The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church.

**Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the programs, resources, and organizational structures to enhance the family life education/ministry of a local church, including work with married couples, parents, and single and senior adults. The course also supports the core value of spiritual vitality as it helps students evaluate how to build spiritual vitality into family systems within the local church through its ministries. The course addresses the curriculum competencies within the area of Christian education and supports interpersonal relationship skills as well by enhancing one’s ministerial skills in relating to the family as an integrated system.

**Core Value Focus**

*Doctrinal Integrity* – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

*Spiritual Vitality* – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

*Mission Focus* – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

*Characteristic Excellence* – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Servant Leadership* – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us. Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2019-2020 academic year that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*.
**Curriculum Competencies Addressed**
The course addresses the curriculum competencies within the area of Christian education and supports interpersonal relationship skills as well by enhancing one’s ministerial skills in relating to the family as an integrated system.

**Course Description**
In this course, the Southern Baptist program of Family Ministry is studied and analyzed. Subjects dealt with include the scope and biblical basis of family ministry, premarital education, and education for family living, including marriage enrichment and parent education. The relationships of family ministry to the total educational programs of churches are studied, methods are discussed, and resources are identified.

**Student Learning Objectives**
The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

- Identify and discuss family ministry from biblical, historical, demographic, and developmental perspectives.
- Value specific components of family ministry in the local church setting.
- Utilize administrative procedures in planning and implementing a family ministry in the local church.

**Required Readings**
The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.


**Recommended Reading**

**Course Teaching Methodology**

**Units of Study**

Unit 1 Introductions & Course Overview—August 22

Unit 2 Biblical Teachings on Family Life—August 29

Unit 3 Theology of Family Life: Marriage—September 5
Teaching Method.
This course will utilize lecture, group presentations, and an interactive discovery-learning format.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Class Participation & Discussion Boards—20% Due: Weekly
The class will seek to engage the experiences and questions of the class. Times of question-and-answer as well as small group work will provide opportunities to dialogue through the course content. Students are expected to be prepared to give substantial and supportive comment to the course and the overall teaching-learning experience. Therefore, regular class attendance and participation is needed. Also, each class member will prepare and provide a devotional thought as part of this year’s seminary Core Value—spiritual vitality.

Family Ministry Assessment Tool – 0% Due: September 12, 2019
From your textbook reading, critical reflection, supplemental reading, and discussion boards collaborate with classmates to create of a Family Ministry Assessment tool to evaluate the design and maintenance of a balanced family ministry. All students in the class will contribute.
Biblical Rationale of Family Ministry Paper—20% Due: September 20, 2019
Create a 5-page document communicating your biblical foundation for family ministry. Present and explain, from various Old and New Testament passages, the biblical presentation of family as designed by God. Employ commentaries, our course readings, journal articles as sources for your biblical rationale. Use Turabian #8 format.

Family Ministries Current Issues Paper—20% Due: October 18, 2019
Write a 7-page paper on three current, modern-day issues that families face (2 pages each). (Keep in mind the families in your church context when selecting these issues.) Use our course reading and journal articles, as well as references from your biblical rationale, when discussing your three issues. Use Turabian #8 format.

Church Family Model Power Point—20% Due: November 22, 2019
Create a 25-30 slide power point explaining the Family Ministry Model you have chosen to biblically promote family ministry in your church. The slides need to include: opening slides that introduces your church ministry context; slides that present your biblical rationale for ministry; the current issues your family ministry will be addressing that are present in the church; and what family ministry model you are employing and how specific ministry activities (weekly, monthly) are addressing the issues in your church setting. The family model needs to cover one year of church ministry from January to December 2020.

Church Family Assessment Paper—20% Due: December 12, 2019
During the semester, distribute the Family Ministry Assessment (created by the class) to four members of the congregation where you are a member. Have them complete the assessment and then interview them concerning the assessment as well as class agreed to interview questions in which each the interviewee shares what they believe to be (1) a biblical rationale of family ministry, (2) three current issues the church is facing, and (3) the best family ministry model. The four church member interviewees need to be: a student (16 to 22 years-old); one young adult (22-40 years-old); one median adult (40 to 60 years-old); one senior adult (60 years-old or older). Summarize and share your findings in a report (5 pages). (If you quote an interviewee be anonymous.) Highlight those findings that surprised you, showed a dominant family dynamic/belief, and possible future ministry direction to consider. Use Turabian #8 format.

Evaluation and Grading

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<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>Biblical Rationale Paper</td>
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<td>Current Issues Paper</td>
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<td>Family Ministry Model Power Point</td>
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<td>Family Ministry Assessment Report</td>
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Course Policies

Late Assignments
Assignments not submitted on the due dates are considered late and will be automatically penalized 5% for each day late including weekends. Late assignments will not be accepted one week beyond the original due date, no exceptions. No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received, a grade of “F” is automatically earned for the course.

Grading Scale
Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the Learning Activities and Assessments section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

A: 93-100  B: 85-92  C: 77-84  D: 70-76  F: 69 and below

Netiquette
Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Academic Honesty Policy
All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.
Selected Bibliography

Children's Ministry


**Adolescent Ministry**


**Adult Issues and Ministry Practice**

**Adult Development**


**Adult Learning**


**Intergenerational Religious Education**


**Senior Adult Ministry**


**Single Adult Ministry**


Family Issues


Understanding and Ministering to/with Families


