

**Leadership and Discipleship (PT5275)**  
**Rev. Dr. Jay Harvey**  
**RTS New York City**  
**Spring 2024**

**Course Description**

A study of leadership philosophy, principles, and skills through which a pastor can lead a session in developing a culture of discipleship to fulfill the church's mission in its life and witness. A variety of leadership, discipleship, Christian education, and philosophy of ministry topics will be discussed. This course is an introduction to the theology and practice of leadership and discipleship. We will give particular attention to understanding the broader cultural and institutional contexts for leadership and discipleship in New York City.

A philosophy of leadership and a philosophy of discipleship are intrinsically related. Students should keep this in mind when approaching the reading especially, asking the questions, "How does my conception of my role as a leader spiritually impact those under my care?" And, "Is God pleased with my influence?" While the course is divided into parts, leadership and discipleship are intertwined throughout.

Dr. James Davison Hunter will give 9 hours of lectures in three sections: "The Nature of Culture," "The Nature of Formation," and "The End of Formation." As Dr. Hunter has shown in his scholarly work, how we perceive culture and cultural change tends to be generative of agendas for discipleship and formation. Having a deeper appreciation of this relationship will make students more attentive to their own ministry context now and in the future.

Students are asked to read two foundational texts, one in organizational leadership and one in Christian education. These texts will be engaged in class, in discussion forums, and in the final project. The texts provide Biblical, theological, historical, and theoretical foundations that enable students to adjust to ever changing contexts in ministry. These foundational texts are augmented by two focused readings, a case study of a neo-Calvinist movement to address a perceived gap in discipleship, and a text applying the insights of change management theory to congregational ministry. These texts raise student awareness of their own context for ministry and the significance of their actions as spiritual leaders.

The Professor will also address practical topics pertinent to leading and discipling a congregation: the relationship between preaching and leading, fostering collaborative leadership, skills for leading teams, moderating sessions, leading in crises, etc. Topics not addressed in class will be addressed via short asynchronous videos. Without being formulaic, the goal of this aspect of the class is for students to be given various tools and models to address practical situations in ministry. One class will be devoted to preventing and responding to abuse in the church.

**Philosophy of Instruction**

This course is highly participatory, so being present and on time for class are necessary. Lectures will be punctuated with discussion throughout the class time.

## Schedule

This class will meet via zoom 7pm-9pm on 8 Tuesdays (2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26), with in person intensives Friday 2/16 (6pm-9pm) and Saturday 2/17 (9AM-4:30PM). The in-person intensives will be taught by Dr. James D. Hunter.

## Assignments

*Final Project*—At the conclusion of the course, the student will develop a comprehensive plan for discipleship suited to their particular context. The plan should indicate a sensitivity to the elements of leadership required for successful development and implementation.

*Student to Student Interactions*— The student will complete four student to student interactions (two on the Pazmiño reading and two on the Burns reading).

*Student to Professor Interactions*— The student will complete five student to professor interactions (one on the Hunter lectures, two on the Pazmiño reading, and two on the Burns reading).

*Reflection Essays*—The student will submit two 500-1000 word reflections, one on *Saving the Protestant Work Ethic* and one on *The Art of Leading Change*. Each reflection should contain a summary of the book, something you appreciated, and something you think the author could improve upon.

## Grading

Student to Student Interactions	15%
Student to Professor Interactions	15%
Participation	10%
Reflection Essays	25%
Final Project	35%

## Required Readings

Burns, Jack, John R. Shoup, and Donald C. Simmons, eds. *Organizational Leadership:*

*Foundations and Practices for Christians*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

*This book is a comprehensive textbook on organizational leadership from an evangelical perspective. The text is particularly helpful in providing the historical and theoretical background to enable students to think critically about contemporary developments in leadership studies.*

Lynn, Andrew. *Saving the Protestant Ethic: Creative Class Evangelicalism and the Crisis of Work*. New York, NY, United States of America: Oxford University Press, 2023. *This book is a case study in how Reformed Protestants, especially in New York City, have drawn upon a theological vision to address perceived deficiencies in the church's response to discipling people to thrive in their vocations. As a case study, it is theologically, historically, and sociologically informative with regard to particular neo-Calvinist concerns of faith and work. Methodologically, the book offers a touchstone to reflect upon multiple contexts.*

Pazmiño, Robert W. *Foundational Issues in Christian Education: An Introduction in Evangelical Perspective*. 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Academic, 2008. *For decades Pazmiño, a Brooklyn native, has been a foundational text in evangelical Christian education. (The professor read this text as a seminary student, and it is still in print today.) A close reading*

*of this work can be transformative. It is a comprehensive textbook in the field of Christian Education.*

Bonem, Mike. *The Art of Leading Change: Ten Perspectives on the Messiness of Ministry*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: Fortress Press, 2022. *Mike Bonem is an expert on shepherding change in a congregational setting.*

### **Recommended Readings**

Hunter, James Davison. *To Change the World: The Irony, Tragedy, and Possibility of Christianity in the Late Modern World*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. *Dr. James D. Hunter offers a challenging sociological account of American Evangelical Christianity's notions of culture and cultural change. He calls for a deeper understanding of the complexity of culture and cultural change, and offers a paradigm of "faithful presence" as a model for Christians in every vocation. Often an eye opening and transformative read for students, this book provides much of the theoretical background for Dr. Hunter's first section of lectures in this course, "The Nature of Culture."*

Parrett, Gary A., and S. Steve Kang. *Teaching the Faith, Forming the Faithful: A Biblical Vision for Education in the Church*. Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Academic, 2009. *A comprehensive text on Christian education which is exemplary for the way in which it draws upon historical, Biblical, and systematic theology to propose a model for formation in a local congregation. Students will be exposed to this material in part through the lectures, but the book is well worth purchasing to augment your library.*

## **Class Schedule**

### **Part I: Understanding the Biblical, Theological, and Cultural Context in Which Leadership and Discipleship Take Place**

#### **February 6, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

The Image of God as Source of Theological Vision for Leadership and Discipleship

#### **February 13, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

Ancient, Contemporary, and Non-Western Models for Leadership and Discipleship

#### **February 16-17, 2024 (6pm-9pm and 9am-4:30pm at Central Presbyterian Church with Dr. James D. Hunter)**

The Nature of Culture, The Nature of Formation, The Ends of Formation

### **Part II: Leadership**

#### **February 20, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

Forming Disciples who become Leaders in the Various Cultural Contexts of New York City (with Rev. James Roberson, Senior Pastor, The Bridge Church in Brooklyn)

**February 27, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

Leading Teams (with Rev. David Chong, Senior Pastor, The Elm Church, Queens)

**March 5, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

The Character and Skills of the Leader

**Part III: Discipleship**

**March 12, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

Listening to Discern the Spiritual and Physical Needs of a Congregation

**March 19, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

Developing a Plan for Discipleship and Care

**March 26, 2024 (7pm-9pm via zoom)**

Preventing and Responding to Abuse in the Church

## Course Objectives Related to MDiv Student Learning Outcomes

<u>MDiv Student Learning Outcomes</u>		<u>Rubric</u>	<u>Mini-Justification</u>
<b>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</b>	Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.	Strong	Students will write reflection papers and a final project.
<b>Scripture</b>	Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)	Minimal	Course emphasis is on practical application.
<b>Reformed Theology</b>	Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.	Moderate	The class presents a Reformed view of leadership and discipleship.
<b>Sanctification</b>	Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student's sanctification.	Strong	Doctrines of Grace will be centered throughout the course.
<b>Desire for Worldview</b>	Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.	Strong	Students will be encouraged to lead and disciple in ways contrary to the world and unhealthy churches.
<b>Winsomely Reformed</b>	Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)	Strong	The course design intentionally engages non-Reformed perspectives on and challenges to spiritual growth with a winsome tone.
<b>Preach</b>	Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.	Minimal	The course will encourage the right hearing and application of preaching.
<b>Worship</b>	Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.	Minimal	
<b>Shepherd</b>	Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.	Strong	Course aims and objectives have significant implications for Biblical shepherding.
<b>Church/World</b>	Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.	Strong	Particular attention is given to understanding how our cultural context influences how we appropriate the means of grace.