

MN532 DISCIPLESHIP & TEACHING 2 - FALL 2025

1 Credits: letter grade only

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Course Description

This course, **part two of a required two-course series with MN531**, explores the role and practice of the teaching and discipling ministries of the church as graced means of cultivating the character of Christ personally and corporately. An incarnational model of teaching and learning—engaging the whole person—will be emphasized. Students will reflect on their own experiences of these ministries, both as teacher and student; engage texts on teaching, evangelism, contemplative attention, spiritual formation in children and youth, virtue formation, and catechesis; and practice practical theological reflection as they build skills for teaching in various contexts. Models for learning, recent cognitive research, and instructional design models will be dialogue partners as students select and describe a context of teaching and learning; then design, teach, and evaluate a teaching/learning experience.

Course Objectives By participating fully in this class, students will:

1. Describe and practice a method of contemplative practical theological reflection for a variety of ministry contexts.
2. Define the characteristics and describe the influence of cultural formation, with regards to formation as a disciple of Christ.
3. Describe teaching and learning models, using human development patterns and cognitive research on learning, so as to communicate Gospel truths in ways that meet people in their particular stage of developmental and learning needs;
4. Describe and assess the ways that a particular Christian community approaches the tasks of Christian teaching, discipleship and evangelism;
5. Explore discipleship needs and approaches for children, youth, emerging adults;
6. Explore models of adult catechesis and on-going mystagogy;
7. Explore best practices and develop personal skills relevant to teaching, evangelism, and discipleship.

Master of Divinity Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- 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.
- Lead and nurture congregations to promote peace and justice in the public arena and encourage the witness and service of the church in mission to the world.
- Integrate theology and practice in all areas of life and ministry.

MA in Mission & Discipleship Curricular Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Develop, implement, and assess strategies for missional living in a specific cultural context.
- Develop skills and capacities for faithful and competent Christian witness.

MA in Ministry Goals Fulfilled by This Course

- Articulate and interpret key themes from the Christian scriptures in conversation with contemporary and ecclesial contexts.
- Articulate and interpret key Christian theological affirmations for Christian discipleship and ecclesial life.
- Develop pastoral and practical theological methods and strategies for cultivating renewed and transformative ministry contexts.
- Apply key practices for personal, communal, and ministerial flourishing and compose a coherent plan for life and ministry.

Required Course Texts

- Lichtmann, Maria. *The Teacher's Way: Teaching and the Contemplative Life*. Paulist Press, 2005. ISBN 0-8091-4303-8
- Sousa, David A., *How the Brain Learns*, Sixth Edition, Corwin Press, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1071855362.

Recommended Texts (for those teaching in contexts with children or youth)

- Stonehouse, Catherine. *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith*. ISBN 0-8010-5807-4
- Yaconelli, Mark. *Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus*. ISBN 0-310-26777-3