



**UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTHWESTERN**  
ST. PAUL

OFFICE OF ADULT  
& GRADUATE STUDIES

# **BIA1009**

## **Spiritual Living and Discipleship**

**SPRING 2021**

**SYLLABUS**

Version: OL v8.4:10/20

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# BIA1009 Spiritual Living and Discipleship

University of Northwestern – St. Paul

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of spiritual formation and the role of discipleship in the believer's transformation toward Christ-likeness. Attention is given to the disciplines of spiritual living and the process of discipleship.

**Credits: 2**

**Prerequisites:** None

## INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Please see "Contacting the Instructor" on the course site.

## COURSE OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, a successful student will be able to

- CO-1. Demonstrate the ability to share effectively the biblical components of the gospel message
- CO-2. Compare various spiritual disciplines as a means to personal growth.
- CO-3. Explain the impact of practicing the spiritual disciplines.
- CO-4. Evaluate personal spiritual maturity in terms of mature Christian character.

## MATERIALS

### Required Textbooks and Materials

Macchia, Stephen A. *Crafting a Rule of Life: An Invitation to the Well-ordered Way*. Publisher: Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books. Year: 2012. ISBN: 9780830835645

Styron, Henry and Hutchcraft, Dale. *Spiritual Maturity Inventory*. Publisher: Hutchcraft Consulting and Coaching. Year: 2015

### Gospel Tracts

Bright, Bill. *Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?* Tract. Publisher: Peachtree City, GA: New Life Resources (Campus Crusade for Christ)

Graham, Billy. *Steps to Peace with God*. Tract. Publisher: Charlotte, NC: Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

Moyer, Larry. *May I Ask You a Question?* Tract. Publisher: Dallas, TX: EvanTell, Inc.

### Required Tools

For this course, students will need access to Microsoft Office (available at no cost to students through the University of Northwestern-St. Paul), a PDF reader, and a standard internet browser. Please refer to the Tech Requirements found in the Technology Help section at the top of the course site for the full requirements.

## GRADING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Course Grade Explanation

Assignments	Grade Weight
Testimony/Gospel (3-Minute Testimony)	20
Discussion Forums (7)	25
Spiritual Inventory Response	5
Macchia Text Reflection Papers (2)	10
Reflective Journal Entries (4)	20
<u>Applied Summary Paper</u>	<u>20</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### Grading Scale Percentages

A	≥ 93	B	≥ 83	C	≥ 73	D	≥ 63
A-	≥ 90	B-	≥ 80	C-	≥ 70	D-	≥ 60
B+	≥ 87	C+	≥ 77	D+	≥ 67	F	< 60

### Late Work

All assignments are due as described in the course syllabus. Students are responsible for meeting assignment deadlines. Late assignments will be deducted one full letter grade (e.g., A to B) per day; late assignments will not be accepted for a grade beyond 3 calendar days past the original deadline. Forum discussion activities must be completed on time; late forum posts will not receive any credit. Students should contact the instructor via e-mail if an extenuating circumstance exists.

### Feedback Expectations

Students should expect feedback for their submitted assignments within 5 days of the assignment due date or the time of their submission, whichever is later.

## INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES AND SERVICES

### Guidelines and Information

Students are responsible for policies and procedures found in the Office of Adult & Graduate Studies Catalog located on theROCK. These policies include the following:

- Deadlines for dropping or withdrawing
- Attendance
- Class cancellations
- Plagiarism and cheating
- Grading System
- Complaints, exceptions, and appeals

Instructors may have course-related expectations that further detail the policies and procedures outlined in the catalog. Any such expectations must be provided to students in writing (e.g., handout, course site posting) prior to or at the beginning of the class.

Traditional undergraduate students enrolled in A&GS courses are subject to the traditional undergraduate student handbook for all non-course-specific policies and procedures.

## **Academic Integrity**

Members of the Northwestern community mutually commit to personal integrity and honesty. Students submitting work are expected to convey their own thoughts unless the source is cited appropriately. Plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty violate ethical and intellectual principles.

In every course, students are required to view the Understanding Plagiarism video and complete the Understanding Plagiarism Quiz prior to completing any of the course content. These items are part of the course orientation.

## **Academic Achievement**

UNW students requesting academic accommodations in association with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are directed to notify [Disability Services](#) to begin the application process. Academic Achievement also provides the following: [Writing and Subject Tutoring](#), advocating, transitional skill building, [Academic Coaching](#) (organization, time management, test taking, etc.).

Contact Academic Achievement for more information: [AcademicAchievement@unwsp.edu](mailto:AcademicAchievement@unwsp.edu) • 651-628-3316 • N4012 (Revised 06/20)

## **Support Services**

Links to support services are available found in the Student Services section at the top of the course site.

## **COURSE POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Email and Announcements**

Students are responsible to regularly check their Northwestern student email and the announcements in the course site in order to receive updates and information.

### **Attendance**

Due to the accelerated nature of the online curricula, students are expected to participate in all course activities. Students must contact the faculty member in advance or as soon as possible if unable to participate in all or part of the course activities for a given week because of a medical (which includes having to quarantine or isolate due to COVID-19 exposure or confirmed illness), family, or work-related emergency. Students should refer to their course syllabus and/or faculty member for specific requirements. Students who do not participate in course activities and fail to withdraw from the course will receive a failing "F" grade.

### **Submission Standards**

All assignments, unless otherwise stated, must be submitted on the course site in Microsoft Word document format (.doc or .docx). For all assignments, use a standard readable font, double-spaced, etc.

### **Critical Response to Alternate Viewpoints**

When students are reading or viewing course materials, they may encounter viewpoints, words, or images that their instructors would not use or endorse. Students should know that materials are chosen

for their value in learning to read, write, and view critically, not because the materials are necessarily Christian.

## **Scholarly Research**

Quality participation in this course requires contribution of scholarly research to class interactions. Students can engage in external research via the Berntsen Library website by performing a search of the 60+ databases available to students. Also available on the library site are multiple tutorials to educate learners in effective search techniques. Other credible journals/articles are options as well.

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

See the course site for complete details on the assignments.

### **Online Discussion Forums**

Learning in this course relies on developing shared understanding through social learning and dialogue. Join the ongoing course conversation by initially posting to each week's discussion forum based on the criteria outlined in the forum descriptions. Posts should be concise and conversational, stating what you think, why you think that, and what more you would like to know or understand.

Be intentional to support your claims in each post with at least two of the following, all three if possible: personal experience, course content, or credible external research. Engage your peers by replying in their discussion threads with questions, suggestions or examples that extend or challenge their ideas and stimulate further conversation.

Initial participation in each forum is due by 11:59 p.m. CT on Thursday and follow-up participation in the discussion is due Sunday. More frequent participation is recommended since others depend on your contributions.

Full grading expectations are noted in the online discussion forum rubric on the course site.

### **Spiritual Inventory Response**

Week 1 - students are to complete the spiritual inventory found in the Spiritual Inventory Guide. By week 3, students are to reflect on their responses to the spiritual inventory and follow up with these steps:

1. Read through all of the Spiritual Inventory Guide.
2. Choose one of the five areas that the inventory suggests there is a need for growth. Then write a brief description how you are going to create an environment for growth in that area and how you are going to facilitate growth in that area.

### **Personal Evangelistic Testimony Paper**

Write a 3-minute personal evangelistic testimony. You will record it with VoiceThread and share it Week 3. The testimony must fit the following requirements:

1. Clear expression of your ideas within three minutes
2. Scriptural support when appropriate
3. Absence of religious jargon or unexplained figures of speech

4. Ideas aimed at non-Christians so they can know how to become a Christian as a result of listening to your presentation

## **Macchia Papers**

For Weeks 2 and 4, write a 2- to 3-page paper answering the questions posted in the Macchia Text Reflection Paper submission point for that week's Macchia reading assignment.

## **Reflective Journal**

The reflective journal is a good opportunity for you to draw your thoughts together from all of the sources of input in the course. By recording your thoughts, feelings and questions, you can benefit from meditating on the material that comes and goes very quickly during a four-week course.

The reflective journal should blend three emphases:

- Your responses to the course materials, discussions, and assignments
- Your life experience relevant to the course objectives
- Your ministry goals and desires for the future

The journal should record your thinking from several class activities:

- Questions to be answered at this time are: Any assignments that are not to be turned in. Incorporate those assignments into your journal.
  - What have I learned today?
  - How might this material stretch me into new areas of learning?
  - How do my life and ministry experiences relate to what we have studied today? Do they clash? Challenge? Confirm my experiences?
- Any other reading or experiences you may wish to include in your written record.

Journals are graded on the basis of your demonstration that you have adequately interacted with the course materials. The journal format must include the day's date and entries written legibly. They need not be in any specific format, only one that is helpful to you. Journals are submitted as weekly documents online.

## **Applied Summary Paper**

Develop a personal strategy for growth based on the material studied in the course: the gospel, discipleship, spiritual living, Christian character, etc. The strategy should include the following features:

1. Your personal goals for Christian living. In 10 years, what do you hope to be true about yourself spiritually and your relationship to God?
2. Your personal plan to achieve the goals described in Question 1. How will you accomplish your goals? What role will the following resources play: personal disciplines, other Christians, life circumstances?
3. Obstacles that you anticipate might slow or hinder the attainment of your goals.

The paper should be about 4–6 pages. Superior papers integrate course resources (readings, exercises, class discussion, etc.) into your thoughts. The essay must be written up to the standards of the University of Northwestern English department.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Format

This course is delivered in an online format that provides all learning activities online. The day the course starts is considered Day 1 of Week 1 for the course. For example, if a course begins on a Monday, then Day 1 is Monday, Day 4 is Thursday, and Day 7 is the following Sunday.

This course is an accelerated course. As a rule of thumb, students should expect to spend on average 17.5 hours on course work each week.

### Due Dates

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be submitted on the course site by 11:59 p.m. CT on Day 7 of each week. Please see the following schedule for details on when an assignment is due.

For any questions regarding these assignments, contact the instructor.

### Orientation

- Read the Getting Started Page
- Participate in the Introductions Forum
- View and Complete Understanding Plagiarism Presentation and Quiz
- Complete Student Responsibilities Exercise

### Week 1: Defining Discipleship

#### Read

- *Crafting a Rule of Life* (Macchia) – Introduction and Part One (Chapters 1 – 5 & *Personal Rule of Life Statements*)
- Gospel Tracts
  - Have You Heard of the Four Spiritual Laws?
  - Steps to Peace with God
  - May I Ask You a Question?
- I Corinthians 15: 1-8
- John 13-17

#### Tasks

- Review all the Course Resources including the syllabus and introductions forum.
- Print and read Week 1 Developing a Testimony. Use your responses to the questions to inform your reflective journal entry.
- Memorize Matthew 28:18-20 and 2 Timothy 2:2
- Complete the Spiritual Inventory found in the Spiritual Inventory Guide. You will use your responses to this later in the course.

#### Due Day 4

- Post your initial response to Discussion 1A: Discipleship Today
- Post your initial response to Discussion 1B: Master Plan of Discipleship

#### Due Day 7

- Respond to a minimum of two peers' posts in Discussion 1A: Discipleship Today
- Respond to a minimum of two peers' posts in Discussion 1B: Master plan of Discipleship
- Submit Reflective Journal Entry 1
- Check the weekly Instructor Summary forum for any additional insights and/or instructions from your instructor. You may also ask questions and share observations in this forum.

## Week 2: The Living and the Power of God

### Read

- *Crafting a Rule of Life* (Macchia) – Part Two (Chapters 6 – 10 & *Weaving Together Your Personal Rule of Life*)
- Ephesians 5:18
- Galatians 5
- John 14-16

### Tasks

- Print and read Week 2 The Power of God and Dealing with Sin. Use your responses to the questions to inform your reflective journal entry.
- Memorize Psalm 119:11 and 2 Timothy 15

### Due Day 4

- Post your initial response to Discussion 2A: Truefaced Two Roads
- Post your initial response to Discussion 2B: Association and Consecration

### Due Day 7

- Respond to a minimum of two peers' posts in Discussion 2A: Truefaced Two Roads
- Respond to a minimum of two peers' posts in Discussion 2B: Association and Consecration
- Submit Macchia Text Reflection Paper 1
- Submit Reflective Journal Entry 2
- Explain the gospel to 1–2 people this week. You will note the experience in your week three journal entry.
- Check the weekly Instructor Summary forum for any additional insights and/or instructions from your instructor. You may also ask questions and share observations in this forum.

## Week 3: Christian Character

### Read

- *Crafting a Rule of Life* (Macchia) – Part Three (Chapters 11 – 12) & Conclusion

### Tasks

- Memorize Ephesians 4:11-13 and Romans 1:11-12

### Due Day 4

- Post your initial response to Discussion 3A: Why Christian Character Matters
- Post your initial response to Discussion 3B: Leadership
- Submit your 3-Minute Personal Evangelistic Testimony (using VoiceThread)

### Due Day 7

- Respond to a minimum of two peers' posts in Discussion 3A: Why Christian Character Matters
- Respond to a minimum of two peers' posts in Discussion 3B: Leadership
- Provide constructive responses to a minimum of two peers' videos in 3-Minute Personal Evangelistic Testimony
- Complete Reflective Journal Entry 3
- Submit the Spiritual Inventory Response
- Check the weekly Instructor Summary forum for any additional insights and/or instructions from your instructor. You may also ask questions and share observations in this forum.

## Week 4: Christian Relationships

### Read

- *Crafting a Rule of Life* (Macchia) – Last three sections (p. 164 – 180)

**Tasks**

- Print and read *Can a Christian Lose His/Her Salvation?* Use the paper to inform your Applied Summary Paper.
- Memorize John 15:12-13 and I John 4:7

**Due Day 4**

- Post your initial response to Discussion 4: The Authority of Discipleship

**Due Day 7**

- Respond to a minimum of two peers in Discussion 4: The Authority of Discipleship
- Submit Macchia Text Reflection Paper 2
- Submit the Applied Summary Paper
- Complete Reflective Journal Entry 4
- Check the weekly Instructor Summary forum for any additional insights and/or instructions from your instructor. You may also ask questions and share observations in this forum.