



CEEF 6392 Special Topics in Children's Ministry
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
ETCH Conference
October 9-11, 2023

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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

Read the texts PRIOR to the conference.

Crosby, Robert, and Lori Crosby. *Trauma-Informed Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide to Reaching Hurting Kids*. 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.

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. QQTP (20%)

Due: October 09

For each text, write a one-page QQTP which includes each of the following:

- Q = Question: As you read the text, take note of points at which a question comes to mind. Develop a thoughtful question that invites analysis, synthesis, or evaluation of the material, or makes connections between the readings and previous discussions or readings. (The professor will select a question from those submitted for a post-conference discussion board).
- Q = Quotation: Select a quotation (no more than 12 lines) that is especially pertinent to the main point of the text. Put the page number in a parenthesis, followed by a brief description of why you find it compelling.
- TP = Talking Points: Talking points show that you have thought seriously and critically about the text. Present a minimum of five talking points - key ideas, observations, insights, and criticisms that show you have thought seriously and critically about the text - bullets points are fine. (These points may be integrated into the discussion boards post-conference)
- Present ways in which you can apply principles gleaned from the text in your ministry context. Submit the assignment to Canvas. *This assignment is related to SLO #1 and #2.*

Conference Requirement

2. Attendance at ETCH Conference (40%)

Due: October 15

Register for The ETCH NextGen Ministry Conference at etchconference.lifeway.com. Select the student link. ETCH does not have a virtual option. Attend all main sessions and 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. Discussion Board (10%)

Due: October 22/29

The professor will select and post one discussion question for each text from those submitted in the QQTPs.

October 16-22: *Trauma-Informed Children's Ministry: A Practical Guide to Reaching Hurting Kids* and *Sustainable Children's Ministry: From Last-Minute Scrambling to Long-Term Solutions*

October 23-29 *Church+Home: The Proven Formula for Building Lifelong Faith* and *The Child Safeguarding Policy for Churches and Ministries*

In addition to writing your own response, post a response to at least two other students' responses. Your response must be more than "Yeah, I agree." In your replies to other students you can: 1) Expand on or clarify a point made in the answer. 2) Offer an additional argument to support a position taken in an answer. 3) Suggest ways in which an idea could be more clearly expressed. 4) Identify passages where you think the writer misunderstood a concept or applied it

incorrectly. 5) Disagree with a point or position made in a response. Spelling and grammar count. Write in complete sentences and present well-developed ideas.

The week begins on MONDAY and ends on SUNDAY. Your initial post to the posted questions(s) must be made by Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. CST of each week. Responses to other students' posts must be made by Sunday at 11:59 p.m. CST. Any threaded discussion posted after 11:59 will not be viewed by the professor or grader. *This assignment is related to SLO #1 and #2.*

5. Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Due: November 12

Prepare an Annotated Bibliography of 3 resources related to each of the breakout sessions attended. Include at least one internet resource and one book for each breakout topic. Refer to *How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography*, which is posted on Canvas. *This assignment is related to SLO #1.*

4. Children's Ministry Evaluation (25%)

Due: November 26

Evaluate five 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 sessions 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

QQTPs	15%
Conference Attendance	40%
Discussion Boards	10%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Ministry Evaluation	25%

Course Policies

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.

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 – and will preserve your formatting.

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.

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: 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. 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 CampusNexus Student (CNS): You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Canvas and CNS. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Assignment grades will be posted to Canvas.

Correspondence with the Grader: Contact the grader via email at 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 question you may have regarding this course.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service at <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>

Office Hours: Hours are posted outside the office door. Email the professor to arrange a meeting outside of posted hours.

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: Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today:

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

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. 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.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Writing Style Guide

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>

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.