

Syllabus

PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND RESEARCH WRITING WORKSHOP

PDWS 8201

Dr. Joe Sherrer and Dr. Eddie Campbell

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Winter Trimester, 2008-2009

January 8-9, 2009

NOBTS Mission Statement:

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 Purpose, Core Values, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following ways:

Core Values

- **Doctrinal Integrity-** The course will follow the confessional commitments that are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.
- **Spiritual Vitality-** The professor will teach that leadership without spiritual vitality is ineffective for the Kingdom of God.
- **Mission focus-** The mission focus of the course will center on becoming as an effective tool for service in the hands of God in the ministry to which He has called us.

- Characteristic Excellence- The professor will teach that academic preparation for improved ministry is a service to Christ and therefore should be rendered with characteristic excellence.
- Servant Leadership- The professor will teach that servant leadership is the supreme model of leadership.

Core Competencies -- The seminar will address the core competency of interpersonal skills in that the professors will challenge students to develop their interpersonal communication in ministry through enhanced writing skills.

Course Description:

This workshop is an overview of the professional doctoral programs and an introduction to research writing. It is designed to guide students into intentionally planning their entire program and to orient them to research/writing skills in preparation for their remaining seminar work and the project in ministry. This workshop must be taken during a student's first trimester in the program.

Course Objectives:

At the conclusion of the course the student should be able to:

1. Clearly explain the NOBTS Professional Doctoral Programs.
2. Discuss rationally goals for his/her D.Min. or D.Ed.Min. program and explain how those goals fit into his/her present ministry and future ministry plans.
3. Describe in detail a plan to complete his/her D.Min. or D.Ed.Min. program.
4. Effectively utilize Turabian (6th ed.) as a stylistic guide for research writing.
5. Demonstrate basic writing skills.

Course Methodology:

1. Presentation. The professors will guide the students to an understanding of the basic principles of both the NOBTS Professional Doctoral Programs and basic research writing skills. Students will make presentations of related assignments.
2. Group Discussion. Students will dialogue about the Professional Doctoral Programs and their relationship to their respective ministries.
3. Individual Assignments. The students will complete assignments related to the philosophy of the Professional Doctoral Programs, research writing, and the study of Turabian as a stylistic guide.

Required Course Textbooks:

Books may be ordered from your choice of book stores or online sources. The handbooks are available to be downloaded from the ProDoc website.

Booth Wayne C., Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams. *The Craft of Research*. 2d. ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. (ISBN 026065685)

Doctor of Ministry Handbook or *Doctor of Educational Ministry Handbook*. (Available online – www.nobts.edu/cme)

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertation*, 6th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 6th ed., 1996. (ISBN 0-22-81627-3).. Please note: The seventh edition of Turabian has been released. The professors prefer that the sixth edition be used for this workshop. However, if the sixth edition is unavailable, students may use the seventh edition.

Course Policies and Procedures:

- 1. Program Handbook Reading:** Each student will read thoroughly the *Doctor of Ministry Handbook* or the *Doctor of Educational Ministry Handbook* (whichever is applicable) and be prepared to discuss it during all workshop sessions. The handbooks may be downloaded from the ProDoc website (www.nobts.edu/cme). **A statement that the student has completely read the handbook must be sent in with assignment 4. This statement should be mailed with a postmark no later than December 12, 2008.**
- 2. Discussion of Turabian:** Each student will study and be prepared to discuss chapters 1-5, 13, and 14 of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. Students should be prepared for this assignment at the beginning of the first workshop session.
- 3. Craft of Research Report:** Following Turabian guidelines each student will write a 3-5- page (typed, double-spaced) report on *The Craft of Research*. Students should provide a brief summary of the five major parts of the book, a discussion of the nature of research, and a discussion of ways the book will be helpful in seminars, workshops, and the Project in Ministry. The student is to send the assignment to Dr. Eddie Campbell at the address below with a postmark of no later than **December 12, 2009. Email copies will not be accepted.** Do not use chapter headings but instead use subheads (Turabian 1: 37-38, 14: 11-12).

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Note: Copies of materials for class related to research writing and using the Turabian format are available online for downloading. Be sure to print copies of these materials and bring these copies with you to the class sessions.

- 4. Intentional Plan for Completing the Degree:** Each student will submit a 4-6- page (typed, double-spaced) paper describing an intentional plan for the completion of the Professional Doctoral Program. Components of the paper should include: (1) the relationship of the program and your specialization to current and future ministry; (2) two to three personal growth goals; (3) some seminars you might like to take and a rationale for each; (4) some specialized directed studies (if any) you might like to develop and a rationale for each; (5) two to three possible project in ministry ideas; and (6) a tentative time schedule for anticipated completion of the program. **First person may be used, but otherwise the Turabian guidelines should be followed.** Do not use chapter headings but instead use subheadings (Turabian 1: 37-38, 14: 11-12). The paper must be postmarked by **December 12, 2009** and mailed to Dr. Joe Sherrer at the address below. **Email copies will not be accepted. A statement that the student has read the entire handbook should accompany this assignment.**

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- 5. Post-Seminar Assignment:** The professors will give a post-seminar assignment at the seminar which will include a brief review of some critical areas in Turabian.
- 6. Cooperative Program Course:** Please note that each student at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary must complete an orientation course on the seminary, the denomination, and the Cooperative Program in each degree program. In the ProDoc programs, this requirement is met during the Program Overview and Research Writing Workshop. The Cooperative Program course is a one academic credit hour, no cost course. Students in the Program Overview Workshop are automatically enrolled in PDRC8100, An Introduction to NOBTS, the SBC, and the Cooperative Program. Instructions will be provided during the workshop about accessing course materials and requirements.

Course Evaluation:

An evaluation of PASS or FAIL is granted for all Professional Doctoral workshops and will be determined jointly by the two professors using the following criteria:

1. The student completes all course assignments (before, during, and after) according to schedule and in a manner reflective of doctoral-level work.

2. The student attends and actively participates in all workshop sessions with a positive and enthusiastic attitude.
3. The student demonstrates a grasp of the make-up of the Professional Doctoral programs and a working knowledge of basic research writing skills.
4. NOTE: Some students who demonstrate inadequate research writing skills may be required to get additional help prior to the project in ministry stage of their program. In these cases, evaluation of the Program Overview and Research Writing Workshop will be withheld until such a requirement is fulfilled.

Course Schedule

The seminar will meet from 1:00 pm until 7:00 pm (Central Time) on Thursday, January 8, 2009. The workshop will work straight through with a supper break occurring after the session.

The workshop will also meet from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm on Friday, January 9, 2009 including a time for lunch.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO BE AT BOTH OF THESE SESSIONS.

Note: As a part of the **Program Overview and Research Writing Workshop** students also take a one hour course *Introduction to the NOBTS, the SBC, and the Cooperative Program*. This no cost course is taken online and is required for all degree programs at the seminary. Instructions for meeting this requirement will be discussed during the Program Overview Workshop.
