Support Groups for Women    CEWM 5166
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.

Purpose of the Course
The purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of how support groups can strengthen the women’s 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 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:

1. Biblical Exposition: The student will explore biblical teachings about small groups for ministry.
2. *Christian Theological Heritage:* The student will explore theological and historical background for small groups.

3. *Disciple Making:* The student will learn to facilitate spiritual growth in Christian women.

4. *Interpersonal Skills:* The student will improve interpersonal and ministry skills.

5. *Servant Leadership:* The student will discover how to provide support groups for women in the church and community.

6. *Spiritual and Character Formation:* The student will develop personal and spiritual maturity as she learns to lead support groups.

7. *Worship Leadership:* The student will increase skills for training others in support groups for women.

## Course Description

This course is designed to explore how support groups sponsored by the women’s ministry can meet the needs of women in the church and community. The following topics about groups will be explored: scriptural basis, Jesus and groups, historical background, need, advantages/disadvantages, dynamics, formation, leadership, types, support groups, roles, problems, stages, and termination of groups.

## Learning Objectives

By the completion of this course, each student should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Be aware of a scriptural basis for groups.
2. Have knowledge of the historical background of groups in the church.
3. Identify the needs for groups in the church.
4. Understand the dynamics for groups.
5. Evaluate possible leadership styles for groups.
6. Discuss various groups available to/for women.
7. Develop a plan for a specific support group in the local church.
8. Evaluate their own group leadership styles.

## 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. Topics will include:
1. Biblical Basis for Groups
2. Historical Background for Groups
3. Need for Groups
4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Groups
5. Leadership of Groups
6. Types of Groups
7. Dynamics of Groups
8. Formation of Groups
9. Support Groups
10. Roles in Groups/Skills for Group Leadership
11. Problems in Groups
12. Stages of Groups
13. Termination of Group
14. Celebration

Teaching Method. This course will utilize lecture and interactive discovery-learning and will be team-taught. The student should expect different presentation formats to enhance the learning motif.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria
1. Students will attend class as stated in the graduate catalog.
2. Students will participate in class discussion and attend an extra class session for discussion and dialogue with graduate students.
3. Students will read assigned textbooks and provide a written statement of completion.
4. Students will develop one group presently needed in their church.

Group Plan Report

Students will write a description of a specific group needed in your church. Write a plan to develop this support group. The plan should include the following section headings: biblical basis, historical basis, need for the group, recruitment of members, formation of the group, structure of first meeting, plan for eight sessions and plans for termination.

This plan should be ten to fifteen pages, typed double spaced following A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations by Kate Turabian, published by University of Chicago Press. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to begin it in your church.

5. Students will complete a take-home examination.

The textbook reading statement, report, and final exam should be mailed to Dr. Rhonda Kelley, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 or emailed to rkelley@nobts.edu. Requirements must be received by the end of each semester or the student will receive a course grade of an “F”. Students should notify the professor if assignments will be late and may request an incomplete in
the course in case of emergency. See the graduate catalog for details about the request process.

**Course Evaluation**

This course will follow the grading system for the Graduate School.

- **A=93-100**  
  ¼ = Class Attendance/Class Participation
- **B=85-92**  
  ¼ = Textbook Reading
- **C=77-84**  
  ¼ = Group Plan
- **D=70-76**  
  ¼ = Take home final exam
- **F=Below 70**

**Course Policies**

The student will be expected to have access to online resources to download teaching and presentation documents in the Seminary’s BlackBoard system.

Students who choose to present assignments via electronic mediums need to present those documents in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format. WordPerfect and PDF files will not be accepted for grade via electronic format.

The absence policy of the Seminary will be strictly enforced. For a 3-hour course, the student may miss no more than 9 hours of instruction. Examinations and case studies will be given and graded on the days announced. The concept of a make-up examination does not exist.

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**

**Session One**
- Welcome/Orientation/Registration
- Introduction
- Biblical Basis for Groups

**Session Two**
- Historical Background for Groups

**Session Three**
Need for Groups
Session Four
   Advantages and Disadvantages of Groups
Session Five
   Leadership of Groups
Session Six
   Types of Groups
Session Seven
   Dynamics of Groups
Session Eight
   Formation of Groups
Session Nine
   Support Groups
Session Ten
   Roles in Groups/Skills for Group Leadership
Session Eleven
   Problems in Groups
Session Twelve
   Stages of Groups
Session Thirteen
   Termination of Group
Session Fourteen
   Celebration

Selected Bibliography


Briscoe, Jill, et al. Designing Effective Women’s Ministries. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan,


