

IN521 DISCIPLE FORMATION 1

Making Space for God - Fall 2024

.5 credit; Letter Grade

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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, 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)

Master in Divinity 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.

MA in Mission & Discipleship Curricular Goal

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

MA in Ministry Curricular Goals

- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

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 that are focused psalm-based liturgies for Morning Prayer, Noon Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline/Night Prayer – such as Book of Common Worship (PCUSA) Daily Prayer; Book of Worship (UMC); Book of Common Prayer Daily Office (Episcopal); Common Prayer (Claibourne); The Divine Hours (Tickle); etc. There are many options! Please be in conversation with me if you are having trouble deciding on one.

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! Decide which path you will be pursuing by **September 9**.

Common Practices for *All Students*:

- Designate an intentional time and place for listening and responding to God. *The practices of this course can form the structure of that time.*
- Weekly participation in your small group, even on weeks you do no other practices.
- Regular engagement on-line for distance students or attendance in class for residential students.
- Craft a *Rule of Life for Fall* (300-400 words), due September 22.
- 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 14.

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. My expectation: do the assignment “well enough” for the current circumstances you find yourself in.

Online Engagement Policy: All students are expected to engage the online materials, whether you are on campus student or distance student. Lack of engagement online for three consecutive weeks may lead to failure of the course. Please let me know if an unforeseen circumstance prevents you from participating.

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 course 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/>

IN521 Disciple Formation 1: Space for God – Fall 2024

Week	Dates	Psalm	Reading	Due
1	Sep 3- Sep 9 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 9
2	Sep 10-16	Psalm 42	Smith, chapter 2; Warren, chapter 1.	Journal #2 – Due Sep 16
3	Sep 17-23	Psalm 42	Smith, chapter 3; Warren, chapter 2.	Journal #3 & Required Fall Semester Rule of Life Due Sept 23
4	Sep 24-30	Psalm 84	Smith, chapter 4; Warren, chapter 3.	Journal #4 – Due Sep 30
5	Oct 1-7	Study Days (No classes)		
6	Oct 8-14	Psalm 84	Smith, chapter 5; Warren, chapter 4.	Journal #5 – Due Oct 14
7	Oct 15-21	Psalm 4	Smith, chapter 6; Warren, chapter 5.	Journal #6 – Due Oct 21
8	Oct 22-Oct 28	Psalm 4	Smith, chapter 7 & Benediction; Warren, chapter 6.	Journal #7 – Due Oct 28
9	Oct 29 -Nov 4 All Saints	Psalm 4	Warren, chapter 7 & chapter 8.	Journal #8 – Nov 4
10	Nov 5-Nov 11	Psalm 44	Warren, chapter 9 & 10.	Journal #9 – Due Nov 11
11	Nov 12-Nov 25	Psalm 44	Warren, chapter 11; Duvall, chapter 4 (PDF)	Journal #10 – Due Nov 25
12	Thanksgiving Nov 21	Thanksgiving Break (No classes on November 18)		
13	Nov 26 – Dec 2 Required Advent 1	Psalm 104	Hoang, "Deepening the Soul for Justice"	Journal #10 on Hoang's book Due Dec 2
14	Dec 3-Dec 9 Advent 2	Psalm 104	Duvall, chapter 6 (PDF)	Required Fall Semester Review – Due Dec 14