



CEAD 8301 Leading and Discipling Adults
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
A Professional Doctoral Seminar
Spring Semester – 2024-2025
May 12-14, 2025

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Mission Statement

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

Course Description

Students will investigate current trends and challenges in the education of and ministry to adults in local churches, specific ministry situations, and the denomination. Specific attention will be given to special populations of adults such as single adults and senior adults, as well as men's and women's ministries. Seminar sessions will examine current learning theory related to the education of adults and the impact of generational theory on adult ministry in the local church. Denominational leaders may be invited to lead selected seminar sessions. An evaluation tool will be developed by seminar participants for use in examining their adult education programs, processes, and ministries in local churches, ministry situations, and the denomination and for implementing new structures to strengthen the ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

When students have completed this course, they will be able to:

1. Identify current societal and denominational issues effecting the ministry and education of adults.
2. Discuss concerns that may be addressed through adult education and ministry in the church and denomination
3. Integrate adult education and ministry models and processes into his/her ministry.
4. Demonstrate a thorough understanding of one chosen researched problem or need.

Textbooks

Students will read each of the following two books, plus others as identified below.

Etheridge, Craig. *The Disciple Making Leader: Discover Jesus' Strategy for Raising Up Leaders, Growing the Church, and Multiplying a Movement.* Colleyville, TX: DiscipleFirst, 2022.

(ISBN: 978-09993439-7-5)

Sbanotto, Elizabeth A. Nesbit, and Craig L. Blomberg. *Effective Generational Ministry: Biblical and Practical Insights for Transforming Church Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

In addition ... the student should read two books/resources in Assignment 3 related to a specific aspect of adult ministry as assigned by the professor.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Pre-Seminar preparation and research, in seminar discussion and presentations, and post-seminar reflections and presentations.

Seminar Requirements

BEFORE THE SEMINAR

- (1) **Survey of Adult Ministry in Church:** Conduct a survey of adults in your church concerning their perceptions of a select aspect (young adult, senior adult, men's ministry, women's ministry, singles, seniors, etc.) of adult ministry in your church.

For this anonymous survey you may use an online survey system such as surveymonkey.com or use may use a paper survey. Students should make every effort to include at least five respondents from each of the four generations Sbanotto and Blomberg highlight in their book as well as from Gen Z (not addressed in the book).

- Born prior to 1946 (Silent / GI Generations) – limited information in text
- Born between 1946 and 1964 (Boomer Generation)
- Born between 1965 and 1981 (Gen X Generation)
- Born between 1982 and 2001 (Millennial Generation)
- Born between 2001 and current (must be 18 years old) (Gen Z)

The survey should have a minimum of ten questions. These questions should be developed from insights gains from reading the book listed below.

Sbanotto, Elizabeth A. Nesbit, and Craig L. Blomberg. *Effective Generational Ministry: Biblical and Practical Insights for Transforming Church Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

The student should highlight the results of the survey in a one-page summary to be used when discussing the results with the seminar participants.

Due Date: The summary is to be submitted to the professor as well as posted in the Discussion area of Canvas no later than **Sunday, May 11, 2025**, for availability to the

other students in the seminar in preparation for discussion.

- (2) **Adult Ministry Demographics:** The student should prepare a three to five-page paper highlighting the unique characteristics and needs of various adult sub-groups within the larger context of adult ministry in the student's church and community setting. This analysis should summarize insights gained from a demographic study obtained from the North American Mission Board. (<https://www.namb.net/contact/demographics-request/>). Be sure to include reactions to the segmentation material provided on the report. Be sure to allow a couple of weeks to receive your demographic report from NAMB. You may select the mileage radius or drive time report option that will be most useful for your church. Students in non-local church ministry should contact the professor for potential modification of this assignment.

This paper is due on the first day of the seminar (**May 12, 2025**). Paper should be submitted through Canvas. Portions of this report will be used in class discussion. Students should be prepared to discuss the content fully.

- (3) **Executive Summaries:** In consultation with the professor, each student will choose one of the five ministry areas (Women's, Men's, Marriage, Singles, and Seniors) below and read the two books/resources listed under that heading. For each of the two books/resources listed in the chosen ministry area below prepare a one page, single-spaced executive summary of key concepts, specific needs, unique challenges, and trends.

Note: Students will be assigned one of the five ministry areas by the professor no later than **March 15, 2025**. Seminar participants are encouraged to request preferences prior to March 15—first come, first served. Students will work in the same adult ministry area to produce Assignment 4 below.

This assignment is due the first session of the seminar (**May 12, 2025**). Both executive summaries--for the two books--should be submitted through Canvas.

Women's Ministry

Dean, Emily. *Women Leading Well: Stewarding the Gift of Ministry Leadership*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2023. (978-1087776088)

King, Kelly. *Ministry to Women: The Essential Guide for Leading Women in the Church*. Nashville, TN: LifeWay, 2018. (ISBN: 978-1-5359-0289-2)

Men's Ministry

Murrow, David. *Why Men Hate Going to Church*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2011. (ISBN: 978-0-7852-3215-5)

Sonderman, Steve. *How to Build a Life-Changing Men's Ministry: Practical Ideas and Insights for Your Church*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2010. (ISBN: 978-0-7642-0748-8)

Marriage Ministry

Anderson, Ray. *Something Old/Something New: Marriage and Family in a Postmodern Culture*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2007. (ISBN: 978-1556354748)

Focus on the Family, *The Model Marriage: (Focus on the Family Marriage Series)*.
Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2014. (ISBN: 978-1-4412-2740-9)

Single Adult Ministry

Fagerstrom, Douglas, (ed.). *Baker Handbook of Single Adult Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004. (ISBN: 978-1556354748)

Franck, Dennis. *Reaching Single Adults: An Essential Guide for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007. (ISBN: 978-0-8010-9190-2)

Senior Adult Ministry

Hanson, Amy. *Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults over 50*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010. (ISBN: 978-0-470-50079-8)

Gentzler, Richard H. *An Age of Opportunity: Intentional Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults*. Nashville, TN: Discipleship Resources, 2018. (978-0881779035)

DURING THE SEMINAR

- (4) **Seminar Presentation.** With selection/assignment of the ministry area in Assignment 3 students are committing to working toward a significant presentation about the adult ministry area during the seminar. The following presentation (and paper) is to focus on the specific area – men’s ministry, women’s ministry, marriage ministry, singles, or seniors.

Each student will produce a ten-page (exclusive of reference pages) formal paper related to the *chosen adult ministry area*. Each student will read the following book as a foundational resource for a formal paper.

Etheridge, Craig. *The Disciple Making Leader: Discover Jesus’ Strategy for Raising Up Leaders, Growing the Church, and Multiplying a Movement*. Colleyville, TX: DiscipleFirst, 2022. (ISBN: 978-09993439-7-5)

The paper should address how adult ministry for the *chosen ministry area* in a church should relate to the following aspects:

- Adult characteristics, needs, demographics, and development
- Adult spiritual or faith development, spiritual formation
- Discipleship in adulthood

- Unique needs and opportunities of ongoing program ministries in a church
 - (i.e. Sunday School, Discipleship Training, mission organizations, etc.)
- Social ministry issues and needs

Each student will submit his/her own paper. **The paper should be submitted on Canvas no later than May 12, 2025.** It is anticipated the paper will utilize at least 10 academic resources in addition to the foundational text listed above.

In addition to the individual formal paper, each student will prepare a 25-minute presentation for the entire seminar. The presentation will engage seminar participants with foundational knowledge of the adult ministry area, steps toward successful church implementation, and identifying appropriate resources. This presentation is to be accompanied by (1) PowerPoint presentation, (2) a handout of at least 10 appropriate resources for implementing the adult ministry area, and (3) a list of at least five discussion questions to be used to engage seminar participants in a discussion. **All of these items are to be posted on the Discussion area of Canvas no later than the start of the presentation during the seminar (May 12, 2025).**

- (5) **Seminar Participation:** Students are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar. Note: The seminar begins with the receipt of the syllabus and continues through the material completed after the three-day component. The seminar does not consist only of the three-day session time component.

FOLLOWING THE SEMINAR

- (6) **Church Presentation.** Each student will present the results of their survey and research to a group of adult leaders in his or her church. In addition, the student will discuss and present possible strategies (based on knowledge gained through the doctoral seminar) to strengthen the adult ministry in their church. The student is to submit a summary and evaluation of this presentation (6-8 pages) to the professor by **July 1, 2025**. The report should include a summary of the content presented, the context and delivery method, an evaluation of the receptivity to the material by the group, and possible implications for ministry from the presentation to the church.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

(1) Survey Project	10%
(2) Adult Ministry Demographics	15%
(3) Executive Summaries of Adult Ministry Area Books	10%
(4) Seminar Presentation and Paper	35%
(5) Seminar Participation	10%
(6) Church Presentation Paper	20%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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.

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.

Course Schedule

The seminar is scheduled to meet:

Monday, May 12, 2025 – 1:00 – 7:00 pm

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Wednesday, May 14, 2025 – 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Selected Bibliography

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Chesterton, G. K. *What's Wrong with the World*. San Francisco: Ignatius, 1994.

Cladis, George. *Leading the Team-Based Church*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1999.

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