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 the student an opportunity for study in a particular area of Christian ministry that is outside the normal curriculum offerings in the current catalog.

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. Biblical exposition: Facets of biblical critical analysis will be explored as it relates to the topic of study.
2. Theological and historical perspective: Elements of how the subject relate to the church or Christian environment will be examined.
3. Effective servant leadership: How the topic relates to the function of the church and the interrelationships of leadership and ministry will be analyzed.
4. Interpersonal relationships: The integration of effective and efficient ministry will be coupled with critical elements of how the Body of Christ functions as a whole will be determined.
5. Disciple making: How Christian ministry relates to and responds to the call of the Great Commission will be examined.
6. Worship leadership: Facets of individual and corporate worship will be described and explored from the perspective of Christian Education.
7. Spiritual and character formation: Transformational growth will be the focus of the learning experience.

**Course Description**
A learning experience that allows the student to research and explore an academic venue not covered by an academic course in the current catalog. Students will follow the guidelines established in the Seminary Admissions and Academic Policy section of the current Catalog. Independent directed studies include reading, writing, and research projects done under the direction of a seminary faculty member. With appropriate approval, the independent study course may be taken in lieu of a required or elective course for the degree. A single independent study will be allowed per degree and/or concentration. Evaluation and grading of the independent study will be the responsibility of the professor with which the contract was established.

**Learning Objectives**
The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:
1. The student will gain knowledge and understanding of the topic of study.
2. The student will develop an appreciation and value for the topic of study.
3. The student will gain skills and practical application of the topic of study.

**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**
As defined by the individual professor in the proposal of study below.

**Course Teaching Methodology**
In cooperation with the approved Faculty member, the student will complete the following application for proposal of study:

*Proposal for Independent Directed Study*

**Statement of Purpose**
(Include knowledge, perspective, and skill goals in this section.)

**Rationale**
(Include the purpose for taking the Independent Directed Study. The rationale for the study should include how the course will contribute to degree/concentration success.)

**Description of the Proposed Independent Directed Study**
(Provide a detailed description of the assignments prescribed by the professor. Units of study, directed reading, and project expectations should be clearly identified. While the student might suggest topics or focus of study, the acceptance of the directed study rests with the requirements as defined by the academic professor. A schedule of meetings will be provided.)

**Time Commitment**
(Include the weekly time commitment to be made by the student. Include the dates of the study. Remember that all work must be completed one week prior to the end of the semester or summer term. A Directed Study taken in the summer must cover either
Evaluation
(List the grading percentages for each assignment given in the Description section.)

Instructions to the Faculty Member
1. Modify and/or change proposal to meet degree/concentration goals and approve.
2. Complete coversheet and attach the proposal.
3. Note on coversheet how this IDS satisfies degree/concentration requirements. Forward to the CE Division Office two days before the end of registration for classes.

Additional Student Instructions and Information
1. Refer to the Catalog for policy regarding individualized study by the student.
2. Upon notification of approval, verify the Independent Directed Study course number with Registrar’s Office.
3. Forward payment to Registrar’s Office or notify them that you will be utilizing money on your Seminary account.
4. Failure to register for the Independent Directed Study course by the registration deadline will result in a late fee charge if the study is approved.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria
Evaluation of the course will be defined in the Proposal of Study approved by the Dean, Graduate Studies.

Course Policies
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.

The proposal of for independent study will be initiated by the student in cooperation with the CE Division Faculty member. The following document will be submitted as a coversheet for submission to the Dean, Graduate Studies for approval:

Proposal for Independent Directed Study in ______________________
(Insert course number and title from the Catalog here)
(This IDS satisfies the requirements for the degree: ____ or concentration in ____)
Presented to
Dr. Jerry N. Barlow,
Dean of Graduate Studies
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
by
(Student’s Name)

Approved (please sign on the line provided):

(Chairperson’s name here)(date signed) (Professor’s name here)(date signed)
(Division’s name here)  

______________________________
Dr. Jerry N. Barlow,            
Dean of Graduate Studies

______________________________
(Student’s name here)(date signed)

Phone
Email
Address

Semester or Summer Term

Projected Academic Credit

Date of Final Approval

Date IDS Approval Mailed to Professor, Registrar, and Student

(Date of Final Approval)

Date Submitted (to the Professor)

(Revised 2008)

**Course Schedule**

A schedule for completion of the Independent Directed Studies will be part of the Proposal for Independent Studies submitted by the student and approved by the Dean, Graduate Studies.

**Selected Bibliography**

A syllabus will be provided by the CE Faculty to assist the student in accomplishing the Independent Directed Studies.