



CCSW8304 Ministering to Persons in Crisis
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Counseling
April 27-29, 2026; Tue 1-9 pm Wed/Thur 8-4 pm CST
New Orleans/NOLA2U

Brooke Osborn, Ph.D., LPC-S, LMFT
Associate Professor of Psychology and Counseling
Office: LSC 127 E
Phone: 504-816-8264
Email: bosborn@nobts.edu

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 the seminar is to equip ministers to actively assist people in crisis. Among the crises that will be addressed are divorce, death, child abuse, neglect, adoption, children with special needs, miscarriages, infertility, abortion, drug abuse, domestic violence, alcoholism, substance abuse, and addictions.

Student Learning Outcomes

When students have completed this seminar, they should be able to:

1. Identify basic guiding principles for ministering to people in crisis at varying developmental levels.
2. Develop an awareness of crises frequently experienced by people in ministries.
3. Explore the possible roles of the church in ministering to individuals in crisis.
4. Present a ministry plan, appropriate for use in the local church that addresses a particular crisis.
5. Demonstrate an ability to implement the basic guiding principles for ministering to people in crisis.

Textbooks

Floyd, Scott. *Crisis Counseling: A Guide for Pastors and Professionals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2008.

Kenner, Michelle. *Comfort in the Ashes: Explorations in the Book of Job to Support Trauma Survivors*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2025.

Osborn, Brooke, and Karen Roudkovski. *Counseling through the Storm: A Guide to Treating Crisis and Trauma*. Brentwood, TN: B&H Academic, 2025.

Wright, H. Norman. *The Complete Guide to Crisis and Trauma Counseling: What to Do and Say When It Matters Most*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House, 2011.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: lecture, class presentation/discussion, and practice in developing a ministry plan.

Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar Assignments

1. Annotated Analysis. Each student will read the four required textbooks, plus three books of the student's choice on the presentation topic in assignment #2 and submit a typed (single spaced) annotated analysis of 1-2 pages per book. Format: a. bibliographical entry; b. a summary of the book; c. one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book concerning crises that people may experience; d. one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book concerning ministering to people in crises; e. one (or more) weaknesses of the book and recommendations for improvement.

Note: The Annotated Analysis is due on the first day of the seminar (April 27, 1:00 p.m.).

2. Crisis Presentation. Each person is to develop a presentation, 40-45 minutes in length (exclusive of class discussion time), on a crisis facing persons in the twenty-first century. Students should prepare presentation slides and handouts for the class. Guiding a discussion and responding to questions by other members in the seminar is also expected; the discussion time will be approximately 15 minutes. Presentations should be well organized with clearly stated objectives. Each student should compile a list of resources (at least 20) related to the presentation topic. The presentation slides, the handouts, and list of resources should be posted on Canvas by April 26, 11:59 p.m. [Note: Presentation and discussion lengths may be adjusted by the professor depending upon class size.]

The topic of each student's presentation should be approved by the professor. Email Dr. Osborn, bosborn@nobts.edu, with two possible topics no later than April 2. Topics will be approved on a first come, first served basis.

During the Seminar Assignments

3. Attendance/Participation. Each student is expected to attend and participate fully in the entire seminar. Because of the limited amount of class time, please plan to arrive on time and stay for the duration of the seminar.

4. Textbook Discussion. Each student will lead a discussion on assigned portions of the textbooks. Assignments will be made by April 2 and will depend upon the number of students in the class.

5. Presentation/Discussion. Each student will present the approved topic and guide the subsequent discussion.

Post-Seminar Assignment

6. Ministry Plan. Each student will develop a paper detailing a ministry plan addressing an identified crisis facing persons in his/her church or ministry context. The paper should include an overview of the crisis within the ministry context and a specific plan for ministering to people experiencing the crisis. The paper should be written in a Turabian style format with a title page, table of contents, introduction, body of the paper, conclusion, and a selected bibliography (12-15 resources). The body of the paper should be 15 pages, double-spaced. Due date: May 15, 11:59 p.m. Submit on Canvas.

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 require attendance at the stated class meeting times.
2. Due to the short nature of this course, no absences are allowed.
3. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a class session.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Annotated Analysis/Reading Assignments	20%
Textbook Discussion	10%
Presentation	40%
Ministry Plan	30%
Final Grade:	100%

Attendance Policy

Intensive and Weekend Hybrid Classes: 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.

Late Assignments: Due to the brief nature of this seminar, no late work will be accepted. Please make sure to get your assignments in on time in order to complete the course successfully.

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 or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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.

Course Schedule

April 27, 1-9	Introduction, Book Presentations
April 28, 8-4	Crisis Presentations/Discussion
April 29, 8-4	Crisis Presentations/Discussion, Conclusion

Selected Bibliography

Arent, Ruth P. *Helping Children Grieve*. Fredonia, WI: Champion Press, 2005.

Berman, Alan. "Risk Assessment, Treatment Planning, and Management of the At-Risk-for Suicide Client." *Family Therapy* 5, no. 4 [July/August 2006]: 12-15.

Clinton, Tim, Archibald Hart, and George Ohlschlager, eds. *Caring for People God's Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma*. Nashville, TN: Nelson, 2006.

Collins, Gary. *Christian Counseling: A Comprehensive Guide*. 3rd ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2007.

Collins, Margaret. *It's OK to Be Sad: Activities to Help Children Aged 4 to 9 to Manage Loss, Grief, or Bereavement*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005.

Danielson, Thay, Pat Lucas, Rose Malinowski, and Sharon Pittman. "Set Free Ministries: A Comprehensive Model for Domestic Violence Congregational Interventions." *Social Work & Christianity*, 36 (2009): 480-493.

Emery, Robert E. *The Truth About Children and Divorce: Dealing With the Emotions So You and Your Children Can Thrive*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Feinberg, John S. *When There Are No Easy Answers: Thinking Differently about God, Suffering, and Evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2016.

Floyd, Scott. *Crisis Counseling: A Guide for Pastors and Professionals*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2008.

Goldman, Linda. *Children Also Grieve: Talking About Death and Healing*. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006.

Greeman, James T. *What Happened to My World? Helping Children Cope with Natural Disaster and Catastrophe*. Watertown, MA: Comfort for Kids, 2005.

Grollman, Earl A., and Joy Johnson. *A Complete Book About Death for Kids*. Omaha, NE: Centering Corporation, 2006.

Hargrave, Terry D. "Forgiveness and Reconciliation After Infidelity." *Family Therapy* 7, no. 2

[March/April 2008]: 30-33.

Henline, H. Branden and Michael D. Howard. "Understanding and Treating Cyber-Betrayal." *Family Therapy* 7, no. 2 [March/April 2008]: 25-29.

Jeffreys, J. Shep. *Helping Grieving People – When Tears are not Enough: A Handbook for Care Providers*. 2nd ed. New York: Routledge, 2011.

Kesling, Gary. "Antidepressants, Teen Suicide and 'Black Box Warnings.'" *Family Therapy* 5, no. 4 [July/August 2006]: 24-30.

Kotria, Kimberly. "Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking in the United States." *Social Work*, 55 no. 2 (2010): 181-188.

Krienert, J.L., J. A. Walsh, and M. Turner. "Elderly in America: A Descriptive Study of Elder Abuse Examining National Incident-based Reporting System (NIBRS) data, 2000-2005." *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 21 (2009): 325-345.

Laszloffy, Tracey. "The Hidden Effects of Family Violence on Children." *Family Therapy* 6, no. 3 [May/June 2007]: 16-19.

McMinn, Mark. *Sin and Grace in Christian Counseling: An Integrative Paradigm*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2008.

Miller, J. Bobbi and Andrew S. Brimhall. "Gender Biases and Infidelity." *Family Therapy* 7, no. 2 [March/April 2008]: 16-19.

Pierre, Jeremy, and Deepak Riju. *The Pastor and Counseling: The Basics of Shepherding Members in Need*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2015.

Schmutzer, Andrew, ed. *The Long Journey Home: Understanding and Ministering to the Sexually Abused*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2011.

Shaw, Toby. "The Impact of Suicide on the Family: Grief and Loss." *Family Therapy* 5, no. 4 [July/August 2006]: 18-23.

Sphar III, Asa R., and Argile Smith. *Helping Hurting People: A Handbook on Reconciliation Focused Counseling and Preaching*. Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 2003.

Straussner, Shulamith Lala Ashenberg, ed. *Clinical Work with Substance-abusing Clients*. New York: Guilford, 2006.

Street, John D. *Men Counseling Men: A Biblical Guide to the Major Issues Men Face*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2013.

Tautges, Paul. *Comfort Those Who Grieve: Ministering God's Grace in Times of Loss*. Leominster: Day One Publications, 2009.

Thomas, Alan. *Tackling Mental Illness Together: A Biblical and Practical Approach*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2017.

Wells, Rosemary. *Helping Children Cope with Grief: Facing a Death in the Family*. London: Sheldon, 2007.

