



## **CEAM8305**

### **Strategic Church Development through Christian Education**

Church Ministry Division - Professional Doctoral Seminar

February 14-16, 2024

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#### **Mission Statement**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

#### **Course Description**

This course focuses on the delivery of Christian education in a local church context to foster strategic church development. Both traditional and contemporary Christian education methods for all age groups will be studied. Specific attention will be given to both Sunday School and small cell groups as agents of Christian education.

#### **Student Learning Outcomes**

Students will be able to accomplish the following:

1. Demonstrate a comprehension of the theological rationale and foundation for the practice of Christian education in a local church or ministry setting.
2. Analyze current trends in Christian education and compare them to the student's current ministry situation.
3. Identify strengths and weaknesses of current models for the practice of Christian education.
4. Value the role and practice of Christian education as it relates to accomplishing the mission and purpose of the local church.
5. Prepare an abbreviated strategic plan for the implementation of Christian education and church development in the student's current ministry situation.

### **Required Readings**

The following text and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified. Assigned texts should be read prior to the first day of class.

### **Read each of the following *textbooks*:**

Estep, James R., and Mark Maddix. *Practicing Christian Education: An Introduction for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2017. (ISBN 978-0801030963)

Anthony, Michael, and Warren S. Benson. *Exploring the History and Philosophy of Christian Education: Principles for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2003 (printed 2011). (ISBN 978-1610977326)

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Advanced Strategic Planning: A 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Model for Church and Ministry Leaders*, 3rd ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2013. (ISBN 978-0801014550)

### **One of the following *practitioner resources* will be assigned to be reviewed.**

Boren, M. Scott. *Making Cell Groups Work*, Houston, TX: Cell Group Resources, 2002.

Braddy, Ken. *Breakthrough: Creating a New Scorecard for Group Ministry Success*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2022.

Donahue, Bill, and Russ G Robinson. *Building a Life-Changing Small Group Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Osborne, Larry. *Sticky Church*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.

Parr, Steve. *Sunday School that Really Works: A Strategy for Connecting Congregations to Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2010.

Surratt, Chris. *Leading Small Groups: How to Gather, Launch, Lead, and Multiply Your Small Group*. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2019.

Taylor, Allan. *Sunday School in HD* Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2009.

Wilson, Darryl. *Disciple-Making Encounters: Revolutionary Sunday School*. Abbotsford, WI: Aneko Press, 2017.

**Recommended *strategy planning resources*:** In addition to the Malphurs' text above, the following texts may be considered in the development of a strategic plan. (Note: These are not required textbooks.)

Hawkins, Greg, and Cally Parkinson. *Reveal: Where Are You?* Barrington, IL: Willow Creek Association, 2007

Mims, Gene. *The Kingdom Focused Church*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2003.

Yount, William. *The Teaching Ministry of the Church*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2008.

### **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

The following learning activities and assessments are to be completed as described below by the scheduled dates. All written assignments will be submitted through Blackboard.

### **Course Assignments**

#### ***Before the Seminar***

- 1. Church Ministry Analysis:** Each student will analyze either his/her current church or a prior church in which he/she is/was active with regard to the church's practice of Christian education. Specific attention is to be given to the church's development and implementation of the theological rationale for the educational ministry (including Sunday School, small groups, discipleship groups, age group gatherings, mission organizations, or other education programs.) Assessment of the Christian education model followed by the church/ministry and its ministry is to be provided. The educational ministry of the church is also to be evaluated with regard to: 1) biblical integrity, 2) theological soundness, 2) implementation of the five functions of the church, 3) budget allocation, and 4) value to the church. The analysis should be a total of eight complete pages. **Submit through Canvas no later than February 13, 2024.**
- 2. Ten Questions from Textbook Readings:** Students will read the assigned textbooks prior to class and be prepared to present and defend stated approaches to church assessment and strategies for growth and/or health during class discussion. Prior to the seminar, using the textbook readings, each student will write a definition of Christian Education and explain the relationship of Christian Education to discipleship and spiritual formation. Student will also generate a list of 10 questions from the reading assignments. Proposed questions should reflect significant concepts addressed in the texts and the implications to various ministry contexts. Submit both the definition of

Christian education and the ten questions. **Submit through Canvas no later than February 13, 2024.**

- 3. Book Summary:** Each student will complete a four-page summary and review of a specific assigned textbook (one of the practitioner resources) using a **template** supplied by the professor. Copies will be provided to all seminar participants via Canvas. Students will be expected to lead a class discussion regarding the contents of the assigned text. Assignments will be made by January 1, 2024.

Each summary should include a brief summary of the book, key ideas and principles, strengths and weaknesses of the author's position, points of agreement and disagreement. The application insert should be related to the student's personal ministry context and should identify at least five potential application points. Headlines and bullet points should be cited on the reverse side with adequate space for notes by class members. Summaries should be available online but be prepared to distribute copies to other participants in the seminar. **Submit through Canvas no later than February 13, 2024.**

- 4. Resource Review:** Examine resources linked to Baptist state conventions, Lifeway, and other Christian education sites that you may discover. Identify at least five tools, training venues, or planning manuals that are available and that you would consider using for your church or ministry. Summarize these resources on a one or two page list and submit through Canvas. **Submit through Canvas no later than February 13, 2024.**

### ***During the Seminar***

- 5. Textbook Presentation and Discussion:** Each student will present the key ideas, theological framework, and practical applications addressed in an assigned textbook chapter(s). Students will make their chapter(s) summary available through Canvas and be expected to lead a class discussion regarding the contents of the assigned material (see Assignment #5). Individual assignments will be made by the professor before the class via e-mail.
- 6. Seminar Participation:** Students are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar. Note: The seminar actually begins with the receipt of the syllabus and continues until all assignments are completed and submitted. The seminar does not consist only of the class time component.

### ***Following the seminar***

- 7. Theological Rationale Paper:** Each student will prepare a four-page paper presenting a theology for Christian education. The purpose of the paper is to have the student demonstrate the theological rationale and foundation for the practice of Christian education in a local church or ministry setting. **Due April 15, 2024.**

**8. Annotated Bibliography:** Create an annotated bibliography of sources that inform the philosophy and strategy for Christian Education in your church or ministry. Each entry should be a 4-6 sentence single-spaced paragraph. A minimum of twelve (12) sources including course textbooks should be cited. Each annotated bibliographic entry should contain the correct format Turabian format. Each annotation that follows should contain your appraisal and considerations of the text, not just a synopsis of the text.  
**Due April 15, 2024.**

**9. Abbreviated Strategic Ministry Plan:** Each student will prepare an abbreviated strategic ministry plan for his/her church or ministry situation. Instructions will be provided during the on-campus portion of the seminar with regard to the scope and length of the report. It is anticipated that the paper will follow a format created from a synthesis of the presented material. **Due April 30, 2024.**

### **Seminar Evaluation**

Church Ministry Analysis	10%
Ten Questions & Definition	10%
Book Summary & Presentation	10%
Resource Review	5%
Seminar Participation	10%
Theological Paper	15%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Strategic Ministry Plan	<u>25%</u>
	100%

Use Turabian (current edition) for all writing assignments for this seminar. Papers will be graded based on 70% content and 30 % form, spelling and grammar. **All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Late assignments will incur a late penalty for the grade.**

### **Directed Study:**

Students who choose to take this course as a Directed Study are expected to complete all the class assignments as detailed. Students are also required to complete three additional assignments to compensate for the “lost” seat time. All are due by the end of the trimester. 1. Choose one book from the required and write a summary and reaction paper 5-7 pages in length. 2. Select an additional book from the assigned area and produce a second summary. 3. Expand assignment #2 to include a brief paragraph on each of the questions you identified. Explain why you selected the question and how you might answer the question now that you have completed the reading.

### **Assignment Formatting**

- Unless otherwise noted, type all assignments according to Turabian format.
- All papers must be written in third person.
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font.
- Use the same number of references as assigned pages.
- Use correct spelling and grammar.
- Use proper pagination.
- Include your name on the *Cover Page*.
- Write the *full* assignment.

### **Class Schedule**

The seminar is scheduled to meet from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Central Time) on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, and on 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday, February 15-16, 2024. All times are Central Time and include breaks and mealtimes.

A detailed, but tentative schedule will be posted on Canvas approximately one week before the seminar.

### **Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

### **Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

### **Technical Assistance**

1. For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites: [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) [Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)

4. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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