



PMLS8300 Strategic Leadership

A Professional Doctoral Seminar

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

October 26-28, 2026 (Fall Semester)

Monday (1:00 – 9:00 PM); Tuesday-Wednesday (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM) All times listed = Central Time

Main campus with NOLA2U Availability

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*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 seminar is to study strategic leadership theory and its applications and implications for churches and ministry organizations. Strategic dimensions of leadership to be examined include strategic thinking, strategic foresight, strategic influence, strategic team-building, and strategic action.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the course, each student will be able to:

1. Identify the biblical concepts for strategic leadership, utilizing case studies from biblical leaders.
2. Conceptualize and articulate a personal theology of ministry and leadership and demonstrate how they will integrate it into the practice of ministry and leadership.
3. Value strategic leadership and its function in a church or ministry organization context.
4. Increase and implement strategic leadership skills in a church and ministry organization context.
5. Gain greater insight into the student's own personal patterns, styles, and strengths of ministry leadership.

Required Textbooks

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

Watkins, Michael D. *The Six Disciplines of Strategic Thinking: Leading Your Organization Into the Future*. New York: HarperCollins, 2024.

Kotter, John P. *Leading Change*. Boston: Harvard Business Review Press, 2012.

Supplementary Textbooks

Maxwell, John. *Leader Shift: 11 Essential Changes Every Leader Must Embrace*. New York: HarperCollins Leadership, 2019.

McKinley, J. Keith. *Evaluating Leadership: A Model for Missiological Assessment of Leadership Theory and Practice*. Eugene, OR, Wipf&Stock, 2024.

Perkins, Dennis N.T. *Leading at The Edge: Leadership Lessons from the Extraordinary Saga of Shackleton's Antarctic Expedition*. Second Edition. New York: AMACOM, 2012.

Sanders, J. Oswald. *Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2017.

Stowell, Stephen J. and Stephanie S. Mead. *The Art of Strategic Leadership: How Leaders at all Levels Prepare Themselves, Their Team, and Organizations for the Future*. Hoboken, New Jersey: John Wiley and Sons, 2016.

Williams, Pat. *Character Carved in Stone: The 12 Core Virtues of West Point That Build Leaders and Success*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 2019.

Seminar Requirements and Assignments

Before the Seminar:

1. **Critical Book Review.** EACH student will read *The Six Disciplines of Strategic Thinking* by Watkins and write a **critical analysis**, containing the following components for EACH chapter of the text:
 - a. A one-paragraph summary of the chapter.
 - b. A two-paragraph consideration of the application of the chapter content to a congregational or ministry organization context.
 - c. Select two significant components from the chapter, and give a one paragraph discussion for each component regarding how to improve or enhance that component in the student's ministry context.
2. **Biblical Leader Case Study.** EACH student will read *Leading Change* by John Kotter. Using the "Eight Stage Process" of leading change in Part II of the textbook, the student will develop a **case study** of a biblical leader who modeled strategic leadership. The case study should include: (1) a brief description of the personality of the biblical leader, using biblical citations to support assertions; (2) one example from the life of the biblical leader

for EACH of the eight stages presented by Kotter; and (3) a brief discussion of three applications from the case study to a congregational or ministry organization context.

The professors will assign randomly a biblical character to each student by August 25th.

Noah	Joshua	Ezra	Daniel	Aquila/Priscilla
Abraham	Samuel	Nehemiah	Jesus	Timothy
Jacob	Elijah	Esther	Peter	John
Joseph	Gideon	Solomon	Paul	
Moses	David	Hezekiah	Barnabas	

3. **Ministry Challenge Case Study.** EACH student will write a brief description (two or three paragraphs, maximum length) of a challenge or crisis you have faced as a ministry leader. While this example does not need to be overly dramatic, it should present a real-life example from your ministry setting. This ministry challenge will be discussed with the seminar group in class.
4. **Annotated Analysis.** EACH student will read and compose an annotated analysis of one of the supplementary text with the following components: (1) a two- page summary of the contents of the book, (2) the identification of five key insights and issues addressed in the book related to strategic leadership and a one-page discussion for EACH insight, relating the importance and utilization of the insight in the student's ministry context, and (3) a one-page reflection on the two significant strengths of the book for strategic leadership in a congregational or ministry organization context. First person allowed. **The professors will assign each student a book for the annotated analysis by August 25th. Students will work in groups to make seminar presentations.**

Format for Assignments: Assignments 1-4 should be single-spaced, with a space between each single-spaced paragraph, no paragraph indentions, and written with an informal writing style. However, the title page, margins, pagination, and heading/subheadings should utilize Turabian 9th edition. Because the papers are informal in style, students may **judiciously** write from a first-person perspective with limited usage. Instead of footnotes, quotations and content material can be referenced with endnotes.

Assignments 1-4 are to be submitted to CANVAS no later than midnight, October 25th.

During the Seminar

Seminar Presentations: Seminar participants will be involved in seminar presentations and discussions involving all pre-seminar assignments.

Seminar Participation: Seminar participants are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar.

After the Seminar

EACH student will develop a **Strategy for Implementing Strategic Leadership** in his or her congregation or ministry organization context. The strategy must reflect what the student has learned in seminar textbooks and class discussions. Specific instructions regarding the format, structure, and components of the Strategy will be given by the professors prior to the end of the seminar. **The Strategy Paper is to be posted in CANVAS no later than December 1.**

Course Evaluation:

Critical Book Review 20%

Biblical Leader Case Study 20%

Annotated Analysis 20%

Ministry Challenge Case Study 10%

Strategy Paper 30%

Learning Management System (CANVAS): You will be enrolled in the CANVAS class. Pre-seminar and Post-seminar assignments should be uploaded on or before the assigned due date. Course schedule, documents, and other presentations will be shared on Canvas by the professors.

Student Canvas Resources

Student Guide to Canvas: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/tkb-p/student>

Canvas Tutorial Videos: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Video-Guide/tkbp/videos#student-videos>

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. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
3. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
4. 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.

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.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for

accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.