



**CEAD 8302 Strategies and Models for  
Family Ministry  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Church Ministry Division  
May 4-6  
(Mon 1-9, Tue/Wed 8-4)**

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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 seminar is designed to survey contemporary family life and to investigate concerns involved in family living. The role of family life education in the local Baptist church in addressing these needs is stressed. Special attention is given to current literature in the field. Family life education projects will be developed and evaluated.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for the role of family life in the ministry of Christian education in the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

1. current societal issues influencing the family.
2. concerns that may be addressed through family life education in the church.
3. one chosen researched problem or need, and skill in
4. presenting a family life education project for use in his/her church.

**Textbooks**

The following four texts are required and are to be read in their entirety.

Balswick, Jack O. and Judith K. Balswick. *The Family: A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*. 5th ed. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021. Kindle edition available. ISBN-13: 978-1540963000. Kindle format available.

Bell, Phil. *The Family Ministry Playbook for Partnering with Parents*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2021. ISBN-13: 978-1614841173. Kindle format available.

Hunter, Ron. *Recalibrate: A New Measure for Family Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Randall House Publications, 2019. ISBN-13: 978-1614841067. Kindle format available.

Shirley, Chris. *Family Ministry and the Church: A Leader's Guide for Ministry through Families*. Nashville, TN: Randall House Academics, 2018. 978-0892654727.  
Kindle format available.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

In this seminar you will develop presentations and participate in interactive discovery-learning.

### **Course Requirements**

Rubrics for assignments are posted in Canvas. *You must submit all assignments to pass the seminar.*

### **Contemporary Family Life Issue and Church Response Presentation (20%)**

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate doctoral-level understanding of a contemporary family life issue, analyze its impact on families today, evaluate current church response models, and propose biblically grounded, practical strategies for family life education and ministry in the church.

#### Step 1: Request Topic

Due: Feb. 13

Submit your topic request to [dpeavey@nobts.edu](mailto:dpeavey@nobts.edu) by Feb. 13. Topics may not be duplicated and will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis. If you wish to present a topic not listed below, submit it for approval. The presentation topic must be approved by the professor. A list of topic assignments will be emailed to seminar participants. Topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Adoption – (international, domestic, private/open, non-foster)
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse/Family Impact
- Social Media/Technology
- Family Worship at Home (not family devotions)
- Domestic Violence
- Marriage Enrichment
- Foster Care
- Family Missions and Ministry
- Special Needs Ministry
- Grandparenting
- Ministry to the Elderly

#### Step 2: Presentation

Due: May 4

Length and Format: Develop a 40 to 45-minute visual presentation (PowerPoint, Prezi, or similar tool) on the approved topic. (Time length of presentation may be adjusted based upon seminar enrollment).

Requirements: Your presentation must address three major components:

1. How the topic is manifested in Contemporary Family Life
  - a. Define the chosen topic clearly.
  - b. Explain why this issue matters now:
    - i. Use current statistics, trends, and scholarly research (last 10 years).

- ii. Highlight cultural, economic, and technological factors shaping the issue.
  - iii. Discuss implications for the family (communication, roles, spiritual formation).
- 2. Current Models for Church Response to the Topic
  - a. Identify at least two existing approaches churches use to address this issue:
    - i. Examples: support groups, counseling, pastoral care models
  - ii. Evaluate these models:
    - 1. Strengths and limitations
    - 2. Theological grounding (how Scripture and Baptist distinctives inform them).
    - 3. Practical feasibility in a local church context.
- 3. Suggested Strategies for the Church to Respond
  - a. Propose 3-5 actionable strategies for family life education in a local Baptist church setting. The strategies must:
    - i. Be biblically and theologically grounded
    - ii. Reflect best practices in Christian education and adult learning theory.
    - iii. Address diverse family structures
  - b. For each strategy:
    - i. Provide specific steps for implementation
    - ii. Suggest evaluation methods (how will success be measured)

**Presentation Structure and Timing:**

- 1. Introduction (5 min): State topic, relevance, and objectives
- 2. Section 1 (10-12 min.): Contemporary manifestation of the issue
- 3. Section 2 (10-12 min.): Current church response models
- 4. Section 3 (10-12 min.): Proposed strategies for Baptist church response
- 5. Conclusion (3-5 min.): Summarize key insights, theological rationale, and next steps.
- 6. Q&A (5 min.): Prepare to answer questions from colleagues and the professor.

**Visual Design Guidelines:**

- 1. Use clear slides
  - a. Limit text, emphasize visuals and key points
  - b. Include charts, diagrams, and images to illustrate data and concepts.
- 2. Embed a short video clip (testimonies, ministry examples)
- 3. Provide speaker notes for each slide (to demonstrate the research)
- 4. Cite all sources in Turabian format on a final “References” slide.

**Submission Requirements:**

- 1. Upload the presentation to Assignments on Canvas before class.
  - a. Include speaker notes and reference list in Turabian

2. Post the presentation on the designated Discussion Board after you present. *The grading rubric for this assignment is included in the syllabus. This assignment is related to SLO #4.*

### **QQTP - Questions, Quotations & Talking Points (20%)**

**Due: May 4**

The purpose of this assignment is to foster critical engagement with key texts on contemporary family life and ministry by encouraging students to interact thoughtfully with the material. Through structured reflection, you should demonstrate an understanding of current societal issues influencing families and concerns that can be addressed through family life education in the church. By formulating analytical questions, selecting significant quotations, and developing detailed talking points, you will synthesize ideas, evaluate implications for ministry, and connect readings to broader theological and practical frameworks. This process should equip you to think deeply about how the church can respond to family-related challenges in ways that are biblically grounded and contextually relevant.

Write a one-page response to each text, including each of the following:

- **Question:**
  - Write one thoughtful, open-ended question that invites analysis, synthesis, or evaluation of reading.
  - The question should connect the text to broader issues in family life education or previous readings.
  - Avoid yes/no or factual questions.
- **Quotation:**
  - Select one significant quotation from the text – ideally 2-6 lines.
  - Provide Turabian citation
  - Choose a quotation that captures a key idea or theme relevant to family ministry concerns.
- **Talking Points:**
  - Develop at least five detailed talking points that reflect critical engagement with the reading.
  - Cover multiple aspects of the text (theoretical insights, practical implications, theological connections.)
  - You may reference your question here but do not answer it fully.
  - *This assignment is related to Student Learning Outcomes #1 and #2.*

### **Submission Requirements:**

1. Submit a Word document or PDF.
2. Upload to Canvas before the start of the seminar session.

### **Evaluation Criteria**

- Depth and originality of the question.
- Relevance and significance of the quotation.
- Quality and critical thinking demonstrated in talking points.
- Formatting and adherence to Turabian.

### **Annotated Bibliographies (10%)**

**Due: May 4**

The purpose of this assignment is to develop a scholarly foundation for your family ministry project by critically engaging with current research and resources beyond the required course texts. *This assignment supports SLO #3* by deepening your understanding of a specific family life issue within the context of Christian education and ministry.

Compile an annotated bibliography of 10-15 scholarly resources (books, peer-reviewed journal articles, denominational reports, or credible ministry guides) directly related to your chosen family life topic.

1. Each annotation should
  - Provide a full Turabian citation.
  - Summarize the resource's central argument or findings.
  - Evaluate its relevance and contribution to your project (theoretical insight, practical application, theological perspective).
  - Note any unique features that inform your proposed family life education initiative.
2. Resources must be current (published within the last 10 years) unless a classic work is essential.
3. Organize entries alphabetically by author and ensure annotations are 150-200 words each.

#### **Submission Requirements:**

1. Submit a Word document title "Annotated Bibliography – [Your Topic]" with a brief introductory paragraph explaining how these resources collectively shape your understanding of the issue and inform your project design.

#### **Evaluation Criteria:**

- Quality and relevance of selected resources.
- Depth and clarity of annotations (summary + critical evaluation).
- Integration of theological and practical insights.
- Formatting and adherence to Turabian guidelines. *The grading rubric for this assignment is posted on Canvas.*

### **Lead a Discussion on Assigned Text (10%)**

This assignment is designed to help you demonstrate an understanding of concerns that may be addressed through family life education in the church by engaging with the required texts and facilitating meaningful dialogue among peers.

You will be assigned a book or specific chapters from the required course texts by the professor. Your responsibility is to lead a class discussion on the assigned material during the seminar. This includes:

- Preparing a concise overview of the key themes and arguments in the reading.
- Identifying how the text addresses concerns relevant to family life education in the local church.
- Developing thought-provoking questions that invite analysis, synthesis, and application of the material to ministry contexts.

- Encouraging participation and guiding conversation to ensure connections are made between the text and practical strategies for family ministry.

Expectations:

- Be prepared to actively participate in class discussions of all primary texts throughout the seminar, not only the one you lead.
- Use scholarly and theological insight to frame your discussion.
- Incorporate examples or case studies where appropriate to illustrate application in church settings.
- Evaluation:  
Your grade will reflect the clarity and depth of your presentation, the quality of your discussion questions, and your ability to engage peers in meaningful dialogue that connects theory to practice. *The grading rubric for this assignment is posted on Canvas. This assignment is related to SLO #2.*

**Family Life Project Proposal (40%)**

**Due: May 22**

The purpose of this assignment is to design a comprehensive family life education project that could be implemented in your local church or ministry setting. While full implementation is not required, the project should be developed as if it were ready for real-world application. *This assignment addresses SLO #4* by equipping you to create ministry strategies that respond to identified family needs.

The project will be completed in two steps:

Step 1: Project Idea Submission/Approval (5%)

Due: May 4

- Submit a brief description (2 pages) of your local ministry context and the rationale for your proposed project.
- Explain:
  - Why this project is important for your church or ministry.
  - How it could positively impact the congregation or community.

Your idea will be reviewed and approved (or modified) by the professor by the end of the seminar meeting.

Step 2: Family Life Project Proposal (35%)

1. Identification of the Need
  - a. Clearly define the family life issue your project addresses
2. Theoretical and Theological Rationale
  - a. Provide scholarly and biblical foundations for your project.
  - b. Integrate relevant family ministry models and Christian education principles.
3. Strategies for Implementation
  - a. Outline practical steps for launching the project in a local church or ministry setting.
  - b. Include considerations for staffing, resources, and timeline.
4. Evaluation Methodologies

- a. Describe how you would measure the project's effectiveness and impact on the congregation or community.
5. Bibliography
  - a. Include all resources necessary to inform and complete the project.

Note: Implementation of the project is not required for this assignment. A grading rubric for this assignment is posted on Canvas and should guide the structure and content of your proposal. *The grading rubric for this assignment is posted on Canvas.*

### Evaluation

Contemporary Family Life Issues Presentation	20%
QQTPs	20%
Annotated Bibliography	10%
Text Discussion	10%
Family Life Project Idea	05%
Family Life Project Proposal	35%

### Course Policies

The following policies will serve to govern both the student and professor for the duration of this seminar.

**Absences:** Absences in doctoral seminars are not permitted.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** All doctoral, 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. Assignments must be Word documents or PDFs, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

**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.

**Classroom Decorum:** Your participation is required for every class session. You are expected to:

- Come to the class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources related to the course topic.
- Dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- Turn off cell phones and not accept any calls and/or text messages during class.
- Use laptops appropriately during class.

### Disability Accommodations

Accommodation for students with disabilities is 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](mailto: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 accommodation on a case-by-case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

**Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices may be used in class only for taking notes and other activities assigned by the professor. Other activities are strictly prohibited. Laptops may not be open during presentations unless requested by the presenter. Phones must be silenced during class time. Any student found violating this policy may be asked to leave class and will be counted absent.

**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 current NOBTS catalog.

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments are not accepted in doctoral seminars.

**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 always expected in the online environment.

**Plagiarism:** 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.

**Professor's Absence or Tardiness:** If the professor is late in arriving to class, you must wait a full 20 minutes after the start of class before you may leave without being counted absent, or you must follow any written instructions that may be given to you.

**Recording Policy:** Only official NOBTS recordings of class (CIV, Teams, Flex, etc.) are permitted. Student recordings, including any audio and/or video recordings, regardless of the media or format, and regardless of the intended or actual use, are not permitted without prior written permission of the professor. The class will be notified in advance should any such recording be approved. This policy is intended to protect the privacy of the students.

**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. Canvas and CNS do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Canvas. **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.

**Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation:** For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to: WBSN FM-89.1 -- WWL Channel 4 -- WWL AM-870 -- [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu)

**Mandatory Evacuation:** Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. If the Mayor or the President of NOBTS recommends that you leave the city, then do so. If a mandatory evacuation is called everyone except emergency personnel must leave. Staying on campus is not an option. See the *Student Handbook* for further information regarding hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and shelter.

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

**Office Hours:** Office hours are posted outside the professor's office. If necessary, contact the professor to schedule an appointment.

**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 Spiritual Formation and Student Life Office is here to help and may be contacted at 282-4455, ext.8246 or [deansec@nobts.edu](mailto:deansec@nobts.edu). The Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center may be contacted at 504-816-8004 or [lmccc@nobts.edu](mailto: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 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) or [My.nobts.edu](http://My.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. [Canvas@nobts.edu](mailto:Canvas@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) [Canvas.NOBTS.edu](http://Canvas.NOBTS.edu).
3. [TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
4. [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto: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!
5. [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)
6. [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/) - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

**Grading Rubric: Visual Presentation on Contemporary Family Life Issue**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Proficient</b>	<b>Needs Improvement</b>	<b>Points</b>
Content Depth & Accuracy	Comprehensive, current, scholarly; strong theological integration.	Solid analysis; minor gaps in depth or sources.	Limited analysis; lacks depth or outdated sources.	30
Manifestation in Contemporary Family Life	Nuanced explanation with current data, trends, cultural factors; strong visuals.	Clear explanation with some data and visuals.	Minimal explanation; lacks data or visuals.	15
Current Church Response Models	Two+ models with critical evaluation; theological grounding; case studies.	Two models with basic evaluation; limited theology.	One model or superficial evaluation.	15
Suggested Strategies for Church Response	3–5 actionable, biblically grounded strategies; includes steps, evaluation, creative elements.	Strategies mostly actionable; some gaps.	Strategies vague or impractical.	20
Visual Design & Embedded Video	Professional, engaging slides; embedded video (1–3 min) enhances understanding.	Clear slides; video included but integration could improve.	Poor design or missing video.	10
Delivery & Engagement	Confident, clear, manages time; engages audience; mastery evident.	Clear and organized; minor timing issues.	Unclear, disorganized, poor timing.	5
Turabian References & Professionalism	All sources cited Turabian; reference slide complete; professional language.	Minor Turabian errors; mostly complete.	Frequent Turabian errors or incomplete references.	

### Grading Rubric: Annotated Bibliography Assignment

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Needs Improvement	Points
Quality & Relevance of Sources	Resources are highly relevant, scholarly, and current; selection demonstrates depth and breadth.	Resources mostly relevant and scholarly; minor gaps in currency or diversity.	Resources limited in relevance or scholarly quality; outdated or insufficient variety.	30
Annotation Depth & Critical Evaluation	Annotations provide clear summary, critical analysis, and application to project; demonstrates doctoral-level insight.	Annotations include summary and some evaluation; limited application to project.	Annotations mostly descriptive; lacks critical analysis or connection to project.	30
Integration of Theological & Practical Insights	Strong integration of theological perspective and practical ministry application in annotations.	Some integration evident; may lack depth or consistency.	Minimal or no integration of theology or practical application.	20
Formatting & Professional Presentation	All citations and formatting adhere to Turabian; document is polished and professional.	Minor Turabian or formatting errors; overall professional.	Frequent Turabian errors; lacks professional presentation.	20