



CERW6371 Lifespan Recreation Ministry Church Ministry Division Mentoring Fall 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.

Course Description

The functions of recreation and sports ministry as well as its practices are studied. Attention is given to compiling recreational materials for ministry settings and planning various types of related programming for all ages.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for discipleship strategies within the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to accomplish the following:

- Distinguish between leisure and recreation and, more specifically, the characteristics and misconceptions of recreation, especially as they relate to age groups and ministry settings. Students also will be acquainted with the purpose of games in group building and teaching with a variety of age groups.
- Grasp the urgency of creating environments to share the gospel through sports and social recreation. Students will value ministry through sports and recreation.
- Analyze the recreation options presented during the semester, and provide the purpose and rationale of individual components of a year-round recreation program for different age groups in the local church.

Required Reading

Garner, John, ed. *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*. Lynchburg, VA: Liberty University Press, rev. 2017. (ISBN: 978-0997682823)

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize online group/professor discussions, interaction and dialogue, and an interactive discovery-learning format through weekly mentoring meetings for accountability, mentorship, discussion, and discipleship with an NOBTS-approved mentor.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

All assignments should be submitted on time via blackboard for this course. In the blackboard shell, click the "Upload Assignments" link to upload your work. Please note that every assignment that is uploaded is time stamped with the date and time of the upload.

1) Recreation Research Project and Presentation – 30 Points (Due November 5 and 12)

Choose a topic (from the list provided or another subject approved by instructor). Examine and explain your topic in light of local church, para-church, and/or missionary field ministry. Periodic reports on your progress will be requested to eliminate last-minute papers.

- *Submit Top 2 Topics for Approval: August 29*
- *Preliminary Bibliography (No less than 5 sources): September 26*

Your research will be compiled in a paper (double-spaced, using the *NOBTS Manual of Form and Style*, 8-10 page minimum, no less than 10 credible resources/references **due Nov. 5**) and a power-point presentation **due Nov. 12**.

Assignment Formatting

- Type this assignment according to the *NOBTS Manual of Form and Style*
- All papers must be written in third person and double-spaced
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font
- Use correct spelling and grammar
- Use proper pagination and proper cover page

2) Interview Project – 20 points (due October 10)

You will interview three recreation ministers from different Southern Baptist churches or ministries and submit a typed report (6-8 pages total). Choose between a verbatim or summary format. At the end of *each* interview report, please include a wrap-up section with a brief discussion of three take-away points (nine total).

3) Mentoring Experience and Online Engagement – 40 points

The student is required to meet with his or her assigned mentor, who can challenge the student spiritually, philosophically, and practically in Recreation and/or Sports Ministry. Additionally, the student is expected to engage online in an assigned blackboard shell with the professor and other mentoring students throughout the semester. The following components of the mentoring experience are required assignments:

- ***Mentor Meeting (20 pts)*** You will meet with your mentor each week for a minimum of one hour to discuss personal and ministry progress in the area of Recreation and Sports Ministry based on the course teaching units. Students will engage in the mentoring relationship under the supervision of an approved NOBTS mentor for a minimum of 15 hours of meeting time during the semester. Mentorship hours may not include church worship, Bible study, and age-group weekly meetings. The student will meet for a minimum of an hour per week beginning the first week of the semester. The student will log the weekly meeting times and have their mentor sign-off on the meetings. The mentoring experience log-sheet is submitted online at the end of the semester to the professor.
- ***Mentoring Reflection Papers (20 pts)*** A *Mentoring Monthly Report* will be completed by students for *September, October, and November*. The completed report will be submitted and uploaded through Blackboard by the last day of the month. The *first paper* will include the completed goals and covenant with the approved mentor. The *final 2 papers* should be a one-page (single-spaced) reflection report based on your weekly mentor meeting, the online course content, and experiences during the week of ministry. These 3 reflection papers are a first-person synopsis of the mentoring experience on a month-by-month basis.

4) Final Exam – 20 points (due December 6)

Analyze the recreation options presented during the semester and develop a year-round recreation program for different age groups in the local church. Provide the purpose and rationale of each of the individual components, taking care to consider everything from registration to celebration! General 'puzzle pieces' should include social recreation, sports, crafts, fitness/wellness, and special interest offerings. The final submission should be 12 pages long: one page for each month's programming.

Evaluation of Grade

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and examinations. The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

Recreation Research Project and Presentation	20%
Interview Project	20%
Mentoring Experience and Online Engagement	40%
Final Exam	20%

Course Policies

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 following the *NOBTS Manual of Form and Style*. 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 not be accepted.

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.

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 current NOBTS catalog available online.

A 93-100	B 85-92	C 77-84	D 70-76	F 69 and below
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Late Assignments: Only under extreme circumstances, and with prior approval, will a late assignment be accepted. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 5 percent penalty and 1 percent for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Missed presentations may not be made up.

Netiquette (Appropriate Online Behavior): Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. 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 and graduate catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements.

A professor cannot 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 SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on BOTH Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor may utilize either to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard; final grades will be recorded on SelfServe.

Correspondence with the Grader: At present, the instructor is the grader for this class. If this should change, following are considerations for you to follow:

- You should contact the grader via email at [insert grader's email address here].
- The grader typically 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 Instructor: Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the instructor with any question you may have regarding this course.

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

Writing Style Guide

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>

Help for Writing Papers: NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. Refer to <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html>.

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please contact the instructor to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

Technical Support: Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC:

- Selfserve@nobts.edu: Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu: Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu: Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- 504.816.8180: Call for any technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/: General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website. If you experience any problems with your Blackboard account, you may email BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu or call the ITC at 504-282-4455, ext. 8180.

Course Schedule

Week of August 16	Introductory Matters
Week of August 23	<i>Foundations: Week 1 - Cultural Context & the Gospel</i> Chapter 1: "Introduction to Recreation and Sports Ministry" <i>Research Topic due August 29</i>
Week of August 30	<i>Foundations: Week 2 - Biblical Foundations</i> Chapter 2: "Biblical Foundations of Sports Ministry"
Week of September 6	<i>Foundations: Week 3 – Historical Foundations</i> Chapter 3: "A History of Modern Church Recreation..."
Week of September 13	<i>Foundations: Week 4 – Recreation through the Lifespan</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 10: "Rec & Sports Ministry for All Ages"• Social Recreation
Week of September 20	<i>Foundations: Week 5 – Ethics of Competition</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chapter 9: "Ethics of Competition in a Church Setting"• The Anatomy of Games <i>Preliminary Research Bibliography Due September 26</i>
Week of September 27*	<i>Administration: Week 7 – Organization</i> Chapter 5: "Organization of Rec and Sports Ministry"
Week of October 4	<i>FALL BREAK</i>
Week of October 11	<i>Administration: Week 8 – Administration & Programming</i> Chapter 6: "Rec and Sports Ministry Admin in a Church Setting" Chapter 7: "Rec and Sports Ministry Programming..." <i>Interviews Due October 11</i>
Week of October 18	<i>Administration: Week 9 – Facilities</i> Recreation Facilities: Design and Programming
Week of October 25*	<i>Administration: Week 10 – Risk Management</i> Legal Issues: Risk Management for Churches
Week of November 1	<i>Puzzle Pieces: Week 12 – Student Research Papers</i> <i>Papers Due by Friday, November 5</i>
Week of November 8	<i>Administration: Week 11 – Volunteers / Evangelism</i> Chapter 8: "Rec and Sports Min: An Evangelistic Approach" <i>Power Point Due by Friday, November 12</i>
Week of November 15	<i>Puzzle Pieces: Week 13 – Student Presentations</i> Reading & reviewing each other's papers; topic discussion boards
Week of November 23	THANKSGIVING WEEK

Week of November 30* *The Minister: Week 14 - The Minister as a Professional*

- Chapter 4: "The Rec & Sports Minister as a Professional"
- Exploring Ministry Possibilities

Week of December 9 *Final Exam due by **December 9, 2019***

**Remember that the Mentoring Reflection Papers are due at the end of September, October, and November.*

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. Be sure to include title, author, and publisher.

Altrogge, Stephen. *Game Day for the Glory of God: A Guide for Athletes, Fans, and Wannabes*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

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.

Badke, James. *The Christian Camp Leader*. www.campleader.ca: 2013, rev. 2018.

Blanton, Gail. *Scripts to Reach In and Out*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1993.

Brown, Ron and Chad Bonham. *Sports Parables: Coaching Kingdom Principles Through Sports*. www.crosstrainingpublishing.com: 2019.

Capps, Michael W. *Screamers and Scramblers*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Conner, Steve. *Sports Outreach: Principles and Practice for Successful Sports Ministry*. Independently published, 2020.

Cordes, Kathleen A. and Hilmi M. Ibrahim. *Applications in Recreation & Leisure for Today and The Future*. Boston: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1999.

Ellis, Robert. *The Games People Play: Theology, Religion, and Sport*. Indianapolis, IN: Wipf and Stock, 2014.

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

Garner, John, ed. *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*. Lynchberg, VA: Liberty University Press, rev. 2017.

Harvey, Lincoln. *A Brief Theology of Sport*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.

Heintzman, Paul. *Leisure and Spirituality: Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Perspectives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2015.

_____, Glen Van Andel, and Thomas Visker (eds). *Christianity and Leisure: Issues in a Pluralistic Society*. Sioux City, IA: Dordt College Press, 2006 (rev).

- Hicks, Joe and Michelle. *The Retreat Notebook*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1995.
- Hoffman, Shirl James. *Good Game: Christianity and the Culture of Sport*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.
- Hunter, Rod Sr. *Recalibrate: A New Measure for Family Ministry*. Nashville: Randall House, 2019.
- Jackson, Allen and Judi. *The Retreat Notebook 2*. Nashville: Convention Press, 2000.
- Kluck, Ted. *The Reason for Sport: A Christian Fanifesto*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Ladd, Tony, and James A. Mathisen. *Muscular Christianity: Evangelical Protestants and the Development of American Sport*. Grand Rapids, MI: BridgePoint Books, 1999.
- Mahaney, C.J. *Don't Waste Your Sports*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.
- Messenger, Troy. *Holy Leisure: Recreation and Leisure in God's Square Mile*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University 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.
- Quatro, Steve. *Intentional Outreach: A Guide to Simple Church Sports Ministry*. Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2009.
- Raus, Bob. *Ministry Through Camping*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1990. (Out of print)
- Rice, Wayne and Mike Yaconelli. *Play It! and Play It Again!* Grand Rapids: Youth Specialties/Zondervan.
- Russell, Ruth V. *Planning Programs in Recreation*. St. Louis, MO: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1982.
- Siler, George. *Games with A Purpose*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.
- Smith, Brian. *The Assist: A Gospel-Centered Guide to Glorifying God through Sports*. Houston: Lucid Books, 2017.
- Smith, Greg S. *Sports Theology: Finding God's Winning Spirit*. Indianapolis, IN: Dog Ear Publishing, LLC: 2010.
- 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
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.

CERW6371 Recreation and Sports Ministry
Grading Criteria for Unit Assignments

Each unit is worth 7 points and is graded according to the following rubric:

7 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed all unit assignments by the due date. • Original thoughts presented in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Clear, succinct, and complete presentation of ideas. • Reference to reading assignments, when appropriate.
6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed all unit assignments by the due date. • Original thoughts presented in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Mostly clear, succinct, and complete presentation of ideas. • Reference to reading assignments, when appropriate.
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 90% of unit assignments by the due date. • Some original thoughts, some repeated ideas from others in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Information presented not always clear or succinct. • Concepts described fully or communicated effectively.
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 80% of unit assignments by the due date. • Some original thoughts, some repeated ideas from others in discussion forums and writing assignments. • Information presented not always clear or succinct. • Concepts not described fully or communicated effectively.
3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 70% of unit assignments by the due date. • Weak presentation of ideas as evidenced by poor organization, lack of clarity, and ineffective communication of concepts.
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 50% of unit assignments by the due date. • Weak presentation of ideas as evidenced by poor organization, lack of clarity, and ineffective communication of concepts.
1 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed at least 25% of unit assignments by the due date. • Minimal effort on all assignments completed.
0 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed less than 25% of unit assignments.