

Southern Methodist University
Perkins Regional Course of Study School
Summer 2022

124 Formation and Discipleship
Pre-Class Assignments

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Course Description

This course forms the student's identity as a pastoral leader and change agent in congregations, The United Methodist Church, and the World.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

1. Identify and understand the attributes of good leaders, biblically and theologically.
2. Evaluate and strengthen their own identities and skills as pastoral leaders.
3. Explain and reflect on the nature of change in the local congregation and wider society.
4. Implement visioning, strategizing, and planning processes in their local congregations.

Textbooks

1. *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church* by Bruce Birch & Lewis Parks, 2004 Abingdon Press.
2. *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective* by Brandon J. O'Brien, 2010 Bethany House Publishers.
3. *Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within*, by Robert E. Quinn, 2008 Jossey-Bass.

Supplemental Reading (Not required, but recommended)

Finding Our Story: Narrative Leadership and Congregational Change by Larry A. Golemon, 2010 Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Assignment Instructions:

Papers should be typed, double space, in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Pages should be numbered.

Be sure to include your name, date, and course description.

Within the title, include the assignment number.

Pre-Class Assignments:

Each of the assigned questions should be answered in the body of the paper. These two papers together will count for 25% of your grade and will be graded according to: 1) content—well thought out and complete answers to all questions, and 2) fulfilling instructions for the assignment including length and deadline.

Pre-Class Assignment #1

Write a reflection paper after reading the book *Ducking Spears, Dancing Madly: A Biblical Model of Church*.

Length of assignment: 4-6 pages

Birch and Parks use biblical passages to talk about leadership in the church. Choose 3 of their chapters that resonate with your own leadership and write a personal reflection. This should include information about what stood out to you in their writing as well as reflection on how this speaks to your current or past leadership challenges.

You should have 1.5 to 2.5 pages on each chapter you discuss.

This is not a research assignment where you only summarize what the author has to say.

Rather, you should include personal reflection that will be informed by your reading of the book.

Pre-Class Assignment #2

Write a reflection paper after reading the book *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, and Effective*.

Length of assignment: 4-6 pages

Using the framework presented by O'Brien in the book, reflect on how these principles can be helpful to you as a leader as you consider how you can apply them in your ministry setting.

This is not a research assignment where you only summarize what the author has to say.

Rather, you should include personal reflection that will be informed by your reading of the book.