



ANSWERING GOD'S CALL

CESE 8312 Special Event in Children's Ministry
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Professional Doctoral Seminar
Heart of Child Conference: March 13-14, 2026

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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 purpose of this course is to expose the student to points of interest in and models for contemporary children's ministry through attendance at a national children's ministry conference*.

*Heart of the Child Conference, First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, OK

Register for the conference at www.heartofthechild.net. Use the code STUDENT and your discounted conference fee is \$30.00.

Student Learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, learners will be able to demonstrate:

1. an understanding of trends, points of interest, and models for contemporary children's ministry.
2. an appreciation for quality children's ministry through the local church.
3. skill in evaluating a local church's children's ministry regarding specific topics.

Textbooks

Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should Be Your Church's #1 Priority*. Baker, 2016. ISBN: 978-0-8010-1879-4. Kindle edition available.

Haynes, Brian. *Shift: What it takes to Finally Reach Families Today*. Group, 2009. ISBN 978-0-7644-3898-1. Kindle edition available.

Holmen, Mark. *Church+Home: The Proven Formula for Building Lifelong Faith*. Regal, 2010. ISBN: 978-0-8307-5568

Spooner, Bernard, ed. *Children's Christian Education: 12 Essentials for Effective Church Ministry to Children and Their Families*. Coppel, TX: Christian Leadership Publishing, 2015. ISBN: 978-1502403940. Kindle edition available.

Course Teaching Methodology

Students will attend HOC Conference, participate in all sessions, and complete individual learning assignments.

Course Requirements

All assignments must be submitted to pass this course. Attendance at all sessions of the conference is required – failure to attend each session will result in an automatic course failure. Failure to submit any required assignment will result in an automatic course failure, regardless of the grades earned on other assignments. *Rubrics for assignments are posted on Canvas.*

Assignments must be completed in the sequence outlined in the syllabus, as each task is designed to build upon the knowledge and skills developed in the preceding assignments. This progression ensures cumulative learning and the integration of concepts throughout the course.

Pre-Conference Requirement

1. QQTP - Questions, Quotations & Talking Points (20%)

Due: March 13

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 children and families and concerns that can be addressed through children's ministry 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 children's ministry 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 children's 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.*

Post-Conference Requirements

2. Statement of Attendance at HOC Conference

Due: March 20

Attend all HOC sessions and record thorough notes on all sessions attended for use in a post-seminar assignment. Submit a statement of your attendance, including the title of each session. You do not need to submit your notes.

3. Annotated Bibliography (15%)

Due: April 25

The purpose of this assignment is to develop a scholarly foundation related to the conference sessions attended by critically engaging with current research and resources beyond the required course texts. *This assignment supports SLO #1* by deepening your understanding of trends, points of interest, and models for contemporary children's ministry.

Compile an annotated bibliography of 20 scholarly resources (books, peer-reviewed journal articles, denominational reports, or credible ministry guides) directly related to the sessions attended. You must have a minimum of two resources related to a session.

1. Each annotation should
 - Provide a full Turabian citation.
 - Summarize the resource's central argument or findings.
 - Evaluate its relevance and contribution to the subject (theoretical insight, practical application, theological perspective).
 - Note any unique features.
2. Resources must be current (published within the last 10 years) unless 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" with a brief introductory paragraph explaining how these resources collectively shape your understanding of the issues and topics they address.
2. Submit to Canvas.

4. Integrated Paper (40%)

Due: April 25

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate how principles from your readings, conference attendance, and your own children's ministry experience connect and shape your current thinking.

Write a 10-12-page paper that integrates:

- What you learned or affirmed from the readings and the conference.
- Your personal ministry experience in children's ministry.
- Your current position and opinions on the topic(s).

This is a reflective and analytical paper. Begin with the word "I" and use "I" frequently throughout the paper to express your perspective.

Paper Requirements

Your paper should include:

1. Introduction

- Briefly introduce your area(s) of interest.
- Explain the issue and background of the problem.
- Help the reader understand why this topic matters.
- 2. Literature Review
 - Summarize and evaluate relevant sources.
 - Show how these sources relate to your topic.
- 3. Analysis and Evaluation
 - Assess the merit and significance of the data.
 - Compare sources to see if they align with primary sources.
- 4. Synthesis
 - Combine insights from readings, conference, and experience.
 - Develop an understanding, model, or process based on what you've learned.
- 5. Your Original Thoughts
 - Share your opinions and ideas, supported by evidence and experience.

Structure and Flow

- Use logical transitions between sections so the reader sees the “big picture.”
- Helpful phrases:
“For example,” “As a result of,” “Another idea that supports my view is,” “An opposite view is,” “A different perspective is.”
 These phrases make your discussion clear and coherent. *This assignment supports SLO #2.*

5. Ministry Evaluation (25%)

Due: April 25

This assignment asks you to critically evaluate your church's children's ministry considering what you have learned through course readings, conference sessions, the Integrated Paper, and your own ministry experience. Your goal is to assess the current state of the ministry and propose actionable recommendations for improvement.

1. Introduction
 - Begin with a brief overview of your church's children's ministry.
 - Include the titles of the conferences you attended as part of your introduction.
 - State the purpose of your evaluation and why it matters for your ministry context.
2. Evaluation
 - Assess your children's ministry using insights gained from:
 - Assigned readings
 - Conference sessions
 - Your Integrated Paper
 - Personal ministry experience
 - Consider specific topics discussed in the course and how they apply to your ministry setting.
3. Recommendations
 - Provide specific, practical recommendations for improving your children's ministry.
 - For each recommendation, include a clear rationale that explains:
 - Why this recommendation is needed

- How it addresses issues identified in your evaluation
- How it aligns with best practices and evidence from your learning

Format

- Length: 6–8 pages (double-spaced)
- Use headings and subheadings for clarity (e.g., *Introduction, Evaluation, Recommendations*)
- Support your evaluation and recommendations with evidence from readings, conferences, and experience.

Evaluation of Grade

Required Text Summaries	20%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Integrated Paper	40%
Ministry Evaluation	25%

Course Policies

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

Absences: Absences are not permitted in a seminar/workshop.

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.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All written assignments must be Word or PDF documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. (Hint: PDF preserves the formatting).

Assignment Grading: Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric posted on Canvas. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments.

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. This mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

Cell phones: Phones must be silenced during class time. The use of a cell phone for the purposes of texting, email or other social media is not permitted. Anyone who is observed text messaging or using an electronic device during class may be asked to drop the course.

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

- Come to the sessions 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.

- Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.
- Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Disabilities and Accommodations: New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary does not discriminate against applicants/ students on the basis of personal disabilities. The Seminary, in voluntary compliance with the American Disabilities Act, will provide reasonable institutional accommodations, modifications, and adjustments to enable and empower students with disabilities to participate in Seminary programs and activities to the fullest extent possible. However, NOBTS cannot support accommodations that place undue hardship on the Seminary or its resources or which alter the essential requirements of curriculum and academic progress. While the seminary does not provide direct assistance to students in the form of equipment or personnel, accommodations may be made by individual professors at their discretion. These accommodations usually take the form of early access to lecture materials in electronic format and additional time to complete tests and assignments. The most efficient way to pursue such accommodations is to provide the Director of Testing and Counseling (Dr. Jeff Nave, jnave@nobts.edu, 504-282-4455 ext. 8004) with documentation of the condition for which you seek accommodation, an explanation of helpful accommodations received in the past, and a description of the specific accommodations you desire. The Director of Testing and Counseling will document your request and communicate on your behalf with the professors who teach the course(s) for which you are registered. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for “special” accommodations 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 NOBTS 2013-2014 catalog.

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

Late Assignments: Late assignments will not be accepted unless an extreme situation occurs. Approval to submit a late assignment must be obtained.

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.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person’s work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

Recording Policy: Recordings of class, 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 Grader: You should contact the grader via email through Canvas. The grader responds to email during normal business hours, 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays only. The grader may not respond to late night or weekend e-mails until regular "business" hours. Please respect the grader's personal time. Remember, graders are students as well and have their own coursework and research to complete. Please be respectful in the language you use in your emails to the grader.

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.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html>.

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 Dean of Students office is here to help and may be contacted at 282-4455, ext.3283 or deansec@nobts.edu. The Leeke Magee Christian Counseling Center may be contacted at 504-816-8004 or 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 - 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.

Writing Style Guide

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas 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>