



# Recreation and Sports Ministry CERW 6371

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Christian Education Division

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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 overview the value of sports and recreation ministry in church, community, and mission settings.

### **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**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies: (Include only those competencies address in your course.)

1. *Effective 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 relationships*: 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.

### **Learning Objectives**

At the conclusion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate understanding in the following areas:

- 1) The difference between leisure and recreation and, more specifically, the characteristics and misconceptions of recreation, especially as they relate to a ministry setting;
- 2) The purpose of games in group building and teaching with a variety of age groups;
- 3) The appropriate use of sports in ministry with particular attention given to the program Upward Basketball;
- 4) The purpose of a recreation facility and how a church can maximize its recreation ministry with and without a facility;
- 5) The inreach and outreach opportunities of social recreation for the local congregation and community;
- 6) The resources available for the recreation areas discussed during the class.

The student also should 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.

### **Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

## **Required Texts**

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

## **Optional Texts**

Conner, Ray. *The Ministry of Recreation*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1992.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

### **Units of Study**

Week 1: Introduction to Sports and Recreation Ministry

Week 2: Recreation and Sports for All Ages (Developmental Issues)

Week 3: Biblical and Historical Foundations of Recreation and Sports Ministry

Weeks 4-5: Student Presentations on Research Topics

Week 6: Recreation Facilities: Design and Programming

Week 7: Legal Issues: Risk Management for Churches

Week 7: Organization of Sports and Recreation Ministry

Week 8: Administration of Sports and Recreation Ministry

Week 9: Programming: Process and Theory

Week 10: Evangelism in Sports and Recreation Ministry

Week 11: Social Recreation: The Anatomy of Big Events

Week 12: Care and Feeding of Volunteers

Week 13: Ethics of Competition in a Ministry Setting

Week 14: The Recreation and Sports Minister as a Professional

**Teaching Method.** This course may be taught in multiple styles: on-campus, internet, hybrid, or internet.

## **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

*Recreation Project and Presentation* 20%

Choose a topic (from the list provided or another subject approved by instructor); (6-8 page minimum), double-spaced. Turabian format expected. Due dates will be assigned by instructor.

*Learn-Ministry-by-Doing-Ministry Project* 20%

Help to plan and implement NOBTS Fun Fest, the annual campus-wide recreation event, in conjunction with the NOBTS Recreation Center and Student Life office. (Or another social recreation event as approved by instructor.) A written plan of action as well as follow-up evaluation of the event is required by the team.

*Reading Assignment* 20%

You will receive regular reading assignments, and are expected to read and be prepared for active discussion on each of these chapters. You will also be assigned specific chapter(s) to present and initiate discussion among your class members. At the end of the semester, you will be asked to submit a signed statement indicating what percentage of the textbook you have read. Quizzes on reading assignments also should be expected.

*Interview Project* 20%

You will interview three recreation ministers from three different Southern Baptist churches and submit a typed-report (6-8 page minimum).

*Final Exam* 20%

### **Course Policies**

#### **Attendance Requirements**

*For Semester-Length Class:* Because this is a 2-credit class, you are allowed 6 hours of absences. After the 6th hour of absence, your attendance record will be submitted to the Registrar's Office to determine your future in the class. Remember arriving late to class or leaving early = a tardy, and 3 tardies = 1 absence.

#### **Assignment Deadline**

A general policy at NOBTS is that you are expected to turn in all of your assignments in a timely fashion (at the beginning of the class on the days they are due). Because all 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. If you cannot turn in the project before the last day of class, you will receive an F in that aspect of the course.

#### **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.

## Course Schedule

See Course Methodology for Units of Study.

## 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. A possible final exam question: "List five recreation and sports ministry resources you have discovered during this term. Be sure to include title, author, and publisher."

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.

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

Garner, John, ed. *Recreation & Sports Ministry Newsletter*. Nashville: LifeWay Christian Resources, published monthly.

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

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

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

Raus, Bob. *Ministry Through Camping*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1990.

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

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

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

Competition-Centered Sports Evangelism  
(Ministry using Sports Leagues)

Event-Centered Sports Evangelism

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.