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 and its ministries.

NOBTS Core Values and 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 the Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*. 
Purpose of the Course
The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the area of life and ministry issues in the context of the local church.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed
This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. **Interpersonal Skills:** Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church.
2. **Servant Leadership:** Determine how the senior pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required.
3. **Spiritual and Character Formation:** As a leadership team intentionally “grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” (Eph. 4:15b, NKJV).

Course Description
This seminar will address critical age group, family, and life needs and issues. Ministry models will be developed to meet particular needs and issues of each age group and family lifestyle.

Student Learning Outcomes
By the end of this seminar students will be able to...

1. Identify current needs and issues related to each age group across the lifespan as they relate to ministry in a local church.
2. Evaluate responses to selected life issues within varied ministry contexts and the ministry of a local church.
3. Develop appropriate ministry models applicable to the student’s church or ministry for addressing current life issues related to Christian social ministries, preschool/children's ministry, youth ministry, adult ministry, and family ministry.

Course Teaching Methodology
The course will involve the following methodologies: Individual and group presentations, discussions, Socratic questioning, lecture, case studies, organizational analysis and technical writing.

Required Textbooks

Clinton, Tim and Archibald Hart, George Ohlschlager. *Caring for People God's Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma.* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009. (Students will read Part 1: Chapters 1-5. Selected chapters may be used for reports and presentations.)

Pre-Seminar Assignments

1. **Inventories**: Students should take the *Cultural Issues Inventory* and the *Congregational Life Issues Inventory*. Both of these are posted on Blackboard. Completed copies of both inventories will be submitted through Blackboard as an attachment to Assignment 2. The data obtained from taking these inventories will be used in Assignment 2. Students are encouraged to complete these inventories by September 15, 2019, because the results of the surveys significantly impact preparation for other assignments.

2. **Ministry Context**: Based on the inventory results, write a brief description of your ministry context. Then, identify the top 3-5 *cultural issues* impacting your church or ministry. Additionally, identify the top 3-5 *congregational life issues* impacting your church or ministry. For each of these critical issues you have identified (a total of six to ten issues) relate in two paragraphs how you are currently managing or addressing them in your church or ministry. Single spacing is appropriate for this assignment. Also, attach the survey data as indicated in Assignment 1. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Blackboard. **Due Date: November 5, 2019.**

3. **Textbook Readings**: Each student is expected to read all three required texts.
   a. **Critical Review**: For one of the three required texts, students will prepare a three to four page *Critical Review* of a selected (student choice) textbook (double-spaced, typewritten, and in Turabian form). The review should include the following: (1) complete bibliographic data; (2) a statement of the author’s purpose; (3) a brief synopsis of the message of the book; (4) a critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the text; (5) an evaluative assessment of the degree of success the author had in achieving the purpose, and (6) a discussion of potential application to the student’s ministry context. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Blackboard. **Due Date: November 5, 2019.**

   b. **Ten Talking Points**: Each Student will read and prepare ten talking points (annotated observations, insights, criticisms, etc.) for each of the other two required textbooks. Identify your paper with a header including your name, assignment, date, course title. Be prepared to discuss talking points in class. Single spacing is appropriate for this assignment. The assignment is to be submitted on or before the first day of the seminar. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Blackboard. **Due Date: November 5, 2019.**

4. **Cultural Issue**: Select, research, and prepare to present a “Cultural Issue” during the seminar. You may choose from the items identified in the *Cultural Issues Inventory*, or you may request a different one that is a critical concern for your ministry setting. Choose a topic about which you have specific concern or a topic that is influencing your ministry in a significant way. Submit your selected topic for approval before you begin work. **Submit your topic for approval by Dr. Sherrer so we can avoid multiple**
presentations of the same topic. First come first approved. This assignment is in preparation for the presentation in Assignment 6. There is no submission for Assignment 4 through Blackboard. You will submit your presentation in Assignment 6. Due Date: November 5, 2019.

5. Congregational Issue: Select, research, and prepare to present a Congregational Life Issue during the seminar. You may choose a congregation life issue from the items identified in the Congregational Life Issues Inventory, or you may request a different topic that is a critical concern for your ministry setting. Choose a topic about which you are passionate or a topic that is influencing your ministry in a significant way. Submit your topic for approval before you begin work. Submit your topic for approval by Dr. Sherrer so we can avoid multiple presentations of the same topic. First come first approved. This assignment is in preparation for the presentation in Assignment 6. There is no submission for Assignment 5 through Blackboard. You will submit your presentation in Assignment 7. Due Date: November 5, 2019.

During the Seminar

6. Cultural Issue Presentation: Each student will present a cultural life issue during the seminar (See assignment 4). The student should make the presentation interactive and involve participants in a discussion of the assigned material. Presentation should be approximately 15 minutes in length. It is anticipated that most students will have a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation as well as one or more student handouts. This assignment should be submitted through the Assignment tab of Blackboard. Also, post the assignment under the Discussion Board of Blackboard so all seminar participants will have access to the handout and presentation materials. Due Date: November 5, 2019.

7. Congregational Presentation: Each student will present his/her findings of a congregational issue during the seminar (See Assignment 5). The recommended presentation approach is PowerPoint or similar. Alternative methodologies may be used. (Creativity is encouraged.) The presentation should include a handout with facts and talking points as well as implications for ministry. Provide an environment for students to engage in a discussion of the issue. Presentation should be approximately 15 minutes in length. It is anticipated that most students will have a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation as well as one or more student handouts. This assignment should be submitted through the Assignment tab of Blackboard. Also, post the assignment under the Discussion Board of Blackboard so all seminar participants will have access to the handout and presentation materials. Due Date: November 5, 2019.

After the Seminar

8. Issues Bibliography Contribution. Students will be expected to copy discovered resources to a collective bibliography sorted by issue or topic. A wiki page will be set up in BB and referenced during the seminar. Due Date: December 20, 2019.
9. **Ministry Model.** Use the *Life Issue & Ministry Model Template* (available in BB) to summarize and communicate the information in your book chapter (See Assignment 10) in a cogent format. Develop a new ministry model suitable for implementation in the local church or ministry. Utilizing the previous assignments, include components such as, but not limited to: identification of impacted age group or ministry area, identification of ministry issue, ministry goals and objectives, rationale based on current literature and ministry experience, ministry plan of action, evaluation of proposed model in light of current literature. This assignment should be submitted through the Assignment tab of Blackboard. Also, post the assignment under the Discussion Board of Blackboard so all seminar participants will have access. **December 20, 2019.**

10. **Book Chapter:** Each student will write a revised and expanded report on the *Congregational Life Issue* presented during the seminar. The report should be written as a chapter for a compellation book useful for a future Life Issues and Ministry Practice seminar. Each chapter is expected to be 3000-3500 words. For this assignment use an “endnotes” style together with a complete bibliography. Details and appropriate citations are crucial. Use sub-headings as indicated below. More details will be presented during the seminar. This assignment should be submitted through the Assignment tab of Blackboard. **Due Date: December 20, 2019.**

Use the following sub-headings, suggestions, questions, and guidelines for chapter content:

- **Introduction:** Briefly identify the issue and highlight how the issue has presented a need or problem to be resolved. Begin with a quote or challenging fact to grab the reader.

- **Scope and Impact:** Include essential characteristics, demographic data, current scope, and relevant resources. Charts/graphs maybe used. Consider the use of interviews or case studies.

- **Biblical/Theological Foundations:** Search biblical and theological sources to discover a position and determine principles on how to address the issue under consideration. Consider both direct and implied text and statements.

- **Approaches/Audiences:** Detail key information from your research regarding how the issue relates to various generations or life stages. Consider the issue from a variety of viewpoints. (Example: patient, client, doctor, family members, care giver, etc.)

- **Ministry Implications:** Consider the ramifications for personal spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical health. How has the “church” traditionally addressed this issue or concern? Has that approach been effective? Should new approaches be offered?

Note: The hope/expectation is to create an ebook useful for future seminars. Quality work from each individual will make this a possibility. Poor work will limit the options.

**Evaluation**
Assignment 1—Inventories (No submission for evaluation)
Assignment 2 -- Ministry Context Paper 10%
Assignment 3a—Critical Review of Textbook 10%
Assignment 3b--Ten Talking Points (2 @5%) 10%
Assignment 4 & 6—Cultural Issue Presentation 10%
Assignment 5 & 7—Congregational Issue Presentation 10%
Assignment 8—Issues Bibliography Contribution (wiki) 5%
Assignment 9--Congregational Issue Ministry Model 20%
Assignment 10--Congregational Issue Book Chapter 25%
Total 100%

Assignment Formatting

Use Turabian 8 (current edition) for all writing assignments in 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.

- Unless otherwise noted, type all assignments according to Turabian 8 format.
- All papers must be written in third person.
- Use 12 point Times New Roman font, left alignment (no flush alignment)
- At a minimum use the same number of references as assigned pages.
- Use correct spelling and grammar.
- Use proper pagination.
- Include your name on the Cover Page.
- Submit assignments through Blackboard as indicated on each assignment.
- Write the full assignment.

Directed Study:

Students who choose to take this course as a Directed Study are expected to complete all the class assignments as detailed as well as additional assignments to be determined by the seminar instructors.
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


Stanfield, Christine M. *Some Days I Think I'll Live...Surviving the Trauma of Divorce.* Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990.
