



# Nazarene Theological Seminary

1700 E Meyer Blvd • Kansas City, MO 64131 • 816/268-5400

## ***CED700 — Readings in Contemporary Discipleship***

**Spring 2011**

**Feb 6- May 7 Arranged**

### ***Essential Information***

Please refer to the following resources for information essential for the successful completion of courses and degree programs at Nazarene Theological Seminary. Links to these resources are available in the Essential Information section at <http://support.nts.edu>.

- NTS Mission Statement & Purpose Degree Objectives
- Tips for online learning success
- NTS library services
- NTS textbook information
- Online technical requirements and Moodle support information
- NTS Student Handbook including statements on quality of work, plagiarism, and academic probation
- *Handbook for Inclusive Language*

### ***Instructor Information***

Professor: Dean G. Blevins, Ph.D.

Email: [dgblevins@nts.edu](mailto:dgblevins@nts.edu)

Office Phone: 816.268.5481

Office Hours: by appointment

### ***Catalog Description***

A survey of current major trends in Discipleship through integrated readings across the disciplines that shape the field. Offered by arrangement primarily to strengthen returning students who have not had opportunity to engage in recent theoretical discussions of ministry practice.

### ***Course Narrative & Rationale***

Often returning students encounter the MACFD program with a wealth of professional experience but little opportunity to review either core content or new, and even controversial, insights that currently shape the field as a graduate theological discipline. This class combines readings in the field with the opportunity to integrate this knowledge with the professional practice of those returning. A good portion of the class rests with reflective reading of established resources and innovative if controversial material. However, the course also affords students the opportunity to name for themselves additional interests based on their ministry context, shaping their understanding while demonstrating basic research skills.

## ***Degree Objectives/Outcomes***

The MACFD Degree Program affords participating students opportunities to meet the following ministry objectives:

2. Develop a practical theology of Christian ministry consistent with his or her theological heritage and vision of the transformed life.
3. Discern the various developmental and cultural forces that influence people's lives in their growth along the life course, and design appropriate ministry strategies that forms persons into ongoing faithful disciples.
4. Learn the complexities and creative potential inherent within social contexts that influence leadership practice, particularly within staff ministry.
5. Cultivate practices and abilities necessary for skillful performance of age-level and family ministries, for educating the laity in faithful discipleship, for guiding relationships in the church, for spiritual and professional development, and for engaging in theological discernment of sound educational practice.
6. Exhibit a capacity and desire for growth in the context of ministry through research and leadership; demonstrating a spirit of integrity, openness, cooperation, and care in ministry.

## ***Course Outcomes***

Upon completion of the course students should demonstrate:

1. General Understanding of the field of Christian Discipleship
2. A self-understanding of their own theology of ministry
3. Knowledge theories that inform and challenge current ministry practice
4. Awareness of their role within graduate theological education

## ***Church of the Nazarene COSAC Competencies***

Upon completion of this course, students should satisfy the competency requirements as set forth in the Course of Study for Ministers in the Church of the Nazarene. The following will be addressed through the course objectives and requirements:

CP27 Ability to assess and implement emerging age appropriate ministry approaches to ministry in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives

## ***Required Texts & Course Materials***

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author(s)</b>	<b>PGS</b>	<b>ISBN (13 characters)</b>	<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Copyright Date</b>	<b>List price</b>
<i>Created to Learn, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i>	Rick Yount	430	978-0805447279	B & H Academic	2010	50
<i>Taught by God: Teaching and</i>	Karen Marie Yust	180	978-0827236493	Chalice Press	2006	22

<i>Spiritual Formation</i>	and E. Byron Anderson					
<i>Teaching as a Sacramental Act</i>	Mary Elizabeth Mullino Moore	240	978-0829816471	Pilgrim Press	2004	24
<i>Discovering Discipleship: Dynamics of Faithful Christian Education</i>	Dean G. Blevins and Mark Maddix	380	978-0834124967	Beacon Hill	2010	\$44.99

## ***Course Outline***

**Unit 1:** Orientation: The State of the Field

**Unit 2:** Current Issues and their implication for ministry

**Unit 3:** Professional Practice: Situating the writings in ministry practice

## ***Course Assignments & Requirements***

**1. Consultations:** Students will have four consultations by phone or email with the professor during the semester to chart progress and answer any questions that have surfaced during the assignments. **DO 6, CO 4**

**2. Readings and Reflection Writings (250 pts each/ 500 pts total):** The student will read the two primary texts (Created to Learn and Discovering Discipleship). Upon completion of each text the student will write a 1250-1750 word (5-7 pages) report for each text providing a synopsis of some of the key points in the book in relation to the student's current ministry setting. With each text students should demonstrate how insights from the readings directly inform their current ministry practice, particularly in deepening their understanding of discipleship in their context. **DO 3-5; CO 1, 3, 4; CP27**

**3. Critical Comparative Book Review (200 pts):** Students will then write a 1750 to 2500 word (7-10 page) critical comparative review of Taught by God and Teaching as a Sacramental Act. This assignment is designed to test student ability to engage critically and creatively with each book, noting both critical and constructive issues of both books as well as synthesize their insights as an aspect of Christian Formation and Discipleship. **DO 2,6; CO 1, 3, 4**

**4. Contemporary Issues Annotated Bibliography (100 pts):** Students will identify one issue from their ministry context that warrants continued reading and research within the field of Christian Discipleship. This theme may emerge from the assigned readings or from a specific ministry issue. Students will then compile a working bibliography of 10-15 resources with short annotations (35-40 words) for each work totaling an estimated 500-750 words (2-3 pages).

**Please note:** Students do not have to read all of the bibliographic resources. Instead students

may draw from annotations, book reviews, journal abstracts, and commentary to shape the annotations for this project. The goal is to have a working series of books, chapters or articles that could resource research or ministry implementation plan for the future. **DO 6; CO 3; CP27**

**5. Closing reflection (100 pts):** Students will write a 750-1250 word (3-5 page) closing reflection on insights learned during the readings and research for the course. This reflective exercise should include a personal assessment of the student's understanding of discipleship and subsequent learning through the class. **DO 2, 6; CO 1, 2, 4**

### ***Distribution of Student Learning Hours***

	Hours
Online Participation in forums, groups, etc.	8
Reading	50
Writing	40
Other Assignments and Learning Activities	0
Exams & Quizzes	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>98</b>

### ***Method for Submitting Assignments***

Students will submit all assignments via the online Moodle Course Management System

### ***Form and Style Expectations***

All writing projects should meet the Form and Style expectations of Turabian

### ***Inclusive Language***

NTS is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, NTS urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussions, and in their writings. All written work presented to meet course requirements must use gender inclusive language.

### ***Policy Regarding Late Work & Missed Exams***

All assignments are due the date assigned.

### ***Additional Costs***

### ***Course Grading***

Course is pass/fail based on quality of submitted work and full participation online and in during the retreat.

In accordance with the provisions of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, NTS is committed to providing students with disabilities the opportunity to participate and benefit from its programs and activities. Accordingly, NTS will make reasonable modifications to its programs and activities to accommodate otherwise qualified students with disabilities, unless such modifications would impose an undue burden on the operation of the particular program or activity or would fundamentally alter the nature or purpose of the program or activity. Students needing accommodations should contact the Office of the Registrar. They also should contact the instructor no later than the end of the first class session to discuss learning needs and adaptive strategies that have been beneficial for the student in the past.

## ***Class Attendance***

Attendance at classes is essential for realizing the maximum benefit of your education. Since the professor in each course is best acquainted with the importance of consistent attendance, he or she will determine the rules for attendance.

If you must be absent because of extenuating circumstances, contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss the situation.

## ***Course Calendar***

Date	Week	Assignment
2/6	1	Professor Contact
2/13	2	
2/20	3	
2/27	4	Created to Learn Review due 11:55 pm 2/27
3/5	5	Professor Contact
3/12	6	Discovering Discipleship due 11:55 pm 3/16
3/19	7	Reading and Research week
3/26	8	
4/2	9	Professor Contact
4/9	10	
4/16	11	Comparative Review Due 11:55 pm 4/16
4/23	12	Course Evaluations (approximate release time by the Dean's Office)
4/30	13	Bibliography due 11:55 pm 4/30 Professor Contact
5/7	14	Closing Reflection Due 11:55 pm 5/7