

IN521 DISCIPLE FORMATION 1

Space for God - Fall 2023

.5 credit; Covenant 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.

Required Texts

1. Smith, James K.A. *You are What You Love*, ISBN: 978-1587433801
2. Tish Harrison Warren. *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, ISBN: 978-0-8308-4623-8
3. Bethany Hoang. *Deepening the Soul for Justice*. Intervarsity, 2012. ISBN 083083463X
4. Daily psalm-based prayer book or app, chosen in consultation with the professor.

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 11.

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.*
- Weekly participation in your small group and no online silence for more than 1 week without contacting the professor.
- Regular participation in a worshiping community as a worshipper; campus students - regular participation in UDS prayer and chapel opportunities, and a local church.
- Craft a *Rule of Life for Fall* (300-400 words), due September 25.
- 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 17.

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 may lead to an automatic administrative withdrawal. Please let me know if an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from participating online.

Attendance Policy: Students are building and deepening habits of completion and good communication while in seminary. Please gift your colleagues with your consistent presence in small groups. The relationships you build in your small groups are important beyond your seminary experience, and you are adding to each person’s life, growth, and experience through your attentiveness, support, and prayer. Look out for each other.

ADA Compliance Statement

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify Dr. Forshey during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. Confidentiality of all requests will be maintained. All requested accommodations must be approved through the Academic Success Center, 2nd floor Myers Library (563-589-3262 or ASC@dbq.edu).

Title IX and Jeanne Clery Act Policy Information:

Title IX: The University of Dubuque is committed to providing a learning, working, and living environment that promotes personal integrity, civility, and mutual respect in an environment free of discrimination on the basis of sex; which includes all forms of sexual misconduct. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/AboutUD/TitleIX/>

Jeanne Clery Act: The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires the distribution of an Annual Security Report and Annual Fire Safety Report to all current faculty, staff, and students and notice of its availability to prospective students, faculty, and staff no later than October 1st of each year. More information may be found at <https://www.dbq.edu/SafetySecurity/JeanneCleryAct/>