, and in light of their formation as Christian disciples and ministers. Students will demonstrate their application of course content in their own lives and ministry through established methods of theological reflection, such as journaling; inquiry-based learning; and open and guided discussion in small groups facilitated by the instructor, either online or residentially. Students will formulate a rule of life incorporating practices of discipleship and self-care. **Disciple Formation 1 is required for Master of Divinity students, and part of a two-course series with IN522.**



Road to Emmaus - J. Kirk Richards

Formation Series Objectives

Through active participation in the Disciple Formation series, students will develop the capacity to:

- List, describe, and explain examples of Christian practices used within the Christian traditions for the formation of disciples toward loving others and loving God. (Remember, Understand)
- Describe role of self-care in the life of a disciple and minister. (Understand)
- Demonstrate specific practices, such as journaling, theological reflection, scripture study, prayer, art and music reflection, self-reflection. (Apply)
- Experiment with practices and evaluate their formative impact on their love of God and love of others. (Analyze, Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates specific discipling practices regularly into their lives. (Create)

Course Objectives

- Define practices for nurturing space for God and self-care within their specific Christian tradition and practice. (Remember)
- List, describe, and explain challenges to making space for God and self-care in life and ministry. (Remember, Understand).
- Recognize, personally and ministerially, the need for space for God and self-care. (Understand)
- Evaluate personal activities, practices, and behaviors in light of making space for God and self-care. (Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates practices for making space for God and self-care. (Create)

MDiv Curricular Goals

- Nurture habits and disciplines of study, prayer, and reflection that increase their love of God and neighbor and shape their personal and professional lives.
- 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.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MAMD Curricular Goal

- Adopt spiritual practices that nurture their personal lives as faithful disciples and witnesses.

MACL Curricular Goals

- Identify and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures.
- Articulate key theological affirmations of the church's theological tradition.
- Integrate personal discipleship with leadership responsibilities.

Required Texts

1. Smith, James K.A. *You are What You Love*, ISBN: 978-1587433801
2. Tish Harrison Warren. *Liturgy of Ordinary Days*, ISBN: 978-0-8308-4623-8
3. Bethany Hoang. *Deepening the Soul for Justice*. Intervarsity, 2012. ISBN 083083463X
4. Daily Prayer book or app for your denomination – Book of Common Worship (PCUSA) Daily Prayer; Book of Worship (UMC); Book of Common Prayer (Episcopal); etc.

Course Requirements and Grading

The challenge in ministry and life is learning how to prioritize space for God and discipleship practices--practices which are mostly invisible, unrewarded, and often, seemingly unnecessary. Regularly engaging the course materials and practices can build a habit of making space for God. This course uses a *covenant grading* approach in order to focus on the *consistent* practice of spiritual disciplines over time, rather than making a judgment about the *quality* of practice. It gives you the choice and visible responsibility for completing course discipleship practices. **All students will complete the common practices and commit to a path.** Different seasons require different amounts and sets of practices. God loves you no matter what! Please decide which path you will be pursuing by September 14.

Common Practices for *All Students*:

- Designate an intentional time and place for listening and responding to God. *It is encouraged to use the work of this course as the practices for that time with God.*
- Regular engagement on-line for distance students or attendance in class for residential students. Please see attendance policy.
- Regular participation in a worshiping community as a worshipper; campus students - regular participation in UDTS prayer and chapel opportunities, and a local church.
- Craft a *Rule of Life for Fall* (300-400 words), due September 28.
- Complete **all** practices for week 1 (Trying vs. Training)
- Complete **all** practices for week 13 (Justice and Prayer)
- Write a *Fall Semester Review* (500 words) due December 18.

Additional requirements

Path 1 (90% of the material or A)

- **Complete all common requirements for the course.**
- Complete at least 7 full weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write at least 7 weekly journal entries (300-400 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week, due each Monday, uploaded to Moodle.
- Pray one full daily office (Morning, Noon, **and** Evening/Night Prayer) **weekly** (you choose the day).

Path 2 (80% of the material or B)

- **Complete all common requirements for the course.**
- Complete at least 6 full weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write at least 6 weekly journal entries (300-400 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week, due each Monday, uploaded to Moodle.
- Pray Morning, Noon, or Evening/Night prayer **once a week**.

Path 3 (70% of the material or C)

- **Complete all common requirements for the course.**
- Complete at least 5 full weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write at least 5 weekly journal entries (300-400 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week, due each Monday, uploaded to Moodle.
- Pray one full daily office (Morning, Noon, and Evening/Night Prayer) **three times this semester** (you choose the days).

Path 4 (60% of the material or D)

- **Complete all common requirements for the course.**
- Complete at least 4 full weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write at least 4 weekly journal entries (300-400 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week, due each Monday, uploaded to Moodle.

Assignment Policy: If an assignment needs to be turned in late, please let me know the situation prior to the due date. Unexcused late journals/assignments will not be accepted. My expectation: do the assignment "well enough" for the current circumstances you find yourself in.

Online Materials Policy: Lack of engagement online for three consecutive weeks will lead to an automatic administrative withdrawal. Please let me know if an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from participating on-line.

Attendance Policy: Students are building or deepening habits of completion and good communication while in seminary. Please gift your colleagues with your consistent presence, online and/or on-campus:

- **Up to two excused absences from class or online** (with completion of make-up assignments) will not affect your final grade. Please contact me immediately if you must be absent due to illness, emergency, and prior unchangeable commitment. More than three absences will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- The **first unexcused absence**--absent for 1 week online or from 1 campus class meeting without notifying me through email or via phone call--will receive a warning; the **second unexcused absence** will reduce the course grade by one full grade letter. The **third unexcused absence** will result in an automatic administrative withdrawal. You have flexibility with the grade paths to miss weeks online, just let me know when you will be absent online.

IN521 Disciple Formation One: Space for God – Fall 2020

Week	Dates	Psalm	Reading	Due
1	Sep 8-14 Required	Psalm 42	Duvall, "Trying vs. Training" (PDF); Smith, Preface & chapter 1	Journal #1 – Reflect on the readings in conversation with your own practice of discipleship - Due Sep 14
2	Sep 15-21	Psalm 42	Smith, chapter 2; Warren, chapter 1.	Journal #2 – Due Sep 21
3	Sep 22-28	Psalm 42	Smith, chapter 3; Warren, chapter 2.	Journal #3 & Required Fall Semester Rule of Life – Due Sept 28
4	Sep 29-Oct 5	Psalm 84	Smith, chapter 4; Warren, chapter 3.	Journal #4 – Due Oct 5
5	Oct 6-12	Study Days (No campus classes October 12; campus classes resume October 19)		
6	Oct 13-19	Psalm 84	Smith, chapter 5; Warren, chapter 4.	Journal #5 – Due Oct 19
7	Oct 20-26	Psalm 4	Smith, chapter 6; Warren, chapter 5.	Journal #6 – Due Oct 26
8	Oct 27-Nov 2	Psalm 4	Smith, chapter 7 & Benediction; Warren, chapter 6.	Journal #7 – Due Nov 2
9	Nov 3 -Nov 9	Psalm 4	Warren, chapter 7 & chapter 8.	Journal #8 – Nov 9
10	Nov 10-Nov 16	Psalm 44	Warren, chapter 9 & 10.	Journal #9 – Due Nov 16
11	Nov 17-23	Psalm 44	Warren, chapter 11; Duvall, chapter 4 (PDF)	Journal #10 – Due Nov 23
12	Nov 23-Nov 29	Thanksgiving Break (No campus classes November 23; campus classes resume November 30)		
13	Dec 1 – Dec 7 Required	Psalm 104	Hoang, "Deepening the Soul for Justice"	Journal #11 on Hoang's book – Due Dec 7
14	Dec 8-Dec 14	Psalm 104	Duvall, chapter 6 (PDF)	Fall Semester Review – Due Dec 18