



CEAD 6370 Strategic Church Development Through Sunday School

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Christian Education Division

Fall 2015 Online

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the programs, resources, and organizational structures and process of strategic planning of a Sunday School ministry a local church.

Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2015-2016 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Interpersonal Skills*: Understand how to build relationships with other ministry leaders within the local church.

2. *Servant Leadership*: Determine how the Senior Pastor, staff members, and lay leaders can serve one another while still providing the appropriate leadership required.
3. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: As a leadership team intentionally “grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ” (Eph. 4:15b, NKJV).

Course Description

This course focuses on the delivery of Christian education in a local church context to foster strategic church development utilizing the Sunday school. Both traditional and contemporary Christian education methods for all age groups will be examined.

Student Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to introduce students to the basic principles, procedures, guidelines, and available resources for conducting the ongoing administration of Christian Education in the local church. The student involved in this process should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Understand the relationships and essential operations in the administration and management of the Sunday school ministries of the local church.
2. Identify from Scripture biblical concepts for administration of the Sunday school in the local church, and analyze these administrative practices in terms of a biblical worldview.
3. Value the similarities and differences between leadership, management, and administration.
4. Students will demonstrate administrative principles and practices to the planning, organizing, leading and evaluating the Sunday school ministries of the local church.

Required Readings

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

Required Texts

Mancini, Will. *Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, and Create Movement*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2008. ISBN:978-0-7879-9683-3

Parr, Steve. ed. *Sunday School That Really Excels: Real Life Examples of Churches with Healthy Sunday Schools*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2013. ISBN: 978-0-8254-4318-3

Taylor, Allan. *Sunday School in HD*. With a forward by Thom S. Rainer. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Press, 2009. ISBN: 978-0-8054-4973-0

Course Teaching Methodology

This course will utilize a lecture and interactive discovery-learning format via online learning environment.

Course Policies

Late Assignments

Personal time management is as much a requisite skill for ministry as is mastery of the course content. Accordingly, assignments are due in the Blackboard course assignment section by 11:59 pm on the date indicated in the Course Schedule. Assignments not submitted at this time are considered late and will be automatically penalized 10% for each date late including weekends. Late assignments will not be accepted one week beyond the original due date, no exceptions. **No grades of Incomplete will be issued for this course. If a late assignment is not received by the final course session, a grade of "F" is automatically earned for the course.**

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Learning Activities and Assessments* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2011-2012 catalog.

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

A grade of "F" may require the student to retake the course to complete the degree.

No grades of INCOMPLETE will be issued in this course.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

All assignments should be submitted on time via blackboard for this course. In the blackboard shell, click the "Upload Assignments" link to upload your work. Please note that every assignment that is uploaded is time stamped with the date and time of the upload.

Assignments point value:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Summary <i>Sunday School that Really Excels</i> – 9 points | Due: Sept. 19 th |
| 2. Book critique <i>Sunday School in HD</i> – 5 points | Due: Oct. 9 th |
| 3. Critical Reflection Paper – 20 points | Due: Oct. 30 th |
| 4. Book critique <i>Church Unique</i> – 5 points | Due: Nov. 6 th |
| 5. Strategic Planning Project – 35 points | Due: Dec. 10 th |
| 6. Discussion board postings (13) – 26 points | Due: Weekly |

Sunday School That Really Excels Summaries – 9 points (September 19th)

Students will summarize findings in the book, *Sunday School That Really Excels* by Steve Parr, on an assigned chapter in the book. After reading the **text in its entirety**, the student should generate *a list of four quotes* from the assigned chapter which are significant for the student's own personal discipleship, leadership development and/or for the student's discipleship of other ministry leaders. After each quote, the student should include a *3-5 sentence paragraph* with explanation of the quote's **significance** and its **future usage for personal growth and in church ministry** with at least one practical application for implementation in local church ministry. The professor will assign the chapters to students on the first day of class.

Critical Reflection Paper – 20 points (Due October 30th)

Create a clear and concise **10-page** critical reflection paper (body) on a leadership or management necessity related to the Sunday School of the local church ministry. The paper will consist of a synthesis and analysis of the pertinent literature as well as a proposal for the integration of concepts to this specific local church ministry context. *(Always begin a paper with the **theological basis** before entering into the philosophical concerns.)* Students should use a minimum of **ten (10) sources** for this assignment. The paper should be written using Turabian formatting. Pay close attention to the formatting! A grading rubric is found in the online shell. The following are reflection papers to choose from:

- The Purpose and Mission of a Growing Sunday School
- How to Hire and Fire Sunday School Teachers
- How to Recruit New Teachers for Every Age Group in the Church
- Creating and Communicating Expectations and Job Descriptions for Teacher and Leaders of Sunday School
- How to Assimilate People from the Community into the Sunday School
- Choosing the Best Curriculum for Age-Graded Sunday Schools
- Creating and Training a Staff Team that Leads Sunday School
- Creating a Church-wide Space Plan for Sunday School Growth
- The Model Sunday School Teacher
- The Sunday School Pastor's Leadership Attributes
- Principles and Methods of Missional Sunday School Classes
- Planning an Annual Sunday School Training Event

Assignment Formatting

- Turabian format
- All papers must be written in third person and double-spaced
- Use 12 point Times New Roman font
- Use the same number of **references** as assigned pages
- Use correct spelling and grammar
- Use proper pagination
- Include your name on the *cover page*
- Staple assignments together as necessary or as required (*no report covers please*)
- Write the *full* assignment

Book Critiques – 10 points total (each book is 5 points)

On the assigned day, you turn in a 3-page type-written report on the assigned book. The book review should include the following two components: 1) A **content summary** that is double spaced for page one and 2) A **reflection summary** that is a single-spaced list of significant ideas (direct quotes or general ideas) from the book with a page number and 1 of the 3 categories below. Double space between each entry of the list. **Brief reflective comments should be included with each entry.** A grading rubric is found in the online shell.

1. AGREEMENT – Thoughts with which you are in firm agreement; things that make you say “Yes!” or items that inspire you to action in your life and move your spirit.

2. **DISAGREEMENT** – Thoughts in which you find dissonance; areas with which you might disagree.
3. **MORE THOUGHT** – Areas that you want to spend more time thinking about; things that make you wonder; items on which you are not sure what your stance is.

Due Dates: Allan Taylor (Sunday School in HD) – **October 9th**
Will Mancini (Church Unique) – **November 6th**

Strategic Planning Project - 35 points (December 10th)

Develop a strategic plan for a Sunday School or the counterpart small group Bible study ministry of the local church. The student's goal is to create a strategy that can be presented to the leadership of the church for future implementation. Guidelines for the development of this process will be provided online through the lectures and handouts. The student may delimit SPP to the specific age group for which you are preparing to serve. The student will post your project on Blackboard via Microsoft PowerPoint presentation (minimum of 25 slides) or Publisher handbook (minimum of 30 pages). A grading rubric will be provided in the blackboard shell.

Online Discussion Board Engagement – 26 points (13 posts at 2 points each)

Participation is required for every course session due to the interactive learning format of the course. A positive attitude can only enhance the learning experience. Therefore, for the purposes of this class, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as productive and interactive engagement with online threads and dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not engaged in the online dialogues on the subject matter. Consequently, the student is expected to:

- Post answers, comments, and questions on the discussion board threads
- Provide on-going biblical, philosophical, or social science research to support your assertions.
- Reflect on an idea presented in one of the textbooks.
- Relate an example or story that conveys an application to the thread.

Text Review Readings for Extra Credit – 3 points extra credit

OPTIONAL: Create a five-page text review for a book selection not already required or read for the course. The text selected *must be pre-approved* and consist of at least 150 pages. The text review should include a brief summary, the vital concepts, and your appraisal and considerations on the text.

Course Policies

Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. 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 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.

Course Schedule

Subject to change or adjustment as necessary

Unit and Date	Objectives	Assignments Due
Unit 1—Leadership August 24-30	1. Define Leadership 2. Examine Leadership Principles from the Old and New Testament 3. Discuss Vision, Leadership, management, and administration in the context of Sunday School.	Assign chapters for Sunday School that Really Excels by Steve Parr <u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 2—Management August 31-Sept. 6th	1. Define management 2. Examine distinctives between Leaders and Managers 3. Compare and Contrast Leadership and Management 4. Evaluate your personal calling to lead in the local church	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points Assign/accept topics for Critical Reflection Paper
Unit 3—Sunday School Introduction Sept. 7-13	1. Evaluate the current state of Sunday Schools in the local church. 2. Identify profile characteristics of a Sunday School with waning influence. 3. Identify the 5 points of Flake's formula. 4. Observe and identify the stages of a Sunday School Class.	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 4—Organizational Chart and Leadership positions Sept. 14-20	1. View a typical Organizational Chart for Sunday School 2. Examine the job description of a Division Leader and other leadership positions. 3. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Sunday School organizational chart	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points Due: Chapter Summaries for Parr's book – 9 pts
Unit 5—Enlistment Sept 21-27	1. Examine the biblical concept of believers serving in the local church. 2. Examine qualifications and enlistment strategies for Sunday school ministry. 3. Discuss ways to motivate, encourage, and reward volunteers	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 6—Administering the Sunday School class Sept. 28-Oct. 4	1. Examine principles for administering a SS class 2. Understand the biblical truth of stewardship in a leader's life 3. Focus on planning for future growth in people and classes.	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points

Unit and Date	Objectives	Assignments Due
Unit 7—Sunday School Teacher's call and training Oct. 5-11	1. Examine the teacher's call and commitment 2. Examine the ways to assist the teacher in teaching 3. Discuss the teacher maturation process	<u>Due:</u> Book Critique of <i>Sunday School in HD</i> by Allan Taylor—5 points <u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 8—Developing Ministry through Sunday School Oct. 12-18	1. Value a Kingdom minded vision for developing the people in each Sunday School class 2. Define and understand the concept of “open group” strategy. 3. List developmental and planning strategies for class ministries.	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Oct. 19-25	Fall Break	
Unit 9—Choosing and Evaluating Curriculum Oct. 26-Nov.1	1. Describe how to choose curriculum for Sunday school in your church. 2. Value the Bible as the primary curriculum builder for Sunday School. 3. Consider the domains of learning (head, heart, hands) in building and evaluating curriculum. 4. Identify with the eight ways that we learn. 5. Evaluate the curriculum that is used at your current ministry church setting	<u>Due:</u> Critical Reflection Paper Due –20 points <u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 10—Starting New Groups Nov. 2-8	1. Recognize the principle of pyramid growth. 2. Identify several reasons to start new classes/groups. 3. Diagnose the optimum times to begin new classes/groups. List opportunities to on where to begin to be reproducers.	<u>Due:</u> Book Critique of <i>Church Unique</i> by Will Mancini—5 points <u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 11—Strategic Planning Nov. 9-15	1. View the 10 steps of the strategic planning process 2. Decide the basis for a strategic plan for Sunday School 4. Discuss the application of the strategic planning process for strategic church growth	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Unit 12—Designing Educational Space Nov. 16-22	1. Consider the importance of educational space in the church building. 2. Evaluate current educational space needs. 3. List space barriers to growth of Sunday school in each age groups. 3. Name various considerations for designing education space.	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion Board Posting—3 points
Nov. 23-29	Thanksgiving Break	
Unit 13—Quality	1. Value planning and evaluating Sunday	<u>Due:</u> Answer Discussion

Unit and Date	Objectives	Assignments Due
Sunday School Standards Nov. 30-Dec. 6	School in the local church. 2. Review all seven functions of Sunday School with each specific practices. 3. Evaluate each of the “Quality standard” practices for all seven functions.	Board Posting—3 points
Dec. 7-11	Strategic Planning Project Work	Due: Strategic Planning Project – 35 points

Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today!

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

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

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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