

IN721 Disciple Formation 3

Fall 2020

.5 credit; letter grade

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Course Description

In Disciple Formation 3, students will define and discuss issues of vocational holiness, behavioral addictions, and the role of grace, 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 3 is required for Master of Divinity students. Prerequisites include IN521 and IN522. **All students are required to attend the August Residential overnight retreat (\$60 cost per student/course fee), August 9, 1pm – August 10, 4pm, unless you are not attending the August Residential. COVID-19 Note: This retreat may be rescheduled.**



Course Learning 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)

In addition, through active participation in IN721, students will develop the capacity to:

- Define vocational holiness within their specific Christian tradition and practice. (Remember)
- List, describe, and explain the physical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of addictive behaviors, and their impact on persons and communities. (Remember, Understand)
- Recognize, personally and ministerially, when to refer to trained professionals for assistance with addictions and self-care. (Understand)
- Evaluate their own activities, practices, and behaviors in light of vocational holiness. (Evaluate)
- Formulate a rule of life which incorporates practices of self-care alongside Christian practices. (Create)

M. Div. 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.

M.A.M.D. Curricular Goal

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

Required Texts

1. Adam Alter. *Irresistible*, ISBN: 978-0735222847
2. Gerald G. May, *Addiction and Grace: Love and Spirituality in the Healing of Addictions*, ISBN: 0060655372
3. Marjorie Hewitt Suchocki, *In God's Presence: Theological Reflections on Prayer*, ISBN: 0-8272-1615-7

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 9.

Common Practices for All Students:

- Craft a *Rule of Life for Fall* (300 words), due October 5.
- Complete all practices for week 3 including Journal #2, due September 28.
- Complete all practices for week 13 including Journal #5, due December 7.
- Write a *Fall Semester Review* (500 words) due December 18.
- 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 UDS prayer and chapel opportunities.

Additional requirements

Path 1 (90% of the material or A)

- Complete all common requirements for the course.
- Complete at least 7 weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write all 5 journals (300 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings.

Path 2 (80% of the material or B)

- Complete all common requirements for the course.
- Complete 6 weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write 2 journals (300 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week.

Path 3 (70% of the material or C)

- Complete all common requirements for the course.
- Complete 5 weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.
- Write 1 journal (300 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week.

Path 4 (60% of the material or D)

- Complete all common requirements for the course.
- Complete at least 4 weeks of practices, as posted on Moodle--Readings, videos, music, forums, activities.

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 beyond your grade path flexibility** (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 full week online or from 1 campus class meeting without notifying me through email or phone call--will receive a warning; the **second unexcused absence** will reduce the course path grade by one full grade letter. The **third unexcused absence** will result in an automatic administrative withdrawal. You have flexibility based on your grade path, just let me know when you will be absent online.

About the Readings: The content of this course may bring up personal struggles best worked through with a recovery group, pastoral counselor, therapist, or spiritual director. Please contact me if you need a referral or help discerning the most faithful next step.

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Week	Dates	Scripture	Reading	Due
1	Sep 8-14	Eph 1	Keith Meyer, "Whole-Life Transformation" (Moodle pdf); Suchocki, chapter 1.	Journal #1 – Reflect on the readings in conversation with your own practice of discipleship - Due Sep 14
2	Sep 15-21		Alter, Prologue & Chapter 1-2	
3	Sep 22-28	Eph 2	May, Preface and Chapters 1-2, 5.	Journal #2 - Reflect on the Ephesians, May (1,2,5) & Alter (1-2) readings in conversation with your own practice of discipleship – Due Sept 28
4	Sep 29-Oct 5		Alter, Chapter 3-4; Suchocki, Chapter 2	Fall Semester Rule of Life – Due Oct 5
5	Oct 6-12	Study Days (No campus classes October 12; campus classes resume October 19)		
6	Oct 13-19	Eph 3	Alter, Chapter 5-6; Suchocki, Chapter 3	
7	Oct 20-26		Alter, Chapter 7-8; Suchocki, Chapter 4	Journal #3 - Reflect on the readings in conversation with your own practice of discipleship – Due Oct 26
8	Oct 27-Nov 2	Eph 4	Alter, Chapter 9-10; Suchocki, Chapter 5	
9	Nov 3-Nov 9		Alter, Chapter 11-12	Journal #4 - Reflect on the readings in conversation with your own practice of discipleship – Due Nov 9
10	Nov 10-Nov 16	Eph 5	Suchocki, chapter 6-7	
11	Nov 17-23 <i>No class Nov 23</i>		May, Chapter 6-7; Suchocki, chapter 8	
12	Nov 24-Nov 29	Thanksgiving Break (No campus classes November 23; campus classes resume November 30)		
13	<i>Classes resume Nov 30 Dec 1-Dec 7</i>	Eph 6	May, Chapter 8; Suchocki, chapter 9	Journal #5 - Reflect on May chapters 6-8, in conversation with Ephesians, and your own practice of discipleship - Due December 7
14	Dec 8-Dec 14		Suchocki, chapter 10	Fall Semester Review – Due Dec 18