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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to equip children’s ministers to plan effectively for children with special needs.

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 2012-2013 academic year that Core Value is *Servant Leadership*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competency:

1. *Interpersonal relationships:* Students will develop sensitivity to children with special needs, their families, and the opportunity to develop ministry relationships.
2. *Disciple making:* Students will be equipped to lead children with special needs in spiritual experiences.
Course Description

This course will address the theology of ministry to children with special needs. Foci include types of special needs, proper terminology, trends in special needs ministry and the role of the church in ministering to children with special needs and their families.

Learning Objectives

The student will:
1. Develop a philosophy of ministry to children with special needs.
2. Recognize basic characteristics of children with differing special needs.
3. Appreciate how a child’s special needs impact the family unit and how the church can minister to the family.
4. Develop an individualized plan of inclusion for a child with special needs.

Required Readings

The following text is required reading for class discussions and is to be read in its entirety.

Required Texts


Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study
Biblical Perspective
Inclusion/Accomodation
Physical Disabilities
Mental Disabilities
Autism
Asperger’s Syndrome
ADHD
Learning Disabilities
Behavioral Disorders
Environment
Respite Care

Teaching Method. This class will include lecture, student presentations, field work, and individual assignments. This course is being taught on campus in a regular class.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Book Review: (15%)
The students will submit a three to five-page review of the textbook. Include the following:
- Biographical sketch of author
A brief synopsis of the book
Personal reflections
  o Several examples from the book to which you could relate.
  o Discuss something that you questioned, agreed or disagreed with.
  o Relate what you felt or experienced while reading the book
Evaluation
  o Put the book in the context of its importance and/or its connection to the class.
  o Critically consider the information.
  o Was it well written?
  o Was the information credible?
  o Would you recommend this book to someone else? Why?
  o How has or will this book impact your ministry to children and families?

**Presentation/Paper:** (30%)
Each student will be assigned an area of special need to research and present to the class. Each presentation should be approximately 30 minutes in length. The student should prepare a handout for classmates giving a brief overview of the area of special need and offering suggestions for inclusion and ministry. From the research discovered, the student will write a five to seven-page paper which addresses the characteristics of the special need and opportunities for ministry. Presentations and papers will be due at the time that the class is scheduled to review that particular topic. The professor will assign the specific date.

**Interview Verbatims and Paper:** (Verbatims: 60%; Paper: 40%. Total Value=25%)
The students will interview the parents of five children with special needs and seek to discover how having a child with special needs has impacted their family. Students will seek to discover how the parents feel the church has or could minister to their family. Interviews should be reported as verbatims. Students will prepare a one-two-page paper synthesizing their experiences and discoveries.

**Individualized Plan:** (30%)
The professor will assign each student a case study of a child with special needs and a local church profile. The student will develop an individualized plan for including that child in the programming of that church.

**Course Policies**

**Assignments:** All assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated. **Assignments are not to be emailed to the professor of grader.** Late assignments will not be accepted.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is critical to the learning experience. Each student’s participation in class discussion, role plays, and other group assignments is vital. Per NOBTS policy, a student may be absent from this class a maximum of 6 class hours. A student who is absent in excess of 6 hours will receive a grade of F for the course.

**Blackboard and SelfServe:** The student is responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on the Blackboard system and SelfServe. Grades will be posted to Blackboard.
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.
### Course Schedule

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Selected Bibliography


