



CEAD 6358 Ministry with Older Adults  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Christian Education Division

**Professor Name**

Professor Title

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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 and its ministries.*

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**Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the programs, resources, and organizational structures an older adult ministry of a local church.

**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 worshipping 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 2013-2014 academic year that Core Value is *Doctrinal Integrity*.

**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 ministry of older adults.

## **Course Description**

The characteristics and needs of older adults are a primary part of this study. Possible programs churches may use in ministry with aging persons are considered.

## **Learning Objectives**

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

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

Gallagher, David P. *Senior Adult Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Step-By-Step Strategies for Reaching People Over 50*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2002.

Houston, James M. and Michael Parker. *A Vision for the Aging Church: Renewing Ministry for and by Seniors*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

Hanson, Amy. *Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults over 50*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

### **Units of Study**

Unit 1 Life Stages

Unit 2 American Generations

Unit 3 An Ageist Zeitgeist

Unit 4 New Ways to Think About Aging

Unit 5 Aging Well

Unit 6 Aging Successfully: Realities and Myths

Unit 7 Cultural Realities

Unit 8 Learning and Needs of Older Adults

Unit 9 The Portrait of a Mature Christian Senior-Elder

Unit 10 Reaching Senior Adults for Christ

Unit 11 Describing Older Adults in the Church

Unit 12 Planning and Implementation of a Senior Adult Ministry

Unit 13 Review / Student Presentations

Unit 14 Student Presentations

**Teaching Method.**

This course will utilize lecture, group presentations, and an interactive discovery-learning format

**Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

**Course Requirements**

**Senior Adult Surveys - 25%**

Students should interview five adults over the age of 60 to determine needs and interests. The survey form for students to use will be discussed in class. Each survey should be summarized in narrative form. Finally, students should determine implications for ministry based on the compilation of the surveys. (1/2 page typed double-spaced format for each survey and 2 pages for implications – 5 pages total)

**Program/Ministry Reports – 25%**

Students will participate in a group project to highlight the church program ministry organizations or specialized ministries that relate to the needs of older adults and form important building blocks for a senior adult ministry. In small groups students will prepare a 45-minute presentation for the class on the components of the program organization or ministry, the unique aspects related to older adults, and the administration and incorporation of the organization or ministry into the overall senior adult ministry. Groups may choose from the following programs or ministries:

- Ministries in nursing homes or assisted living centers
- Senior adults trips and retreats
- Older adults and mission activity involvement
- Homebound ministries

**Issues of Aging/Ministry Plan Paper & Presentation – 30%**

Students will select an issue related to aging as the focus of research. The paper should provide an overview of the issue and a plan for ministry relevant to the issue. The body of the research paper should be 12-14 pages and typed (double-spaced) according to Turabian. All paper topics should be submitted to the professor by February 15. Students will present the finding of

their research in class on the assigned days; each student will have 15-20 minutes for their presentations.

### **Classroom Decorum and Engagement – 20%**

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 online threads and dialogues throughout the full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not engaged in the online dialogues on the WEEKLY subject matter. Consequently, the student is expected to:

- Post answers, comments, and questions on the discussion board threads. (Minimum of 2-3 posts each week)
- Provide on-going biblical, philosophical, or social science research to support your assertions.
- Reflect on an idea presented in one of the textbooks.
- Relate an example or story that conveys an application to the thread.

## **Course Policies**

### **Late Assignments**

Assignments not submitted *on th due dates* are considered late and will be automatically penalized 10% for each date 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 2011-2012 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**

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- Allen, Lynn. *Active Older Adults: Ideas for Action*. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics, 1999.
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- Bettelheim, Adriel. *Aging in America A to Z*. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2001.
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- Boynes, Peggy. *Evangelism for Older People*. Cambridge: Grove, 1999.
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- Carlson, Dossia. *Engaging in Ministry with Older Adults*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 1997.
- Curb, Dolph L., Ben E. Dickerson, Carolyn D. Spears, and Robert W. Trotter. *Growing Older, Growing Wiser: A Guide to Healthier Senior Years*. Nashville: Family Touch Press, 1993.
- Deane, Barbara. *Caring for Your Aging Parents: When Love is not Enough*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1990.
- Elliott, Nancy. *Golden Opportunities: Ministry Ideas for Senior Adults*. Birmingham, AL: Woman's Missionary Union, 2000.
- Fitten, L. J. *Alzheimer's Disease*. New York: Springer Publishing Co., 1996.
- Hannaford, Mary Joe and Michael Popkin. *Windows: Healing and Helping Through Loss*. Atlanta: Active Parenting, Inc., 1992.
- Hansen, Linda B. and Betsy Pittard Styles. *And the Song Goes On: Older Adults in Music Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Johnson, Colleen L. and Barbara M. Barer. *Life Beyond 85 Years: The Aura of Survivorship*. New York: Springer Publishing Co., 1997.

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- Knapp, James L. "The Impact of Congregation: Related Variables on Programs for Senior Adult Members." *Journal of Applied Gerontology* 20, no. 1 (2001): 24-38.
- Koenig, Harold G. and Andrew J. Weaver. *Pastoral Care of Older Adults*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1998.
- MacKinlay, Elizabeth, James W. Ellor and Stephen Pickard. *Aging, Spirituality, and Pastoral Care: A Multi-National Perspective*. New York: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2001.
- McDonald, Patricia Alpaugh and Margaret Haney. *Counseling the Older Adult: A Training Manual in Clinical Gerontology*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997.
- Moberg, David O., ed. *Aging and Spirituality: Spiritual Dimensions of Aging Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy*. New York: The Haworth Pastoral Press, 2001.
- Shaw, Amit A., A. Lynn Snow and Mary E. Kunik. "Spiritual and Religious Coping in Caregivers of Patients with Alzheimer's Disease." *Clinical Gerontologist* 24, no. 3/4 (2001): 127-136.
- Shelly, Judith Allen. *Spiritual Care: A Guide for Caregivers*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.
- Simmons, Henry C. and Jane Wilson. *Soulful Aging: Ministry Through the Stages of Adulthood*. Macon, GA: Smyth & Helwys Publishing, 2001.
- Smick, Timothy S. *Eldercare for the Christian Family*. Dallas: Word, 1990.
- Temple, Todd, and Tracy Green. *52 Ways to Show Aging Parents You Care*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Inc., 1992.
- Watkins, Derrel R. *Practical Theology for Aging*. New York: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2003.
- Watson, Jeffery A. *Courage to Care: Helping the Aging, Grieving, and Dying*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992.