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.

**Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the programs, resources, and organizational structures to enhance the family life education/ministry of a local church, including work with married couples, parents, and single and senior adults. The course also supports the core value of spiritual vitality as it helps students evaluate how to build spiritual vitality into family systems within the local church through its ministries. 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 family as an integrated system.

**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 worshiping 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 family as an integrated system.

Course Description
In this course, the Southern Baptist program of Family Ministry is studied and analyzed. Subjects dealt with include the scope and biblical basis of family ministry, premarital education, and education for family living, including marriage enrichment and parent education. The relationships of family ministry to the total educational programs of churches are studied, methods are discussed, and resources are identified.

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

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


Course Teaching Methodology
Units of Study

Unit 1 Introductions

Unit 2 Theology of family ministry

Unit 3 Nuclear, troubled and intimate units

Unit 4 Today’s families

Unit 5 Biblical families
Unit 6 Features of biblical marriages
Unit 7 Features of biblical parenting and children
Unit 8 Marriage and family as complimentary
Unit 9 A minister’s home
Unit 10 The local church as family
Unit 11 Family ministry in the local church
Unit 12 Intergenerational/inter-demographical issues for family ministry
Unit 13 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

Annotated Bibliography – 20%
Create a two or three sentence single-spaced annotation for each of the course texts. Each Annotated Bibliography should contain the correct format as cited in Turabian 9.36 with the addition of the number of pages of the referenced work at the end of the citation. Each annotation that follows should contain your appraisal and considerations on the text, not just a synopsis of the text. Following the annotation, indicate whether or not you read the text in its entirety.

Critical Reflection Paper – 40%
Create a critical reflection paper identifying 8-10 adult education principles that you deem important to adult ministry in the local church. Support your choice of principles with information from the course readings and additional research, as well as ministry and life experiences. (You must be able to validate your experience.) These principles should guide your understanding, evaluation, and research of education and discipleship systems utilized in local churches. Present your findings in a 10 page paper. Pay close attention to the Assignment Formatting section of this syllabus!

Ministry Model – 40%
Based on the theoretical foundations laid in class, the principles identified in your critical reflection paper, and on personal research, develop a model or matrix of ministry to families. This model should highlight the principles that you consider important in adult ministry and how these principles can be implemented within the local church. Write a 5-page paper, which
provides an explanation and rationale for your model. Your ministry model will be presented in class via PowerPoint presentation and one page handout for classmates.

**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**


**Adolescent Ministry**


Adult Issues and Ministry Practice

Adult Development


Adult Learning


Intergenerational Religious Education


Senior Adult Ministry


Single Adult Ministry


Family Issues


Understanding and Ministering to/with Families


