



CECH 6192/6292/6392 Special Topic-Children's Ministry
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
ETCH Conference: Oct. 11-12, 2021

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Curriculum Competencies

All graduates of NOBTS are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in each of the following areas: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Disciple-Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character Formation, and Worship Leadership. The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

1. *Interpersonal relationships*: To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
2. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.
3. *Disciple-Making*: To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose the student to points of interest in and models for contemporary children's ministry through attendance at a national children's ministry conference.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, learners will be able to demonstrate:

1. an understanding of trends, points of interest, and models for contemporary children's ministry.
2. an appreciation for quality children's ministry through the local church.
3. skill in evaluating a local church's children's ministry regarding specific topics.

Textbooks

From the following, select three texts if enrolled for 3 credit hours, two if enrolled for 2 credit hours, and one text if enrolled for 1 credit hour.

Devries, Mark, and Annette Safstrom. *Sustainable Children's Ministry: From Last-Minute Scrambling to Long-Term Solutions*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2018. ISBN: 978-0830845224. Kindle edition available.

Haynes, Brian. *Shift: What it takes to Finally Reach Families Today*. Group, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7644-3898-1. Kindle edition available.

Holmen, Mark. *Church+Home: The Proven Formula for Building Lifelong Faith*. Regal, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-8307-5568

Tchividjian, Basyle and Shira Berkovits. *The Child Safeguarding Policy for Churches and Ministries*. Greensboro, NC: New Growth Press, 2017. ISBN: 978-1945270055. Kindle edition available.

Course Teaching Methodology

Students will attend ETCH Conference, participate in all sessions, and complete individual learning assignments.

Course Requirements

Pre-Conference Requirement

1. Required Text Summaries (10%)

Due: October 11

For 1 credit hour: Write a summary of the one textbook selected.

For 2 credit hours: Write a summary of the two textbooks selected.

For 3 credit hours: Write a summary of the three textbooks selected.

Include the following in the summary:

- an annotated bibliography (one paragraph), including a complete bibliographic entry;
 - a minimum of ten talking points - key ideas, observations, insights, and criticisms that show you have thought seriously and critically about the text;
 - ways in which you can apply principles gleaned from the text in your ministry context.
- This assignment is to be submitted to Assignments on Blackboard. *This assignment is related to SLO #1 and #2.*

Conference Requirement

2. Attendance at ETCH Conference (50%)

Due: October 17

The ETCH conference registration is separate from registration for the NOBTS course. Register and pay for the conference at etchconference.com. You may attend in person or virtually.

For 1, 2, or 3 credit hours: Attend all main sessions and 4 preschool/children's ministry breakout sessions. Virtual attendance allows access to all breakout sessions but 4 preschool/children's ministry must be attended for this course. Make thorough notes on all sessions attended for use in a post-seminar assignment. Submit a statement of your attendance, including the title and leader of each session attended.

Post-Conference Requirements

3. Annotated Bibliography (15%)

Due: October 31

For 1 credit hour: Prepare an Annotated Bibliography of 1 resource related to each (4) of the breakout sessions attended.

For 2 credit hours: Prepare an Annotated Bibliography of 2 resources related to each (4) of the breakout sessions attended.

For 3 credit hours: Prepare an Annotated Bibliography of 3 resources related to each (4) of the breakout sessions attended.

Refer to *How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography*, which is posted on Blackboard. This bibliography should include books and other resources. *This assignment is related to SLO #1.*

4. Children's Ministry Evaluation (25%)

Due: November 14

For 1 credit hour: Evaluate two facets of your church's children's ministry in light of your understanding of specific topics developed through readings, conference sessions attended, and ministry experience.

For 2 credit hours: Evaluate four facets of your church's children's ministry in light of your understanding of specific topics developed through readings, conference sessions attended, and ministry experience.

For 3 credit hours: Evaluate six facets of your church's children's ministry in light of your understanding of specific topics developed through readings, conference sessions attended, and ministry experience.

Include the titles of the conferences attended in the introduction to the evaluation. For each facet evaluated, make recommendations for your specific ministry context and provide a rationale for each recommendation. Cite references, including breakout leaders. *This assignment is related to SLO #3.*

Evaluation of Grade

Required Text Summaries	10%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Conference Attendance	50%
Ministry Evaluation	25%

Course Policies

Academic Policies: Academic policies relate to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Graduate Catalog](#).

Absences: Absences are not permitted. You must see the Associate Dean for any exception to this policy.

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.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will be accepted.

Assignment Grading: Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments.

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

Disabilities and Accommodations: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary does not discriminate against applicants/ students on the basis of personal disabilities. The Seminary, in voluntary compliance with the American Disabilities Act, will provide reasonable institutional accommodations, modifications, and adjustments to enable and empower students with disabilities to participate in Seminary programs and activities to the fullest extent possible. However, NOBTS cannot support accommodations that place undue hardship on the Seminary or its resources or which alter the essential requirements of curriculum and academic progress. While the seminary does not provide direct assistance to students in the form of equipment or personnel, accommodations may be made by individual professors at their discretion. These accommodations usually take the form of early access to lecture materials in electronic format and additional time to complete tests and assignments. The most efficient way to pursue such accommodations is to provide the Director of Testing and Counseling (Dr. Jeff Nave, jnave@nobts.edu, 504-282-4455 ext. 8004) with documentation of the condition for which you seek accommodation, an explanation of helpful accommodations received in the past, and a description of the specific accommodations you desire. The Director of Testing and Counseling will document your request and communicate on your behalf with the professors who teach the course(s) for which you are registered. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for "special" accommodations on a case by case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2013-2014 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Late Assignments: Only under extreme circumstances, and with prior approval, will a late assignment be accepted. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 10 percent penalty and 1 percent for each day after the due date (i.e. 10/1 points for a 100-point assignment, 3/3 points for a 30 point assignment). No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Missed presentations may not be made up.

Netiquette: Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. 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.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Additional Information

Blackboard and CampusNexus Student (CNS): You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and CNS. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and CNS do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will be need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

Correspondence with the Grader: You should contact the grader via email peaveygrader@gmail.com. The grader responds to email during normal business hours, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays only. The grader may not respond to late night or weekend e-mails until regular "business" hours. Please respect the grader's personal time. Remember, graders are students as well and have their own coursework and research to complete. Please be respectful in the language you use in your emails to the grader.

Correspondence with the Professor: Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any questions you may have regarding this course.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff": This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays- <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> . You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew. A copy of the approved

NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center's page on the seminary website at:

https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a CNS account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

Student Wellness: Take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your academic and ministry goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. Helpful resources are available on campus and an important part of the seminary experience is learning how to ask for help. Asking for support sooner rather than later is almost always helpful. If you or anyone you know experiences any academic stress, difficult life events, or feelings like anxiety or depression, we strongly encourage you to seek support. The Dean of Students office is here to help and may be contacted at 282-4455, ext.3283 or deansec@nobts.edu. The Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center may be contacted at 504-816-8004 or lmccc@nobts.edu. Consider reaching out to a friend, faculty or family member you trust for help getting connected to the support that can help.

Technical Support: For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard System.
- [Student Bb Help](#) - Visit for student assistance in using Blackboard.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu – Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - View general NOBTS technical help information on this website.

Selected Bibliography

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- Clark, Alison. *Transforming Children's Spaces: Children's and Adults' Participation in Designing Learning Environments*. New York: Routledge, 2010.
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- DeVries, Mark, and Annette Safstrom. *Sustainable Children's Ministry: From Last-Minute Scrambling to Long-Term Solutions*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2018.
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- Fowler, Larry. *Rock-Solid Children's Ministry: Biblical Principles that Will Transform Your Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Bethany House Publishers, 2015.

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- Haywood, Janice. *Enduring Connections: Creating a Preschool and Children's Ministry*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2007.
- Jutila, Craig, Jim Wideman, and Pat Verbal. *Children's Ministry in the 21st Century*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2006.
- Lovaglia, Dan. *Relational Children's Ministry: Turning Kid-Influencers into Lifelong Disciple Makers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.
- Magruder, Jana. *Kids Ministry that Nourishes: Three Essential Nutrients of a Healthy Kids Ministry*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2016.