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**
Children and the Christian Faith is designed to equip students in the area of helping each child experience and respond to God at his/her own level of development.

**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 seeks to develop the following competency:

Disciple-making: Students will understand and facilitate the spiritual formation of children.
**Course Description**

In this course the student is exposed to approaches for developing ministries for children and parents, which will better equip the child to experience and respond to God at his own level of understanding.

**Learning Objectives**

The student will be able to:
1. Identify and evaluate strategies that will facilitate the spiritual formation of children.
2. Appreciate the significance of family and cultural influences on children’s spiritual formation.
3. Facilitate a child’s spiritual formation from a sound theological and developmental perspective.

**Required Readings**

The following texts are to be read in their entirety:

**Course Teaching Methodology**

**Units of Study**
- The Bible and Children
- Spiritual Foundations
- Biblical Worldview
- Media Evaluation
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Perspectives on the Salvation of Children
- Ordinances
- Choosing a Bible
- Family Missions and Ministry
- Worship
- Spiritual Formation

**Teaching Method.** This class will include group discussions, field experiences, lecture, and student presentations. The delivery method of this class is on campus in class.

**Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

1. Reading/Group Discussion: Students will participate in a group-led discussion of assigned chapters in *Shift* and *Revolutionary Parenting*. 
2. Book Assessment: Students will read *The Case for Christ for Kids* and submit a 2 to 3-page assessment of the book which addresses its developmental appropriateness, theological and doctrinal integrity, and usefulness in ministry with children.

3. Book Talk: Students will present a 5-minute Book Talk on a book of their choosing related to the topic of the spiritual formation of children. Titles will be approved by the professor. Students will provide classmates with information regarding the book.

3. Commentary on the Shema: Students will examine the Shema, Deuteronomy 6:1-9, and write a two-page commentary on this passage regarding its meaning for today’s families and stressing the implications for ministry. (20%)

4. Group Presentations: Students will participate in a small group to present a spiritual discipline (i.e., The Lord’s Supper, prayer, family worship, Scripture memory, Bible study, silence and solitude, and evangelism) and how children and families may engage in the practice of the discipline. Presentations should be creative and address various learning styles. (20%)

5. Media Evaluation: (1) Students will attend one movie (rated G-PG13) and evaluate its worldview using the Movie Viewing Guide provided by the professor. (2) Students will review current literature/music/electronic games for children at a major bookstore. A one-page reflection of findings is to be submitted. Grade Value: Participation 70%, Paper 30%.

6. Spiritual Formation Plan: Students will develop a one-year plan to shepherd children birth-twelve and families, in a context of the student’s choosing, through spiritual formation. Attention should be given to the child, parents, and church leadership. A rationale for each component of the plan should be given.

**Evaluation**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading/Group Discussion</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Assessment</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Talk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commentary on the Shema</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Disciplines Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Media Evaluation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spiritual Formation Plan</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Course Policies**

1. Assignment Policies: All assignments are to be submitted in class on the due date. Assignments should not be emailed to the professor. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 5-point penalty and 1 point for each day after the due date. No assignment will be accepted after the final exam.

2. Blackboard: Students are responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents, and announcements. The student is responsible for maintaining current information regarding email address on the Blackboard/IQ systems.

3. 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 18</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>January 25</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>The Bible and Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Spiritual Foundations</td>
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<td>February 8</td>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>Biblical Worldview</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Let’s Go to the Movies and Bookstore</td>
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<td>February 22</td>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>Media Evaluation/Spiritual Disciplines</td>
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<td>February 29</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>Media Evaluation Due</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Spiritual Disciplines</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>Perspectives on the Salvation of Children</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Week 10</td>
<td>Salvation, Ordinances</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Week 11</td>
<td>Choosing a Bible</td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>Week 12</td>
<td>Family Missions, Ministering as a Family</td>
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<td>April 11</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>Worship- Family and Corporate</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>Week 14</td>
<td>Spiritual Formation through the Local Church</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
<td>Book Talk Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Week 16</td>
<td>Course Closure</td>
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Selected Bibliography


