



**CECH 6392 Special Topic/Children's Ministry**  
**New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary**  
**Church Ministry Division**  
**ETCH Conference**  
**October 3-5, 2022**

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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 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.

Crosby, Robert, and Lori Crosby. *Trauma-Informed Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide to Reaching Hurting Kid*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2022. ISBN: 978-1666715743.  
Kindle edition available.

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*. Bloomington, MN: Bethany House, 2015. ISBN: 978-0764217753

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 LifeWay's ETCH NextGen Ministry Conference, participate in all sessions, and complete individual learning assignments.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Pre-Conference Requirement**

#### **1. Required Text Summaries (10%)**

**Due: October 11**

.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 - bullets points are fine;
  - ways in which you can apply principles gleaned from the text in your ministry context.
- This assignment is to be submitted to Canvas. *This assignment is related to SLO #1 and #2.*

### **Conference Requirement**

#### **2. Attendance at ETCH Conference (50%)**

**Due: October 31**

The ETCH NextGen Ministry Conference registration is separate from registration for the NOBTS course. Register and pay for the conference at [etchconference.lifeway.com](http://etchconference.lifeway.com). **There is now a button on the [etchconference.com](http://etchconference.com) site for students to select. Students who have already purchased their tickets at the regular rate may contact Events Registration for an adjustment. That number is (800) 254-2022.** ETCH does not have a virtual option - you must attend in person.

Attend all main sessions and 5 preschool/children's ministry breakout sessions. 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**

Prepare an Annotated Bibliography of 3 resources related to each (5) of the breakout sessions attended.

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

#### **4. Children's Ministry Evaluation (25%)**

**Due: November 16**

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**

The following policies will serve to govern both the student and professor for the duration of this course.

**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 are acceptable.

**Assignment Submission:** All assignments are to be submitted to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

**Attendance Policy:** Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

**Classroom Decorum:** Your participation is required for every class session. You are expected to:

- come to the class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources related to the course topic.
- dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- turn off cell phones and not accept any calls and/or text messages during class.
- use laptops appropriately during class.

**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](mailto: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 current NOBTS catalog.

**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: 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 on Written Assignments:** NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

**Syllabus Amendments:** The course syllabus is not a legal contract. The information in this syllabus is subject to change in extenuating circumstances and may be modified at any time by the professor. Any syllabus amendment will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. 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**

**Canvas and Campus Nexus Student (CNS):** You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Canvas and CNS.

**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 question you may have regarding this course.

**Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”:** 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. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas 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:** Sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service at <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 Office of Spiritual Formation and Student Life is here to help and may be contacted at 282-4455, ext.8096. The Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center may be contacted at 504-816-8004 or [lmccc@nobts.edu](mailto: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 Assistance:**

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

1. [Selfserve@nobts.edu](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas.NOBTS.com](http://Canvas.NOBTS.com) Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu).
3. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.