



CCSW6365 Death, Loss, and Grief
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Spring 2022 Wednesday 8:00-10:50 a.m. (NOLA2U Live)

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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 focus in this course is on death, loss, and grief throughout the life span. Attention will be given to basic therapeutic interventions that can be used to assist individuals and groups through a wide variety of loss experiences such as illness, divorce, unemployment, relocation, infertility, death, and purpose. The role of the counselor/minister in the helping relationship will be explored. Lecture, discussion, guest speakers, role playing, and small group components will be utilized.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Share grief and loss experienced in his/her own life.
2. Assess his/her readiness to minister to persons in various grief experiences.
3. Develop plans for support groups focusing on death, grief, and loss.
4. Evaluate skills related to helping persons confront death, grief, and loss.
5. Network with professionals in the community who provide supportive services to the griever.
6. Utilize biblical truths when relating to grieving persons.
7. Become acquainted with resources related to death, grief, and loss.
8. Gain understanding regarding the impact of death upon a family.
9. Experience being a companion to a griever.

Textbooks

Required Textbooks

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Rando, Therese A. *Grief, Dying, and Death: Clinical Interventions for Caregivers* Champaign, IL: Research Press, 1984.

Wolfelt, Alan D. *Companioning the Bereaved*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2006.

Required Journal Articles, Book Chapters, and Movies

The Bucket List (movie)

Harvey, John H., and Mark A. Fine. *Children of Divorce: Stories of Loss and Growth*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2010. (Read Chapters 1-4, pages 1-90, available through ProQuest Ebrary)

Rando, Therese. *How To Go on Living When Someone You Love Dies*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1988. (Part III)

Shadowlands (movie)

Course Teaching Methodology

Class sessions will include lectures, group discussion, videos, and role plays. This course also will include testimonies from men and women who have experienced grief. Students will have the opportunity to dialogue with guest speakers. Also, students will participate in small group discussions. In addition, the entire class will visit the funeral home for an understanding of the embalming process and cremation, if possible.

Course Requirements

1. Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments. The expectation is that the student reads the assigned readings for each class session and be prepared to participate in class discussions.
2. Prepare a reactionary journal on personal thinking and feelings related to the reading, class discussions, field trips, speakers and encounters with grievers. Your journal is to have at least 2 entries each week. Express briefly your personal thinking and feeling. Do not write what you think you should be feeling and thinking. Be honest and specific. The professor will read it twice—on the first due date to make recommendations and on the second due date for grading purposes. Due March 9 and May 4.

Grades will be based on the following:

Expression of thoughts	25 points
Expression of feelings	25 points
Relationships to class experience (reading, speakers, trips)	25 points
Reflects personal viewpoint	25 points

3. Present and analyze a personal grief experience integrating grief theory and readings with your personal experience. The paper is to be typed, Turabian style. Recommended length, 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced. Minimum resources, 15. Due April 6, at class time.

Grading for the Personal Grief Experience Paper will be as follows:

Thoughts and feelings	25 points
Degree of integration/theory and personal	25 points
Adequate length/minimum errors	25 points
Adequate resources (15)	25 points

4. Read *A Grief Observed* and watch video, *Shadowlands*. Submit a 4-5 page paper expressing your reactions to both the book and the video. Address the following:
 - A. What feelings did you experience?
 - B. What were your thoughts?
 - C. If you had to walk through the experience with one of the persons, who would you choose? Explain which one and how you would help?Submit to the professor on May 4Ap.

5. Class Involvement. Be prepared for and be involved in class and small group discussions. Participate in regular small group discussions and lead one group meeting. Class involvement will also be based on attendance, punctuality, participation, and interaction with guest speakers.
6. Visit a grieving person 4 times and listen to their stories. You may visit the same person or 4 different persons. Integrate your reactions into your journal entries. Note visit date and name of person(s) visited. Visits may be made via telephone or videoconferencing because of potential COVID-19 restrictions.
7. Successfully complete the midterm and final examinations.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Midterm:	20%	Final Exam:	20%
Daily Reactionary Journal:	20%	Grief Experience Paper:	20%
Class Involvement:	10%	A Grief Observed/Shadowlands Paper	10%

NOLA2U Live Students

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

1. The course on the New Orleans campus will be connected synchronously via Web conferencing with Internet students. These courses will require weekly attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Students are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in the graduate catalog. (See “Absences” category in the website catalog at: <https://catalog.nobts.edu/generalinfo/academicpolicies>.)
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

Technical Assistance

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. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
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.

Professor’s Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date in the syllabus. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by 10 points. Work that is over one week past the due date will not be accepted.

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.

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.

Academic Policies

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

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.

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>

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.

Course Schedule

Date		
January 19	Introduction, Goal Setting, Contracting, Parameters Normalizing Loss/Kinds of Grief Myths <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 1	
January 26	Manifestations of Grief Influential Factors <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 2-4 <u>View:</u> <i>The Bucket List</i> (movie) <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , pp. 3-44, Tenets 1-2	
February 2	Individual Meanings of Death The Dying Process The Christian View of Death <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 8-10 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenets 3-4	
February 9	Anticipated Death; Understanding Grief <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenets 5-6 <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 11	
February 16	The Grieving Process <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 5-6 and 12 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenets 7-8	
February 23	The Grieving Family <u>Read:</u> <i>How To Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies (Part III)</i> <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenets 9-11	
March 2	Loss Related to Children Children and Grief <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 5	
March 9	Midterm Exam	Journals Due: Review 1
March 14-18	Spring Break-No Class	
March 23	Death of a Baby Loss of a Child Teen Loss <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 6	
March 30	Examining Loss: Divorce Family Grief Regarding Divorce <u>Read:</u> Harvey & Fine, pages 1-90	
April 6	Suicide <u>Read:</u> Rando: pages 149-154	Grief Experience Paper Due
April 13	Gender and Grief Caregiver's Grief <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 14	
April 20	Funeral Home Visit (if possible)	
April 27	Death and the Community Funerals, Rituals, and Cremation <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 7	
May 4	Review for Final Exam Celebration	Shadowlands Paper Due Journals Due: Review 2
May 11 9-11 a.m.	Final Exam	

Selected Bibliography

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Video recordings

- A Guide to the Grief Journey [videorecording] / [hosted by] Darcie Sims and Alan Pederson. 2012
- Helping Those in Grief, Crisis and Trauma [video recording] / H. Norman Wright. 2011