

IN522 Disciple Formation 2: Embracing God

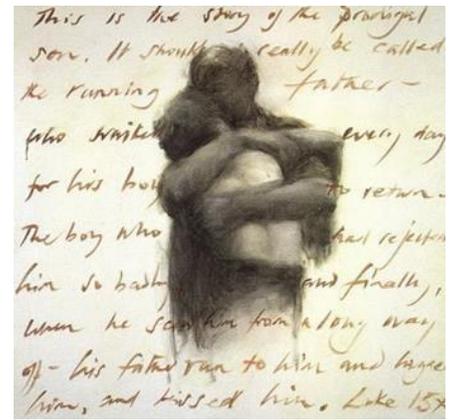
Spring 2021

.5 credit; Letter Grade

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Course Description

In Disciple Formation 2, the second course in a two semester series with IN521, students will define and discuss strategies and challenges for deepening intimacy with 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, either online or residentially. Students will formulate a rule of life incorporating practices of discipleship and self-care, and reflect on the seasons of the Church year. **Disciple Formation 2 is required for Master of Divinity students. Prerequisite: IN521.**



Prodigal Child – Charlie Mackesy

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

Harry Farra - *The Little Monk*. ISBN: 9780809133567

Gary Neal Hansen - *Kneeling with Giants*, ISBN: 978-0-8308-3562-1

Kimberlee Conway Ireton – *The Circle of Seasons: Meeting God in the Church Year*, ISBN: 978-0830836253

Eugene Peterson – *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity*, ISBN: 978-0802802651

Course Requirements and Grading

The challenge in ministry and life is learning how to prioritize space for God and deepening intimacy with God—practices which are mostly invisible, unrewarded, and often, seemingly unnecessary. Regularly engaging the course materials and practices can build a habit of deepening intimacy with 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 January 18. You can change your path at any point in the semester.

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 worshipping community as a worshipper; campus students - regular participation in UDTS prayer and chapel opportunities.
- Craft a *Rule of Life for Spring* (300 words), due **Monday, January 18**.
- **Complete all practices for week 2, due Monday, January 25.**
- Write two 300-word book summaries: *The Circle of Seasons* and *Working the Angles*, due **Friday, May 15**.
- Write a *Spring Semester Review* (300 words) due **Friday, May 15**.

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 (200 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week, due each Monday, uploaded to Moodle.
- Pray Morning 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 (200 words) which place your life into reflective dialogue with the readings for the week, due each Monday, uploaded to Moodle.
- Pray Morning 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 (200 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 (200 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. My expectation: do the assignment “well enough” for the current circumstances you find yourself in. You have a lot of flexibility with the covenant grade model—you decide what weeks you want to complete and what weeks you want to take off. **Only the practices of Week Two and the common requirements are required of everyone.**

Online Engagement Policy: Lack of engagement online for three consecutive weeks will lead to a review.

Residential Attendance Policy: Students are building or deepening habits of completion and good communication while in seminary. Please gift your colleagues with your presence. We only meet 6 times residentially.

- Please contact me immediately if you must be absent due to illness, emergency, and prior unchangeable commitment. More than two absences will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
- The first unexcused residential absence--absent 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 may lead to an administrative withdrawal.

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Week #	Week	Psalm	Reading	Writing Due
1	Jan 12-18	51	<i>The Little Monk</i> ; "The Runaway" (pdf)	Rule of Life (required): Review your Rule of Life from Fall. Where do you hope to see God this semester? <i>Choose your grade path.</i> Due January 18.
2	Jan 19-25	51	Ireton, pp. 1-71; Peterson, Introduction & chapter 1	Journal #1 (required): What did the little monk learn? What is one insight from <i>The Little Monk</i> you are taking into your own life? Due January 25.
3	Jan 26-Feb 1	51	Hansen, chapter 1; Peterson, chapter 2-3	Journal #2, due February 1.
4	Feb 2-8	23	Hansen, chapter 2; Ireton, chapter 5.	Journal #3, due February 8
5	Feb 9-15	23	Hansen, chapter 3; Peterson chapter 4-5	Journal #4, due February 15
6	Feb 16-22	23	Hansen, chapter 4; Peterson, chapter 6	Journal #5, due February 22
7	Feb 23-Mar 1	Reading Week		
8	Mar 2-8	27	Hansen, chapter 5-6;	Journal #6, due March 8
9	Mar 9-15	27	Hansen, chapter 7; Peterson, chapter 7	Journal #7, due March 15
10	Mar 16-22	121	Hansen, chapter 8; Peterson, chapter 8	Journal #8, due March 22
11	Mar 23-29	121	Ireton, chapter 6; Peterson, chapter 9	Journal #9, due March 29
12	Mar 30-Apr 5	Easter Break		
13	Apr 6-12	121	Hansen, chapter 9-10;	Journal #10, due April 12
14	Apr 13-19	139	Ireton, chapters 7, 8, Conclusion, and Appendix	Semester Review (required): Reflect on your semester Rule, and evaluate your participation in the course (reading the texts, engaging the material), and small group participation. How has God called you deeper into relationship? What have been obstacles? Where is God calling you to focus next in your personal discipleship? (300 words) Due April 19.
15	April 20-26	Book Summaries Due (required): <i>The Circle of Seasons, Working the Angles.</i> Due April 26.		