



CEAD6355 Leading Family Ministry (NOLA2U Flex)  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Division of Church Ministry

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*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.*

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### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with the programs, resources, and organizational structures to enhance the family life education/ministry of a local church, including work with married couples, parents, and single and senior adults. The course also supports the core value of spiritual vitality as it helps students evaluate how to build spiritual vitality into family systems within the local church through its ministries. The course addresses the curriculum competencies within the area of Christian education and supports interpersonal relationship skills as well by enhancing one's ministerial skills in relating to the family as an integrated system.

### **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.

### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

- The course addresses the curriculum competencies within the area of Christian education and supports interpersonal relationship skills as well by enhancing one's ministerial skills in relating to the family as an integrated system.

▪ **Course Description**

In this course, the Southern Baptist program of Family Ministry is studied and analyzed. Subjects dealt with include the scope and biblical basis of family ministry, premarital education, and education for family living, including marriage enrichment and parent education. The relationships of family ministry to the total educational programs of churches are studied, methods are discussed, and resources are identified

▪ **Learning Objectives**

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

- Identify and discuss family ministry from biblical, historical, demographic, and developmental perspectives.
- Value specific components of family ministry in the local church setting.
- Utilize administrative procedures in implementing a family ministry in the local church.

▪ **Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

- Kostenberger, Andreas and David W. Jones. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*. 2nd ed. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.

Hunter, Ron Jr. *Recalibrate: A New Measure for Family Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Randall House, 2019.

**Recommended Reading**

Balswick, Jack O. and Judith K. Balswick. *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*. 4th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

▪ **Course Teaching Methodology**

The required and recommended texts are arranged according to topic in the lectures below. Required chapters should be read before the date of the lecture. Students are encouraged but not required to read recommended chapters before the date of the lecture

**1. Intro, Overview, Lessons from Messy Biblical Families - January 19**

**2. God's Intention for Marriage - January 26**

Leaving and Cleaving: Marriage in the Old Testament - God, Marriage, and Family  
No Longer Two But One: Marriage in the New Testament - God, Marriage, and Family  
The Nature of Marriage and the Role of Sex in Marriage - God, Marriage, and Family

**3. God's Intention for Families - February 2**

A Theological Foundation For Family Relationships - The Family  
The Ties That Bind: Family in the Old Testament - God, Marriage, and Family  
The Christian Family: Family in the New Testament - God, Marriage, and Family  
Grandparenting the Way It Was Meant To Be - Recalibrate

**4. The 20th & 21st Century American Family - February 9**

The Current Cultural Crisis: Rebuilding The Foundation - God, Marriage, and Family  
A Model for Biblical Marriage - The Family  
The Erosion of Biblical Truth in a Modern World - The Family  
Creating a Family-Friendly Society - The Family

**Mardi Gras - February 16**

**5. Contemporary Issues Families Face - February 23**

Ordinary Parents, Extraordinary Father: Surviving the Prodigal Years - Recalibrate  
Abandoning Natural Relations: The Biblical Verdict on Homosexuality - God, Marriage, and Family  
Separating What God Has Joined Together: Divorce and Remarriage - God, Marriage, and Family

**6. Divorce, Absent, and Single Parent Families - March 2**

The Picture Frames Are Different (Single Parents and Stepparents) - Recalibrate  
Appendix: The “Exception Clause” - God, Marriage, and Family  
Guiding Teens and Their Parents Through Cultural Challenges - The Family  
Divorce and Single-Parent Families - The Family  
Complex Families in Contemporary Society - The Family  
Faithful Husbands: Qualifications for Church Leadership - God, Marriage, and Family

**7. Emotionally Healthy Families - March 9**

Establishing Marriage: Moving toward Differentiated Unity - The Family  
Fearless Family From Courageous Parenting - Recalibrate  
Parenting: The Process of Relationship Empowerment - The Family  
Becoming Powerful through Empowerment - The Family

**Spring Break—March 16**

**8. Expressing Love, Expressing Anger - March 23**

Through the Stress and Strain of Family Life - The Family  
Expressing Love - Achieving Intimacy - The Family  
Expressing Anger - Negotiating the Inevitable Conflicts - The Family

**9. Making Disciples in the Home - March 30**

Family Spirituality: Nurturing Christian Beliefs, Morals, and Values - The Family  
Discipleship: The Four Spheres - Recalibrate  
The Art of Meaningful Conversations – Recalibrate

**10. Serving Families by Serving Individuals - April 6**

Young Adults Are Not the Gap Into Adulthood - Recalibrate  
Youth Ministry in Thirds - Recalibrate  
The Future Steps of Our Children - Recalibrate  
Adolescence and Midlife: Challenging Changes - The Family  
The Joys and Challenges of Family in Later Life - The Family  
Developing a Mature, Reciprocating Self - The Family  
Undivided Devotion to the Lord: The Divine Gift of Singleness - God, Marriage, and Family

**11. Ministering to “Drop Off” Families - April 13**  
When Churched Kids Don’t Have Churched Parents – Recalibrate

**12. Leading Families in the Church - April 20**  
Staff and Volunteer Dynamics - Recalibrate  
Creating A Discipleship Culture for the Family - Recalibrate  
God, Marriage, Family, and the Church: Learning to be the Family of God - God, Marriage, and Family

**13. Ministering to Your Family - April 27**  
Creating a Discipleship Culture for the Family - Recalibrate  
Marriage: Your First and Most Important Ministry- Recalibrate  
Uniting All Things In Him: Concluding Synthesis - God, Marriage, and Family

**14. “Staff Retreat” Presentations Part One - May 4**

**15. “Staff Retreat” Presentations Part Two - May 11**

**Teaching Method.**

This course will utilize lecture, group presentations, and an interactive discovery-learning format

**Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

**Class Participation & Attendance—5%**

**Due: Weekly**

The class will seek to engage the experiences and questions of the class. Times of question-and-answer as well as small group work will provide opportunities to dialogue through the course content. Students are expected to be prepared to give substantial and supportive comment to the course and the overall teaching-learning experience. Therefore, regular class attendance and participation is needed. Students taking the course in a NOLA2U Flex format must meet the class attendance requirements and are encouraged to dialogue with the professor on topics via Blackboard, email, virtual meetings, or phone, but are not required to do so.

**Biblical Rationale of Family Ministry Paper– 25%**

**Due: February 23, 2020**

Create an 8-page research paper communicating the biblical foundation for family ministry. Present and explain, from various Old and New Testament passages, the biblical presentation of family as designed by God. Employ commentaries, our course readings, journal articles as sources for your biblical rationale. Use Turabian format following seminary guidelines.

**Family Ministry Newsletter Articles—20%**

**Due: March 9, 2020**

- Select three current issues that families face and produce an insightful but brief newsletter article grappling with the topic.
- You may choose as the audience for your article: children (of reading age), teens, parents, grandparents, young singles, or any other age group. Be sure to indicate the target audience of each article.
- Each article must be between 3000-4500 characters. Points will be deducted for articles under or above this range.
- Each article should conclude with a recommended resource for further reading.
- The tone of the article may be formal or informal, depending on your preference for your intended audience.
- Keep in mind the families in your church context when selecting these issues.
- Reference the Bible and/or course texts and journal articles in your articles using parenthetical references. For example (Deut. 6:6-9) or (Ron Hunter Jr., *Recalibrate*)
- The assignment will not use Turabian format

**New Church Member Packet for Families —25%**

**Due: April 6**

The purpose of this project is to organize your church’s ministry to families in a way that is understandable and appealing to new members. You may create the packet for your existing church unless such a packet already exists. Whether using a real or fictitious church setting, be sure to include:

- A theme, mission statement, or otherwise central concept driving the ministry
- Information about the church (brief history, current staff and volunteer positions)
- A brief overview of God’s plan for families (summarize your Biblical Rationale paper)
- An overview of your church’s ministry to families
- Available small group options and how these fit into the ministry to the family
- Resources for at least 3 month’s worth of family devotions (either existing literature or literature you create)
- A calendar of events which would serve a family well
- Any additional resources you feel would help new families assimilate into the life of your church

**Staff Development Retreat Presentation – 25%**

**Due: May 4, 2020**

Prepare a 15 minute presentation on a topic relevant to family ministry. The target audience for your presentation will be fellow staff members at your church (either real or fictitious). Choose either a new topic or a topic which has been covered in class but from a previously uncovered perspective. Prepare to deliver the presentation to the class.

**Evaluation and Grading**

Biblical Rationale Paper	25%
Newsletter Articles	20%
New Church Member Packet	25%
Staff Development Retreat Presentation	25%
Class Attendance/Participation	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

- **Course Policies**

- **Late Assignments**

Assignments not submitted *on the due dates* are considered late and will be automatically penalized 5% for each day late including weekends. Late assignments will not be accepted one week beyond the original due date, *no exceptions*. **No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received, a grade of "F" is automatically earned for the course.**

- **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Learning Activities and Assessments* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS catalog.

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

### **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.

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Blackboard. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See page 184 in the graduate catalog: [https://www.nobts.edu/\\_resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf](https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/academics/GraduateCatalog.pdf) ).

2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [assignment by professor] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.

3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.

4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

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>

### **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. [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
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.

[Other items may be included, such as: expectations for reading assignments, policy on late assignments, academic honesty, classroom demeanor, extra credit]

### **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.

### **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.

## Selected Bibliography

- Balswick, Jack O., and Judith K. Balswick. *The Family: A Christian Perspective On the Contemporary Home*. 4 ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2014.
- Barsky, Allan. *Conflict Resolution for the Helping Professions*. 2nd ed. Ontario: Oxford University Press, 2014.
- Becnel, Moe and Paige. *God Breathes On Blended Families*. Healing Place Productions, 2009.
- Canary, Heather E., and Daniel J. Canary. *Family Conflict*. Malden, MA: Polity, 2013.
- Chapman, Gary D. *Now You're Speaking My Language: Honest Communication and Deeper Intimacy for a Stronger Marriage*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Pub, 2007.
- Deal, Ron L. *The Smart Stepfamily: Seven Steps to A Healthy Family*. Rev ed. Wheaton, Illinois: Bethany House Publishers, 2014.
- Dobson, James. *Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale Momentum, 2000.
- Downs, Tim, and Joy Downs. *Fight Fair: Winning at Conflict Without Losing at Love*. Colorado Springs: Moody Publishers, 2010.
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- McKay, Matthew, Patrick Fanning, and Kim Paleg. *Couple Skills: Making Your Relationship Work*. 2nd ed. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, 2006.



- Nichols, Michael P., and Richard C. Schwartz. *The Essentials of Family Therapy*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2001.
- Olson, David, Amy Olson-Sigg, and Peter J. Larson. *The Couple Checkup: Find Your Relationship Strengths*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Inc, 2012.
- Paleg, Kim, and Matthew McKay. *When Anger Hurts Your Relationship: 10 Simple Solutions for Couples Who Fight*. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, 2001.
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- Rienow, Rob. *Limited Church: Unlimited Kingdom: Uniting Church and Family in the Great Commission*. Nashville: Randall House Publications, 2013.
- Rienow, Rob. *Visionary Parenting: Capture a God-Sized Vision for Your Family*. Nashville, TN: Randall House Publications, 2009.
- Ross, Ken Hemphill & Richard. *Parenting with Kingdom Purpose*. Nashville, TN: B&H Books, 2005.
- Sandford, John Loren, and Paula Sandford. *Restoring the Christian Family: a Biblical Guide to Love, Marriage, and Parenting in a Changing World*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2009.
- Stoop, David, and Jan Stoop. *Just Us: Finding Intimacy with God and with Each Other*. Ventura, CA: Revell, 2013.
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