



Recreation and Sports Ministry CERW6371
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
Spring 2017

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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.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values: Doctrinal Integrity, Spiritual Vitality, Mission Focus, Characteristic Excellence, and Servant Leadership. The core value focus for this academic year is *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.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

1. *Servant leadership*: In the midst of recreation and sports programs and activities, a servant leader models character qualities reflecting a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.
2. *Interpersonal Skills*: Relationship skills are vital to communication among recreation ministry staff, volunteers, and participants.
3. *Disciple making*: Multiplying one's efforts through leader training and mentoring extends the impact of recreation and sports ministries.

Course Description

The functions of recreation and sports ministry as well as its practices are studied. Attention is given to compiling recreational materials and planning various types of programs.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to to accomplish the following:

- Cognitive: Students will be able to the difference between leisure and recreation and, more specifically, the characteristics and misconceptions of recreation, especially as they relate to a ministry setting. Students also will be acquainted with the purpose of games in group building and teaching with a variety of age groups.
- Affective: Students will be challenged to grasp the urgency of creating environments to share the gospel through sports and social recreation. Students will value ministry through sports and recreation.
- Psychomotor: Students will be able to analyze the recreation options presented during the semester, and provide the purpose and rationale of individual components of a year-round recreation program for a local church.

Textbooks

Garner, John, ed. *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003.

Course Teaching Methodology

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS

Introduction to Sports and Recreation Ministry / Cultural Context
Biblical Foundations of Recreation and Sports Ministry
Historical Foundations of Recreation and Sports Ministry
Recreation and Sports for All Ages (Developmental Issues)
Social Recreation: The Anatomy of Big Events
Ethics of Competition in a Ministry Setting

UNIT 2: ADMINISTRATION

Organization of Sports and Recreation Ministry
Administration of Sports and Recreation Ministry
Programming: Process and Theory
Recreation Facilities: Design and Programming
Legal Issues: Risk Management for Churches
Care and Feeding of Volunteers
Evangelism in Sports and Recreation Ministry

UNIT 3: PUZZLE PIECES

Sports Ministry: League-Based and Event-Based
Student Presentations on Research Topics

UNIT 4: THE MINISTER

Professional Conduct
Ministry Possibilities

This course may be taught in multiple styles: on-campus, internet, hybrid, or internet, using methods most appropriate for the applicable delivery system.

Course Requirements

Recreation Research Project and Presentation 20%

Choose a topic (from the list provided or another subject approved by instructor). You will record your choice in the Research Project wiki by the second week of class. Periodic reports on your progress will be requested to eliminate last-minute papers. Your research will be compiled in a paper (double-spaced, Turabian format expected, 8-10 page minimum, no less than 10 credible resources) *and* a power-point presentation. **Due date: April 22**

Learn-Ministry-by-Planning-Ministry Project 20%

Analyze the recreation options presented during the semester, and provide the purpose and rationale of individual components for a year-round recreation program for a local church. Consider everything from registration to celebration! General 'puzzle pieces' should include social recreation, sports, crafts, fitness/wellness, and special interest offerings. **Due Date: May 10**

Class Participation 20%

Each week you will be directed to a particular unit of study in which you are expected to complete the related assignments. These assignments may include (but are not limited to) regular reading assignments, discussion boards, blogs, journals, power points, and quizzes. I will assign you to lead particular chapter discussions (probably in alphabetical order). The week of your chapter, you will need to email me on Monday and provide a significant and relevant question that I will post in the Discussion Board for your classmates will interact about. As chapter leader, you are expected to comment on classmates comments as well. Quizzes on reading assignments also should be expected periodically (and factored into the weekly class participation grade). Attached please find the rubric for unit assignments/class participation.

Interview Project

20%

You will interview three recreation ministers from different Southern Baptist churches or ministries, and submit a typed-report (6-8 page). Choose between a verbatim or summary format. At the end of *each* interview report, please include a wrap-up section with a brief discussion of three take-away points. **Due Date: March 26 or sooner**

Final Exam

20%

The final exam will go on-line the weekend before graduation (look for an announcement on Blackboard). Graduating seniors will need to complete the exam by Monday 5 p.m. of exam week; all other students will have until Wednesday 5 p.m. of exam week. There are no early or late finals. Throughout the semester, you will find resources that the rest of us may benefit from. I expect everyone to post on our course wiki board no less than seven unique and credible resources (websites, books, journals, etc.) by the last week of class. Your contributions will be factored into your final exam as 20% of the grade. **Due Date: May 10**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

<i>Recreation Research Project and Presentation</i>	20%
<i>Learn-Ministry-by-Planning-Ministry Project</i>	20%
<i>Class Participation</i>	20%
<i>Interview Project</i>	20%
<i>Final Exam</i>	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. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
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.

Attendance Requirements

You are expected to participate in this on-line class on a weekly basis. Some assignments are set for adaptive release (meaning, that you need to do a previous assignment to move on to the next one; for example, you need to read the assigned chapter before you take a chapter quiz).

Assignment Deadline

A general policy at NOBTS is that you are expected to turn in all of your assignments at the beginning of the class on the days/weeks they are due. Because most of your assignments involve a presentation or exam, you must follow through on this expectation. If you are not able to do this, you should contact the instructor immediately to discuss alternative options, but you will not receive any grade higher than a C on the late project.

Instructor Response Time

The instructor will strive to answer email and grade assignments in a timely manner.

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.

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

January 23	<i>Foundations: Week 1 - Introductory Matters</i>
January 30	<i>Foundations: Week 2 - Cultural Context & the Gospel</i> Chapter 1: "Introduction to Recreation and Sports Ministry"
February 6	<i>Foundations: Week 3 – Biblical Foundations</i> Chapter 2: "Biblical Foundations of Sports Ministry"
February 13	<i>Foundations: Week 4 – Historical Foundations</i> Chapter 3: "A History of Modern Church Recreation..."
February 20	<i>Foundations: Week 5 – Recreation through the Lifespan</i> Chapter 10: "Rec & Sports Ministry for All Ages" Social Recreation
February 27	<i>Foundations: Week 6 – Ethics of Competition</i> Chapter 9: "Ethics of Competition in a Church Setting" The Anatomy of Games
March 6	<i>Administration: Week 7 – Organization</i> Chapter 5: "Organization of Rec and Sports Ministry"
March 13	<i>SPRING BREAK</i>
March 20	<i>Administration: Week 8 – Administration & Programming</i> Chapter 6: "Rec and Sports Ministry Administration in a Church Setting" Chapter 7: "Rec and Sports Ministry Programming..." Interviews Due March 26, 2017 or sooner
March 27	<i>Administration: Week 9 - Facilities</i> Recreation Facilities: Design and Programming
April 3	<i>Administration: Week 10 – Risk Management</i> Legal Issues: Risk Management for Churches
April 10	<i>Administration: Week 11 – Volunteers / Evangelism</i> Chapter 8: "Rec and Sports Min: An Evangelistic Approach"
April 17	<i>Puzzle Pieces: Week 12 – Student Research Papers</i> Sports Ministry & Evangelism: League-Based and Event-Based Papers Due by Saturday, April 22*
April 24	<i>Puzzle Pieces: Week 13 – Student Presentations</i> Reading & reviewing each other's papers; topic discussion boards
May 1	<i>The Minister: Week 14 - The Minister as a Professional</i> Chapter 4: "The Rec & Sports Minister as a Professional" Exploring Ministry Possibilities
May 8	<i>Final Exam due by May 10, 2017.</i> <i>Learn-Ministry-by-Planning-Ministry Project due by May 10, 2017.</i>

Selected Bibliography

This selected bibliography is only a beginning. Be prepared to add to it as different programming areas are covered through the course of the term. Be sure to include title, author, and publisher."

Altrogge, Stephen. *Game Day for the Glory of God: A Guide for Athletes, Fans, and Wannabes*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Baack, Sharon, Hal Hill, and Joe Palmer. *Adventure Recreation: An Adventure in Group Building*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1989.

Baack, Sharon and Brad Smith. *Adventure Recreation 2*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Blanton, Gail. *Scripts to Reach In and Out*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1993.

Capps, Michael W. *Screamers and Scramblers*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Cordes, Kathleen A. and Hilmi M. Ibrahim. *Applications in Recreation & Leisure for Today and The Future*. Boston: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1999.

Ellis, Robert. *The Games People Play: Theology, Religion, and Sport*. Indianapolis, IN: Wipf and Stock, 2014.

Ettinger, Walter H., Brenda S. Mitchell, and Steven N. Blair. *Fitness After 50: It's Never Too Late to Start!* St. Louis: Beverly Cracom Publications, 1996.

Garner, John, ed. *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003.

Harvey, Lincoln. *A Brief Theology of Sport*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.

Heintzman, Paul. *Leisure and Spirituality: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspectives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.

_____, Glen Van Andel, and Thomas Visker (eds). *Christianity and Leisure: Issues in a Pluralistic Society*. Sioux City, IA: Dordt College Press, 2006 (rev).

Hicks, Joe and Michelle. *The Retreat Notebook*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1995.

Hoffman, Shirl James. *Good Game: Christianity and the Culture of Sport*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.

Jackson, Allen and Judi. *The Retreat Notebook 2*. Nashville: Convention Press, 2000.

Kluck, Ted. *The Reason for Sport: A Christian Fanifesto*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.

Ladd, Tony, and James A. Mathisen. *Muscular Christianity: Evangelical Protestants and the Development of American Sport*. Grand Rapids, MI: BridgePoint Books, 1999.

Mahaney, C.J. *Don't Waste Your Sports*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Messenger, Troy. *Holy Leisure: Recreation and Leisure in God's Square Mile*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2000.

Miniard, Linda. *Games That Teach*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1993.

Newman, Wendell T. *Guidebook for Planning Church Recreation Facilities, 2d ed.* John Garner. Nashville: Sunday School Board, 1992.

Quatro, Steve. *Intentional Outreach: A Guide to Simple Church Sports Ministry*. Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2009.

Raus, Bob. *Ministry Through Camping*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1990. (Out of print)

Rice, Wayne and Mike Yaconelli. *Play It! and Play It Again!* Grand Rapids: Youth Specialties/Zondervan.

Russell, Ruth V. *Planning Programs in Recreation*. St. Louis, MO: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1982.

Siler, George. *Games with A Purpose*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Smith, Greg S. *Sports Theology: Finding God's Winning Spirit*. Indianapolis, IN: Dog Ear Publishing, LLC: 2010.

Yessick, Tommy. *Sports Ministry for Churches*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1996.

Project/Presentation Topics

The Ministry of Retreats

Family Camp

Day Camping

Outdoor Camping

Resort Ministry

Recreation without a Facility

After-School Program

Performing Arts/Drama

Health/Wellness Ministry

Crafts Ministry

Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities

Puppet/Clowning Ministry

Recreation and Senior Adults

Recreation in Women's Ministry

Adventure Recreation

Intergenerational Recreation Issues & Ideas

Recreation in a Missions Setting

Using Extreme Sports/Games in Ministry

Each of the areas listed above has a valid place in recreation and sports ministry. Take your project area and make it grow. Research it inside and out. What purpose does it serve? How does it fit into the overall church recreation program? Who is it for? Where will it take place? What benefits will its participants experience? How will it be promoted? Give at least one significant example (more if appropriate) of this area at work. One good way to research your area is to talk with people who have done (or are doing) work related to it. You will be graded on information as well as creativity. Be sure to include footnotes and bibliography.

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Grading Criteria for Unit Assignments (Internet/Hybrid)

Each unit is worth 7 points and is graded according to the following rubric:

7 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed all unit assignments by the due date. • Original thoughts presented in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Clear, succinct, and complete presentation of ideas. • Reference to reading assignments, when appropriate.
6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed all unit assignments by the due date. • Original thoughts presented in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Mostly clear, succinct, and complete presentation of ideas. • Reference to reading assignments, when appropriate.
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 90% of unit assignments by the due date. • Some original thoughts, some repeated ideas from others in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Information presented not always clear or succinct. • Concepts described fully or communicated effectively.
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 80% of unit assignments by the due date. • Some original thoughts, some repeated ideas from others in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Information presented not always clear or succinct. • Concepts not described fully or communicated effectively.
3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 70% of unit assignments by the due date. • Weak presentation of ideas as evidenced by poor organization, lack of clarity, and ineffective communication of concepts.
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 50% of unit assignments by the due date. • Weak presentation of ideas as evidenced by poor organization, lack of clarity, and ineffective communication of concepts.
1 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 25% of unit assignments by the due date. • Minimal effort on all assignments completed.
0 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed less than 25% of unit assignments.