230 Experiencing God
Syllabus ©

Professor:
Training Center City:
Semester and Year:

Course Description
This course focuses on how to teach the realities of experiencing God and the spiritual disciplines needed by disciple-makers. Topics include spiritual disciplines, personality, spiritual warfare, and discipleship. Students will assess Bible intake, prayer, worship, evangelism, serving, stewardship, fasting, silence and solitude, journaling, learning, and perseverance in the disciplines to create an action plan for discipleship ministry.

Course Design
This 14-week course is designed to equip pastors, church starters, leaders, and church members with Bible knowledge, Christian character, servant leadership skills, and teaching experience with the goal of life-change. It addresses the diverse learning styles of adults through active discussion, charts, visuals, Internet research, team-building, and project-based learning. To ensure transfer of credit, changes to this course syllabus must be approved by both Equip Biblical Institute and Southern California Seminary. Over 1,000 church members, leaders, church starters, and pastors have completed EBI courses. Suggestions for improving course design and content are appreciated.

Required Textbooks

Additional Books for Advanced Students and Pastors

To receive the MS Word version of the portfolio and notes, email gwoods@socalsem.edu.
Learning Outcomes

The student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

1. Practice the spiritual disciplines of Bible intake, prayer, worship, and evangelism.

2. Practice the spiritual disciplines of serving, stewardship, fasting, silence and solitude.

3. Practice the spiritual disciplines of journaling, learning, and perseverance.

4. Know God by experience.

5. Know God’s nature through His Names.

6. Know how to do God’s will and be God’s servant.

7. Practice the seven realities of experiencing God.

8. Explain how God reveals Himself, His purposes, and His ways.

9. Practice listening to God speak through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church.

10. Type a term paper on the spiritual disciplines.

Methods of Instruction

Instruction emphasizes active learning, problem-based learning, project-based learning, collaborative team-based learning, reflection, discussion, interactive lecture, story-telling, drama, visuals, term papers, and exams, with the goal of long-term and real-world learning that results in life-change and leading healthy churches. The major pedagogical premise of this course is that students should be treated like the professionals they are becoming. Dr. Gary C. Woods has served as the Bible Department Chairman and Registrar at Southern California Seminary. Dr. Woods has taught for Liberty University and Luther Rice Seminary. He has a Doctor of Education in Technology and Learning from Alliant International University, a Master of Divinity in Missions from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Science in Cross-Cultural and Pastoral Ministry from Liberty University. He has served as a Southern Baptist pastor and church planter with the North American Mission Board.

Authentic learning involves observation, interpretation, and application. The goal of balanced instruction is to address the learning strengths of diverse adult learners, including verbal, visual, musical, logical, kinesthetic, reflective, interpersonal, natural, and spiritual. Student-centered instruction is most effective when it impacts the mind, the will, and the emotions. TEAM-based Learning: Students are encouraged to study in teams before or after class for at least one hour per week working on study skills, application skills, individual projects, and group projects. Students do not give answers to co-learners, but help them learn how to find the answers. Everyone contributes to the learning process. TEAM = Together Everyone Accomplishes More

In this course students are mentored by Dr. Henry Blackaby, the author of over a dozen books, including the Experiencing God Bible studies. Dr. Blackaby is a graduate of the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. He has completed his Th.M. degree from Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary. He is now serving as the president of Henry Blackaby Ministries. (http://www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/authordetail.asp?creatorid=1140).

Students are also mentored by Dr. Donald Whitney, Associate Professor of Biblical Spirituality and Senior Associate Dean at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky. Dr. Whitney is the founder and president of the Center for Biblical Spirituality and has authored several works including Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life and Simplify Your Spiritual Life.
Student Requirements

First, answer the questions in the portfolio before class. This will assist student-leaders in focusing on core information and developing the time-on-task study skills and writing skills essential to effective learning and long-term memory.

Second, maintain the journal in the portfolio. (1) What is God teaching you in this session? (2) How are you going to apply these concepts to your life, family, and ministry? (3) How can your church apply these concepts to making disciples and developing leaders? This will assist student-leaders in developing reflection, application, and decision-making skills essential to spiritual growth.

Third, participate in the discussion of the questions and applications in the portfolio during class. Through discussion students learn from one another and sharpen one another as iron sharpens iron. This will assist student-leaders in developing the relational, speaking, and creative/critical thinking skills essential to effective teaching and servant-leadership.

Fourth, complete the midterm exam. This will assist student-leaders in developing long-term memory through multiple reviews of the core material. Week 7

Fifth, participate in an individual or group presentation on one of the chapters in Spiritual Disciplines. Discuss applications found in that book. This presentation can be a PowerPoint, drama, role-play, charts, or drawings. This will assist student-leaders in developing the creative/critical thinking and teamwork skills essential to effective teaching and servant-leadership. Week 13

Sixth, type a 10-page term paper titled Action Plan for Experiencing God. Footnote all the ideas, paraphrases, and direct quotes in your paper, whether from books or the Internet. Font should be Times New Roman 12. Include illustrations and charts. This will assist student-leaders in developing the creative/critical thinking and teaching skills essential to effective biblical teaching, preaching, and servant-leadership. Week 13

Seventh, complete the final exam in the portfolio. This will assist student-leaders in developing long-term memory through multiple reviews of the core material and in focusing on transformational leadership and teaching skills. Week 14

Course Objective. Our mission is to bring glory to God by assisting local churches to equip believers to live and minister biblically based on the inerrant Word of God. This equipping includes Bible knowledge, Christian character, and ministry skills. The objective is to take student-leaders from where they are and move them to where they need to be. Students will learn how (1) to read with their brains, (2) to remember what they have read, (3) to sharpen their thoughts through journaling, (4) to speak effectively before others, (5) to work as learning teams of leaders, and (5) to biblically apply what they are learning to life, family, and ministry.

Adults learn in unique ways and so this course incorporates multiple learning styles. According to the Cone of Learning, writing, discussing, and applying concepts are more effective learning strategies than the boring lectures used in many schools. The portfolio is foundational to learning because students remember more of what they write, discuss, and apply. By applying these concepts of champion learners, students will experience transformational growth. Welcome to the disciple-making process!
## Sequence of Instruction

Read the table like this: “At Session ____ on ____________, the scheduled session content is __________, and the assignment due that session is __________.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Session Content</th>
<th>Assignment Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>God’s Will and Your Life Appendix</strong>&lt;br&gt;Go over this Syllabus and the Portfolio.&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show Experiencing God DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Workbook and Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.&lt;br&gt;Demonstrate how to use the Life Application Bible and the Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary to find information on leadership.&lt;br&gt;Demonstrate examples of a term paper.</td>
<td>❑ Print 230 Experiencing God Portfolio.&lt;br&gt;❑ Skim textbooks and be prepared to discuss how these books are unique as learning tools.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study unit 1 in <em>Experiencing God</em> and the appendices pages 268-273.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 1 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.&lt;br&gt;❑ Read the Baptist Faith and Message <a href="http://www.sbc.net/printfriendly.asp">http://www.sbc.net/printfriendly.asp</a></td>
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<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Looking to God</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 2 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 2 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>God Pursues a Love Relationship</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 3 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 3 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td><strong>Love and God’s Invitation</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 4 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 4 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td><strong>God Speaks, Part 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 5 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 5 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>God Speaks, Part 2</strong></td>
<td>❑ Study unit 6 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.</td>
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<td>Session</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Session Content</td>
<td>Assignment Due</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Guilt and Conviction</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study chapter 6 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td><strong>The Crisis of Belief</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 7 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 7 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Adjusting Your Life to God</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 8 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 8 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Experiencing God through Obedience</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 9 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 9 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td><strong>God’s Will and the Church</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Create a visual summary of these chapters.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 10 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 10 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>Kingdom People</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.&lt;br&gt;Group Activity: Prepare for individual or group presentations.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 11 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapter 11 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td><strong>Experiencing God in your Daily Life</strong>&lt;br&gt;(Optional: Show DVD)&lt;br&gt;Discuss Portfolio questions and journal applications.</td>
<td>❑ Study unit 12 in <em>Experiencing God</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Study chapters 12-13 in <em>Spiritual Disciplines</em>.&lt;br&gt;❑ Type the answers to the Portfolio questions and journal in preparation for the discussion and group activity.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Session Content</td>
<td>Assignment Due</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Student Presentations</strong></td>
<td>□ Prepare for individual or group presentations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Final Exam and Course Evaluation</strong></td>
<td>□ Review the study guide for the Final Exam.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Paper: Submit Portfolio for grading.</td>
<td>□ Distribute the textbooks, syllabi, and portfolios for the next course.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notice:** EBI holds to the *Baptist Faith and Message*. The inclusion of articles, books, or external links in this list does not imply that the opinions expressed represent the official position of EBI.

**Ministry Practicum Discipleship Links**
1. Alternative articles [http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/The_Altimate/Article_Archives.asp](http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/The_Altimate/Article_Archives.asp)
   [http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/areas/biblestudies/articles/#teaching](http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/areas/biblestudies/articles/#teaching)
6. Intentional Discipleship [http://www.intentionaldiscipleship.net/index.cfm/method/content.aboutus](http://www.intentionaldiscipleship.net/index.cfm/method/content.aboutus)
8. LifeWay [http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0%2C1703%2CA%253D154316%2526M%253D200239%2C00.html](http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/article_main_page/0%2C1703%2CA%253D154316%2526M%253D200239%2C00.html)
12. Shadow Mountain Community Church [www.shadowmountain.org](http://www.shadowmountain.org)
13. Turning Point articles [http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/Turning_Point/Article_Archives.asp](http://www.oneplace.com/Ministries/Turning_Point/Article_Archives.asp)

**Course Bibliography**
Transfer of Credits to Southern California Seminary

Attendance Policy
Attending class on time is important to receive the most out of the course. Entering class late disrupts the learning process of all students. Students are permitted three absences for a 14-week semester course. For the semester (28 classroom hours plus 56 homework hours) courses, more than 10 minutes late is a Tardy; more than 20 minutes late is an Absence. Two tardies count as one absence. College credit cannot be transferred to Southern California Seminary when a student misses four or more class sessions. A grade of NC (No Credit) will be recorded when a student misses four sessions or does not complete coursework on time. Exceptions must be approved in writing by the class instructor, the Site Director, and the Director of Equip Biblical Institute and will involve additional assignments mandated by Equip Biblical Institute.

Class Time and Homework Policy
To transfer credits to Southern California Seminary, each 2-unit course must include at least 28 hours of class time discussion and 56 hours of portfolio homework during the 14-week semester. Courses with less than 28 hours of class time do not meet EBI requirements. Since “time plus focus equals learning” increased classroom time and active learning result in increased learning—and learning is the key to leadership and service. Courses start the first or second week of January, May, and September. For maximum learning, it is recommended that working students take 2 courses per semester or 6 courses per year.

Late Work Policy
Completing work on time is an important habit for leaders to develop. Homework should be completed weekly before the class discussion and application. The grade for work that is between 1 and 7 days late is lowered by 20%. The grade for work that is between 8 and 14 days late is lowered by 40%. Work that is over 14 days late will not be accepted except in special cases such as hospitalization or death. Professors are required to send to the EBI offices the grade sheet within 15 days of the end of each course so that transcripts can be updated.

Portfolio Policy
To transfer credits from Equip Biblical Institute to Southern California Seminary, students must present a complete portfolio of their course work. The portfolio consists of the questions, journal applications and reflections, term papers, and exams for each course. Upon successful completion of the Associate of Biblical Studies, students may transfer 60 units into the Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies degree. If the portfolio for a course is not complete, the credits may not be transferable.
Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
<td>950-1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
<td>900-949</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>870-899</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>84-86%</td>
<td>840-869</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>770-799</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>74-76%</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-73%</td>
<td>700-739</td>
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<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Below 70%</td>
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Student Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio/Group Activities</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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Report Card

Today’s Date: [ ]

Name of EBI Training Center: [ ]

First Name: [ ]

Middle Name: [ ]

Last Name: [ ]

Street: [ ]

City: [ ]

State/Country: [ ]

Zip: [ ]

Home Phone: [ ]

Cell or Work Phone: [ ]

Email: [ ]

Year: [ ]

[ ] Fall (September-December) [ ] Spring (January-April) [ ] Summer (May-August)

[ ] Check if any information above needs to be updated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>230</td>
<td>Experiencing God</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This student earned the above grade.

Professor Signature: [ ]

Printed Name: [ ]

Date: [ ]

Order textbooks at least six weeks before the course starts.

(1) The professor will grade the Portfolio and return this Report Card to the student with the grade.
(2) The professor will complete and sign the Student Roster and Grade Sheet and return it to the Center Director for his signature.
(3) The Center Director will keep the Student Roster and Grade Sheet in the training center files.
(4) The Center Director will mail or email the Student Roster and Grade Sheet to gwoods@socalsem.edu.

Equip Biblical Institute
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El Cajon, CA 92019-1161

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www.shadowmountain.org/ebi