



DSRE610 Teaching for Discipleship

Spring, 2025

Ricardo Norton (DMin; PhD)

CLASS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Class location:	Pacific Union—11330 Pierce Street, Riverside, CA 92505
Class dates:	January 11-15, 2026
Class meeting times:	Sun—6-9:00 pm; Mon-Thur—8 am to 6 pm
Course Website:	https://learninghub.andrews.edu/
Instructor Tel.:	(269) 471-8318
Instructor Email:	ricardo@andrews.edu
Office location:	Seminary 233
Office hours:	By appointment

BULLETIN DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

“Practical teaching strategies based on current research in learning and human development, enhancing skills in planning seminars/learning events for church, community, and school. Instruction and assessment focused on transformation of behavior and values, taking into account the Gospel Commission’s teaching mandate.”

PROGRAM & COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

This degree program seeks to help you achieve the **Program Learning Outcomes** basic to your chosen profession. The Learning Outcome primarily addressed in MAPM Program are:

1. Deliver effective biblically based sermons.
2. Demonstrate proper biblical interpretation skills.
3. Understand the historical-theological development of the Adventist Church.
4. Capable of training church members for evangelism.
5. Demonstrate an understanding of how to empower church members for leadership.
6. Capable of reaching specific social groups.

The following **Course Learning Outcomes** contribute to the overall Program Learning Outcomes by identifying the key learnings to be achieved by diligent work in **this course**:

- 4— Capable of training church members for evangelism.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course topics and assignments have been selected to contribute to learning and evaluating these Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) as follows:

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
01/9/26	Reading report	30 hours from the required books below—Prior to the intensive (30 points of the final grade). <i>Six-point deduction</i> for late reading assignments.	CLO 4
01/11/26	- Knowing each other - Syllabus review - Question and answer period about course requirements - Course introduction	Discussion and collaborative learning on the course's main topic. Small group formation for collaborative learning. Identification of topics for small groups.	CLO 4
01/12/26	Discipleship—Meaning & Nature - The call to discipleship - The church as a discipleship school - Biblical profile - Biblical models - Holy Spirit role in Disc... - Priesthood of all believers - Discipleship Metaphors - Promises for disciples	Small group discussion and collaborative learning on selected topics. Preparation for a 30-minute small group presentation during the last day of classes.	CLO 4
01/13/26	Teaching and learning - Pedagogy and andragogy - Approaches to learning - Learning assumptions - Learning theories - Learning—types and stages	Small group discussion and collaborative learning on selected topics. Preparation for a 30-minute small group presentation during the last day of classes.	CLO 4
01/14/26	Teaching adults - Theories - Principles	Small group discussion and collaborative learning on selected topics. Preparation for a 30-minute	CLO 4

Date	Topic	Assignment Due	CLOs Addressed
		small group presentation during the last day of classes	
01/15/26	Teaching adults—practical insights • Blooms taxonomy • Effective adults learning programs • Advice for adult learning facilitators • Practical principles for adult learning facilitators • Teaching methods	Small group presentation before peers on the topic identified the first day of classes. The PPP will be shared with peers for collaborative learning. This assignment accounts for 10% of the final grade.	
03/15/26		Final paper is due today (March 15, 2026). By midnight, this day, students should post in the <i>LearningHub</i> a 20-page paper, in MSW format. The paper will be graded according to the rubric included in this syllabus (60 points of the final grade). Students who do not submit this assignment on time will receive an F and will have to repeat the course.	

ATTENDANCE

Regular attendance is required at all classes and other academic appointments. When the total number of absences exceeds 10% of the total course appointments, the teacher may assign a failing grade. Merely being absent from campus does not exempt the student from this policy. Absences recorded because of late registration, suspension, and early/late vacation leaves are not excused. The class work missed may be made up only if the teacher allows. Three tardies are equal to one absence.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Reading –Read 30 hours from the from at least two of the following books

- Knowles, M.; Holton III, E.; and Swanson, R. (6th ed.). (2005). *The adult learner: The definitive classic in adult education and human resource development*. San Diego, CA: Elsevier Butterworth Heinemann.

- General Conference Corporation (2018). *Discipleship Handbook: A Resource for Seventh-day Adventists Church members*. Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association.
- Hull, Bill (2006). *The Complete Book of Discipleship: On Being and Making Followers of Christ*. Colorado Springs: NavPress Publications
- Ogden, Greg (2019). *Discipleship Essentials: A Guide to Building your Life in Christ* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway).
- Brockett, Ralph (2015). *Teaching Adults: A Practical Guide for New Teachers*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.
- McKeachie, Wilbert & Svinicki, Marilla (2006). *Teaching Tips: Strategies, Research, and Theory for College and University Teachers*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Cardoza, Freddy (2019). *Christian Education: A Guide to the Foundations of Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academics.

Recommended Reading

- Merriam, S.; Caffarella, R.; and Baumgartner, L. (3rd ed). (2007). *Learning in adulthood: A comprehensive guide*. San Francisco, CA: John Wiley and Sons.
- Ogden, Greg (2003). *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at the Time*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
- McCallum, Dennis & Lowery, Jessica (2006). *Organic Disciplemaking: Mentoring Others Into Spiritual Maturity and Leadership*. Houston, TX: Touch Publications.
- Chandler, Matt & Griffin, Adam (2020). *Family Discipleship: Leading your Home Through Time, Moments, and Milestones*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway.
- Caffarella, Rosemary (2002). *Planning Programs for Adult Learners: A Practical Guide for Educators Trainers, and Staff Developers*. 2nd. Edition. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass.

TIME EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COURSE

US Credit-Hour Regulations

For every semester credit, the Andrews University credit hour definition requires that:

- **Courses for academic masters' (e.g. MAPM)] degree** include 15 instructor contact hours, and 45 hours of independent learning activities per credit.

The calculation of hours is based on the study skills of the average well-prepared graduate student. Students weak in these skills: 1) may require more time and should consider taking fewer classes each semester; and 2) can find skill development assistance through the Seminary Study and Research Skills Colloquia, the AU Writing Center, and AU Student Success office.

In order to achieve the outcomes of this course, learning time will be distributed as follows:

		Professional Masters' Programs	
		2 Credits	3 Credits
Instructor Contact Hours	Blended Learning		45 hrs
Independent Learning Activities	Pre-Intensive Reading		30 hrs
	Small group presentation (10 points)		hrs
	20-page project/paper		60 hrs
Total Hours:			135 hrs

GUIDELINES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

Grades are based on the independent learning activities below which provide practice toward, and assessment of, the learning outcomes of this course. The grade weighting for each assignment is provided in the right-hand column. Specific due dates are given in the Course Overview above.

Assignment Description	Weighting
<i>Pre-Intensive reading report. 30 hours</i> from the required books above—Report due January 9, 2026 before sundown—two days prior to the beginning of the intensive. The report consists of one page with the following information: 1) Name of the student, 2) number of hours read, and 3) Author and titles of books from which the student invested her/his 30 reading hours—two books minimum.	30 points
<i>Small-group presentation</i> during the last day of classes. The professor will grade the 30-minute presentation based on 1) content, 2) investigation, and 3) quality of the PP slides.	10 points
<i>Final paper/project—20 pages.</i> The topic for the project must deal with issues associated to the contents of the course and must be approved by the professor.	60 points

Student must select and submit to the professor an outline of the project during the intensive. - The paper/project will need the following sections: 1) Title page. 2) Table of Contents. 3) Introduction. 4) Chapter 1—Biblical and theological foundations for teaching (discipleship)—include EGW writings. 5) Chapter 2—Teaching (discipleship) in current literature—minimum of 20 authors for the first two chapters—EGW counts as one author. 6) Chapter 3—Practical insights for teaching (discipleship) in the local church. 7) Conclusion. 8) Bibliography—Only sources used for the research. With the exception of EGW writings, sources cited must be from the past 15 years. - This report should follow <i>AU Standards for Written work</i>: (http://www.andrews.edu/GRAD/style.html). - This project must be submitted by March 15, 2026 and will be graded according to the rubric that appears at the end of this syllabus. - Late submission will be penalized based on the stipulations indicated in the previous table. Note: The final report must be submitted through our Learning Hub in ONE MSW file.	
Total points	100 points

Note. In order to make grading fair for everyone, grades will be assigned on the basis of the above requirements alone. No individual arrangements will be made for those requesting last minute grade adjustment or extra credit.

Submission of Assignments

Assignments are to be turned in on Learning Hub before the dates indicated in the Course Overview--Above.

Late Submissions

Because student assignments are an essential part of class activities, assignments turned in after the time they are due will be worth a maximum of 50 of possible points%--for this course, see penalties posted on the **Course Overview Table**. Any requests for extra time on an assignment must be made in advance with the professor. Such requests should be a rarity and should be accompanied by a valid reason why the work could not be done by the date due.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Ricardo Norton (DMin, PhD) has taught at the Seventh-day Theological Seminary since 1996 and is the founder of a worldwide lay training program (SAL—Lay Adventist Seminary), with more than 8,000 students in 18 countries. He currently directs a MAPM Hispanic Track Program and coordinates three DMin cohorts. His lectures and writings carry the weight of serious investigation and the practical knowledge that 45 years of teaching and ministerial experience confer. He travels extensively in the U.S. and abroad, teaching pastors and lay leaders how to make their churches grow.

OTHER COURSE-RELATED POLICIES

Academic Integrity

The Seminary expects its students to exhibit rigorous moral integrity appropriate to ministry leaders representing Jesus Christ. Complete honesty in academic matters is a vital component of such integrity. Any breach of academic integrity in this class is subject to discipline. Consequences may include receipt of a reduced or failing grade, suspension or dismissal from the course, suspension or dismissal from the program, expulsion from the university, or degree cancellation. Disciplinary action may be retroactive if academic dishonesty becomes apparent after the student leaves the course, program or university. A record of academic integrity violations is maintained by the University Student Academic Integrity Council. Repeated and/or flagrant offenses will be referred to an Academic Integrity Panel for recommendations on further penalties.

Academic Dishonesty includes:

- Plagiarism in which one fails to give credit every time use is made of another person's ideas or exact words, whether in a formal paper or in submitted notes or assignments.
Credit is to be given by use of:
 - Correctly designed and inserted footnotes each time one makes use of another individual's research and/or ideas; and
 - Quotation marks placed around any exact phrases or sentences (3 or more words) taken from the text or speech of another individual.
- Presenting another's work as one's own (e.g., placement exams, homework assignments);
- Using materials during a quiz or examination other than those explicitly allowed by the teacher or program;
- Stealing, accepting, or studying from stolen quizzes or examination materials;
- Copying from another student during a regular or take-home test or quiz;
- Assisting another in acts of academic dishonesty
- Submitting the same work or major portions thereof, without permission from the instructors, to satisfy the requirements of more than one course.

For additional details see: https://www.andrews.edu/academics/academic_integrity.html

Academic Accommodations

If you qualify for accommodation under the American Disabilities Act, please see contact Student Success in Nethery Hall 100 (disabilities@andrews.edu or 269-471-6096) as soon as possible so that accommodations can be arranged.

Use of Electronics

No recording or streaming is permitted in seminary courses.

Courtesy, respect, and professionalism dictate that laptops and cell phones are to be used only for class-related activities during class time.

Communications and Updates

Email is the official form of communication at Andrews University. Students are responsible for checking their Andrews University e-mail, Moodle, and iVue alerts regularly.

LearningHub Access

Andrews University Learning Hub hosts this course online. Your Learning Hub username and password are the same as your Andrews username and password. Use the following contact information if you need technical assistance at any time during the course, or to report a problem with Learning Hub.

Username and password assistance	helpdesk@andrews.edu	(269) 471-6016
Technical assistance with Learning Hub	dlit@andrews.edu	(269) 471-3960
Technical assistance with your Andrews account	http://andrews.edu/hdchat/chat.php	

Emergency Protocol

Andrews University takes the safety of its student seriously. Signs identifying emergency protocol are posted throughout buildings. Instructors will provide guidance and direction to students in the classroom in the event of an emergency affecting that specific location. It is important that you follow these instructions and stay with your instructor during any evacuation or sheltering emergency.

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to revise the syllabus, with the consensus of the class, at any time during the semester for the benefit of the learning process. The up-to-date Course Description for this course may be found at www.learninghub.andrews.edu.

APPENDIX 1: INTERPRETING LETTER GRADES

Letter Grades and Percentages

95-100%	A	80-84%	B	65-69%	C
90-94%	A-	75-79%	B-	60-64%	C-
85-89%	B+	70-74%	C+	55-59%	D
				58-Below	F

THE B GRADE

The B grade is a sign that you have competently fulfilled all of the requirements stipulated for an assessment or competency evaluation. It is a very good grade and demonstrates a high level of the knowledge, insight, critical competence and professional presentation standards essential for an individual wishing to pursue a career as a professional leader in ministry.

THE A GRADE

An A grade is given only when a student not only fulfills the criteria for a B grade, but in doing so demonstrates an advanced academic aptitude for content knowledge, critique, synthesis and

independent insight, while exhibiting highly developed communication skills and professional publication standards that would allow them to pursue a highly competitive academic career.

THE C GRADE

The C grade differs only from a B grade in that the traits outlined in the B grade above are not consistently applied. However, with diligence and by applying feedback from your lecturer, the academic process can provide opportunity for a student to improve their consistency, and hence, their grade.

THE D GRADE

The D grade points to a limited level of knowledge, insight, and critique, as well as to inadequate quality of written work. This may be because of a lack of time management on the part of the student, difficulty grasping the concepts being taught, use of English as a second language, or a personal issue that is affecting one's concentration and motivation levels. Again, with diligence, applying feedback from your lecturer, and seeking services offered by the University like the writing lab or the counseling center, the academic process can provide an opportunity for a student to significantly improve their performance.

THE F GRADE

A failing grade is given when very limited or no demonstrable competency has been observed or when the final assignment is not submitted within the dates indicated in the Course Overview Table.

ASSIGNMENT RUBRIC

Rubric for Assessing Project Plans

Student						
Criteria	(5) Exceptional	(4) Proficient	(3) Satisfactory	(2) Emerging	(1) Unsatisfactory	Score
Title Page	Includes: 1) institution's name, 2) title, 3) name of the course, 4) course period, 5) name of the student, 6) date submitted, 7) follows AU Standards for Written work (AUSWW). Has no errors	Misses 1 of the 7 components	Misses 2 of the 7 components	Misses 3 components	Misses more than 3 components	
Introduction	The introduction is engaging, states the main topic and purpose of the paper, and previews the structure of the paper	Introduction states the main topic and purpose of the paper and previews its structure	States the main topic and purpose of the paper, but does not adequately preview its structure	The introduction states the main topic but lacks a purpose and a preview of its structure	There is no clear introduction or main topic and the structure of the paper is missing	
Project Description	Project is described in detail. Protocols to be followed are presented. Specific aspects of the organization, implementation, and evaluation are offered. Meets paper length requirements	Project is well described. Some details regarding protocols, organization, implementation, and evaluation of the project are missing. Meets length	Project is satisfactorily described and meets paper length	Project is poorly described and does not meet number of pages.	The report misses entire sections of the project description. Does not meet paper length.	
Organization	Report provides a table of contents, and is organized using different subhead levels, following AUSWW. Subheadings are exceptionally well-worded and reflect upon the main subject. Exceeds all organizational specifications stated in the syllabus	Table of contents and subheading levels follow AUSWW Standards. Subtitles reflects upon the subject, but wording can be improved.	Paper provides a table of contents and is organized using different subheading level. However, does not follow AU standards of written work	Paper provides first level headings, but headings do not clearly reflect upon the subject. No table of contents. Does not follow all specifications stated in the syllabus and AUSWW	Does not provide a table of contents and is not divided under headings and subheadings. Does not follow organizational specifications stated in the syllabus and AUSWW	
Format/Style	All texts and references follow specifications from AUSWW. Syntax and semantics are outstanding. Models language and style. No errors in punctuation, spelling, and sentence formation	Consistently follows AUSWW with minor flaws. Syntax and semantics are very good. No major errors in style	Consistently follows all AUSWW format. Syntax and semantics are good. Few errors in style	Inconsistently follows some AUSWW. Syntax and semantics are poor	Does not follow AUSWW. Syntax and semantics are deficient	
Conclusion	Conclusion is engaging and provides an outstanding overview of the project and personal reflections on projected implementation. Exceeds expectations	Conclusion restates the purpose, gives a good summary, and provides personal opinions about the outcome	Conclusion restates the purpose and satisfactorily summarizes results Lacks personal reflection on projected implementation	Conclusion attempts to summarize the thrust of the project, but is ambiguous. Lacks personal reflection	Conclusion fails to summarize and to express personal reflection on the project	

