



# Challenges for the Contemporary Family CEAD8302

## New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

### Christian Education Division

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*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.*

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### **Purpose of the Seminar**

This seminar is designed to survey contemporary family life and to investigate concerns involved in family living. The role of family life education in the local Baptist church in addressing these needs is stressed. Special attention is given to current literature in the field. Family life education projects will be developed and evaluated.

### **Learning Objectives**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for the role of family life in the ministry of Christian Education in the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Identify current societal issues influencing the family.
2. Discuss concerns that may be addressed through family life education in the church.
3. Demonstrate special understanding of one chosen researched problem or need.
4. Present a family life education project for use in his/her church.
5. Evaluate his/her church in the area of family ministry.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

This course will utilize a lecture and interactive discovery-learning format.

## **Required Readings**

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

### **Required Texts**

Anderson, Herbert, et. al. (ed.). *The Family Handbook*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1998.

Barna, George. *The Future of the American Family*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1993. (Out of print, check for it in Library or online)

Gangel, Kenneth O. and James C. Wilhoit. *The Christian Educator's Handbook on Family Life Education: A Complete Resource on Family Life Issues in the Local Church*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2001.

Garland, Diana. *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Stinnett, Dr. Nick and Nancy and Joe & Alice Beam. *Fantastic Families: 6 Proven Steps to Building a Strong Family*. West Monroe: Howard Publishing Company, 1999.

Waugh, Phillip H. *How to Minister to Families in Your Church*. Nashville: LifeWay, 2001.

## **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

The following learning activities and assessments are to be completed as described below by the scheduled dates.

### **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*
- Staple assignments together as necessary or as required (*no report covers please*)
- Write the *full* assignment

## **Required Assignments Summary – 100 points**

- Book Critiques-20 *total* points **Due: October 20**
- Class Presentation -30 points **Due: Times will be assigned on October 20**
- Classroom Decorum - 10 points **Due: every class session!**
- Major Project -40 points **January 5**
- Directed Study Assignments—as Appropriate

## **Pre-Seminar Assignments**

### **Book Critiques –20 points**

For each of the books the student is to prepare a three page critique of strengths and weaknesses of the author's presentation noting areas of personal agreement or disagreement and stressing application of the ideas presented to your personal ministry situation. These book critiques are due on the first day of the seminar (October 20, 1:00pm). Portions of these texts will be utilized in class discussion. Students should be prepared to discuss the content fully. **Pay close attention to the Assignment Formatting section of this syllabus!**

### **Class Presentation - 30 points**

Each student is to develop a significant presentation (50 minutes to an hour) on a family life education topic to be agreed upon with the professor prior to the seminar. The presentation will utilize PowerPoint, but will not rely on it exclusively. The deadline for discussing a proposed topic with the professors and achieving agreement on topic is September 29. Assistance with developing and refining the topic will be given during the seminar.

The presentation should be accompanied by printed resources and an outline with copies for each member of the seminar and professors. Each student should anticipate guiding a discussion following the presentation and responding to questions from other members of the seminar. **Pay close attention to the Assignment Formatting section of this syllabus!**

## **During the Seminar Assignments**

### **Classroom Decorum – 10 points**

Participation is required for every course session due to the interactive learning format of the course. A positive attitude can only enhance the learning experience. Therefore, for the purposes of this class, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as productive and interactive engagement with classroom presentations and classroom dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not focused on the subject matter while in the classroom. Consequently, the student is expected:

- To come class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources on the course topic in discussion groups and classroom dialogues.
- To dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- To turn off cell phones and to not accept any phone calls during class.
- To use laptops and PTAs appropriately.

## **Post-Seminar Assignment**

### **Major Project -40 points**

Each student will contract with the professors (during the seminar sessions) to develop a major family life project to be used in your church or ministry situation. A report of the project is to be submitted by January 5. The report is to include an identification of need for the project, the theoretical and theological rationale for the project, the implementation strategies, and an evaluation of the impact on the local church. Recommended length of 25 pages with a bibliography reflecting a minimum of 25 resources. Journal articles are recommended. Internet resources are limited to five.

## **Directed Study Requirements**

In addition to the above course assignments, students enrolled in the directed study option of this seminar should plan to complete the following assignments:

- Submit critical reviews of an additional four textbooks to be approved by the professors. (See Pre-Seminar Assignment 1.) Other elements of this assignment remain the same.
- Prior to the seminar submit a video taped version of a significant presentation of a family ministry topic. (See Pre-Seminar Assignment 3.) This video will be viewed during the seminar by other participants. Also submit any handout materials for distribution. All other elements of this assignment remain the same. This material (video and handouts) should be sent to Drs Pounds and England and should arrive at his office no later than October 13.

- Develop an Annotated Bibliography on two topics that are currently challenges to the families in your church. The bibliography should include 50 resources for each topic. Include journal articles. Internet resources are limited to 10 for each topic.

## **Course Policies**

The following policies will to be observed in the duration of this course.

### **Absences**

In this course, you have zero absences. Each absence taken will result in a reduction of a ½ point subtracted from your total points earned at the end of the course. Three occasions of arriving late or leaving early from a class will equal one absence. *Please be faithful!!!* - These ½ point increments can subtract quickly! Check the grading scale for more information.

### **Late Assignments**

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are due on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments not submitted are considered late and automatically penalized 20% (1 point for every 5 points of the assignment). Late assignments are then due no later than the final course session, *no exceptions*. **No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received by the final course session, a grade of "F" is automatically earned for the course.**

### **Class Devotions**

Each student will prepare a five-minute devotional or spiritual enrichment activity related to family life ministry. These devotions will be presented during the seminar and should be accompanied by a one-page handout identifying the theme, Scripture, content points, and illustrations or activities. Provide copies for all seminar participants. Students should be prepared to present their devotions beginning with the first session of the seminar on October 20.

### **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 2008-2009 catalog.

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

A grade of "F" may require the student to retake the course to complete the degree.

**No grades of INCOMPLETE will be issued in this course.**

## **Professor's Covenant**

The intent of this syllabus is to accurately provide the course description, learning objectives, readings, assignments and evaluation standards, course policies, reference list, and other information necessary for students to appraise the course. During the course of the term, the professor will relate to each student as an individual. Moreover, he reserves the right to amend any part of this syllabus, as he may deem necessary due to events and circumstances that transpire during the semester, with the exceptions of increasing the assignments or expectations of the course.

## **Student's Covenant**

I have received a copy of the syllabus for Challenges for the Contemporary Family CEAD8302 for the Fall 2008 trimester. I have read the syllabus and have been offered an opportunity to ask questions about it. I understand, agree and realize that I am entirely responsible for completing to the requirements in this syllabus. I will be faithful to the tasks before me.

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_

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