

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

CLED 715

ECOLOGIES OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine an ecological model of spiritual formation that attends to the role of God's people, the body of Christ in fostering individual and corporate growth. The course will also include an analysis of the function of Christian Social networks in promoting evangelism to non-Christians and facilitating edification in the Church.

RATIONALE

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a model of spiritual formation that will guide them as Christian leaders in facilitating the spiritual growth of themselves and others. This course especially fulfills Program Learning Outcome 1 regarding instruction in biblical and theological principles that inform Christian leadership practice. Students pursuing an advanced degree in Christian leadership need to know how to lead those they serve to full maturity in Christ, and this course will enable them to do so.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

American Psychological Association. *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (Current ed.). Washington, DC: Author.

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Word
- E. APA Style Central:
<http://ezproxy.liberty.edu/login?url=http://APAStyleCENTRAL.apa.org>

V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe and explain the ecological motif of Scripture situated within a larger biblical perspective on spiritual formation. (PLO #1)
- B. Interpret biblical texts relating to spiritual formation using the ecological model as a hermeneutical paradigm. (PLO # 1)
- C. Apply his or her understanding of faith ecologies, social networks, and biblical teaching on spiritual formation to his or her role as a leader of a faith community. (PLO #2)
- D. Prepare an exploratory research question(s) and bibliography that begins the process of research inquiry in the program. (PLO # 4)

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (4)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to create a thread in response to the instructor-provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be at least 300 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates' threads. Each reply must be at least 200 words. (MLO: A, C)

- D. Research Paper

Each student will prepare a major paper covering the topic "My Emerging Model of Spiritual Formation." The student will research and write the paper in 8 installments (parts), integrating the course readings and other course materials.

1. Part 1

The student will write an Introduction/Overview of the research paper entitled "My Emerging Model of Spiritual Formation." Research Paper: Part 1 should be 2–3 pages and in proper current APA style. The student will identify the salient issues and concepts that one needs to address when developing a biblical model of spiritual growth for Christians, showing the student's exposure to the assigned reading of the Lowe & Lowe and Pettit texts. (MLO: A, B)

2. Part 2

The student will construct the biblical support for the salient issues and concepts identified in Research Paper: Part 1. This should include exegetical analyses of pertinent texts the student identifies as supportive of the emerging concept of spiritual formation, showing his or her exposure

to the material in the assigned reading of the Lowe & Lowe text. Research Paper: Part 2 must be between 3–5 pages, in proper current APA style, and attached to Part 1. (MLO: A, B)

3. Part 3

The student will write his or her emerging view of the necessary ingredients that facilitate and promote the spiritual growth of Christians, showing his or her exposure to the assigned reading of the Pettit text. Research Paper: Part 3 must be between 3–5 pages and in proper current APA style. (MLO: A, B)

4. Part 4

The student will refine and expand the section of his or her paper that addresses the necessary ingredients that facilitate spiritual formation, showing his or her exposure to the assigned reading of the Pettit text. Any expansion of the material beyond the 3–5 pages written in Research Paper: Part 3 should be limited to 1–2 pages. (MLO: A, B)

5. Part 5

The student will develop his or her understanding of the targeted outcome of the spiritual formation process. What do the texts that Samra references tell about what it means to be conformed to Christ? This section runs between 3–5 pages and must be in proper current APA style. (MLO: A, B)

6. Part 6

The student will write 4 to 5 pages in proper current APA style that explore his or her emerging understanding of the role of the Christian community (the body of Christ) in the spiritual formation process, showing his or her exposure to the assigned reading of the Samra text. (MLO: A, B)

7. Part 7

In 3–5 pages, the student will develop an understanding of the creative ways in which one can apply an emerging understanding of spiritual formation in a variety of contexts and settings, showing his or her exposure to the assigned reading of the Lowe & Lowe and Garner & Campbell texts. The student must consider the implications of an ecological perspective on spiritual formation that may challenge traditional understanding of the concept. (MLO: A, B, C)

8. Part 8

The student will consider the application and implications of an ecological model of faith formation to our current digital realities, showing his or her exposure to the assigned reading of the Lowe & Lowe and Garner & Campbell texts. Any expansion of the materials beyond the 3–5 pages written in Research Paper: Part 7 should be limited to 1–2 pages. The student will also review and refine the paper for final submission, making

sure that it flows seamlessly from one section to the next with clearly demarcated headings following current APA style. All references should be consolidated in a bibliography following current APA style. (MLO: A, B, C)

E. Exploratory Research Question and Bibliography

It is important for the doctoral student to begin exploring possible research questions for his or her dissertation as early as possible in the degree completion process. To this end, the student will submit exploratory research questions along with an initial bibliography. The entire submission should be between 5–7 pages, including bibliography, and in proper current APA style. The student will submit this assignment in 2 iterations:

Part 1: Initial Submission

The student will submit a paper that sets out an initial area of research interest in the form of a research question(s) supplemented with an exploratory bibliography. The paper must offer a rationale or explanation as to what is motivating the student to study this particular topic, formulate a general research question, generate a list of subsidiary research questions, and create a bibliography of no fewer than 15 sources directly relevant to the research question(s) (MLO: D)

Part 2: Revised Submission

The student will submit a revised version of his or her exploratory research that modifies the initial submission based upon faculty feedback (MLO: D).

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

a. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (4 at 50 pts ea)	200
Research Paper (7 at 75 pts ea, 1 at 100 pts ea)	625
Exploratory Research Question and Bibliography	
Part 1: Initial Submission	100
Part 2: Revised Submission	75
Total	1010

b. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

c. Style Guidelines

All assignments for this course are to be formatted in accordance with the [LBTS Writing Guide](#) and the latest edition of the APA style manual (*Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, 6th ed.). Discussion assignments and

essay examinations may use the parenthetical citation style. All other written assignments should use the footnote citation style. Supplemental writing aids are available via the [Online Writing Center](#).

d. Extra Credit

No additional “for credit” assignments will be permitted beyond those given in the course requirements stated above.

e. Course Changes

Course requirements are subject to change by the administration of the University at any time with appropriate notice.

f. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online’s Office of Disability Accommodation Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

If you have a complaint related to disability discrimination or an accommodation that was not provided, you may contact ODAS or the Office of Equity and Compliance by phone at (434) 592-4999 or by email at equityandcompliance@liberty.edu. Click to see a full copy of Liberty’s [Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct Policy](#) or the [Student Disability Grievance Policy and Procedures](#).

COURSE SCHEDULE

CLED 715

Textbooks: Campbell & Garner, *Networked Theology: Negotiating Faith in Digital Culture* (2016).
 Lowe & Lowe, *Ecologies of Faith* (2017).
 Pettit, *Foundations of Spiritual Formation* (2008).
 Samra, *Being Conformed to Christ in Community* (2008).

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	Lowe & Lowe: chs. 1–4 Pettit: chs. 1–4 1 presentation	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1 Thread Research Paper: Part 1	10 0 25 75
2	Lowe & Lowe: chs. 9–12 1 presentation	DB Forum 1 Replies Research Paper: Part 2	25 75
3	Pettit: chs. 5–8 1 presentation	DB Forum 2 Thread Research Paper: Part 3 Exploratory Research Question and Bibliography: Part 1 – Initial Submission	25 75 100
4	Pettit: chs. 9–Conclusion 2 presentations	DB Forum 2 Replies Research Paper: Part 4	25 75
5	Samra: chs. 2–4 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Thread Research Paper: Part 5	25 75
6	Samra: chs. 5–6 1 presentation	DB Forum 3 Replies Research Paper: Part 6 Exploratory Research Question and Bibliography: Part 2 – Revised Submission	25 75 75
7	Garner & Campbell: chs. 1–3 Lowe & Lowe: chs. 5–6 1 presentation	DB Forum 4 Thread Research Paper: Part 7	25 75
8	Garner & Campbell: chs. 4–6 Lowe & Lowe: chs. 7–8	DB Forum 4 Replies Research Paper: Part 8	25 100
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.