



## **Introduction to Orphanology CECH 6241**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Christian Education Division

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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.*

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### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of the course is to equip students to lead the local church to be involved in orphan ministry.

### **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**

The primary core values addressed in this course are:

1. Disciplemaking: Students will be led to follow the biblical instruction to minister to orphans.
2. Interpersonal Skills: Students will develop sensitivity to the plight of orphans and skills necessary for ministry to them.

## **Course Description**

This course is designed to introduce students to the scriptural mandate for orphan ministries and the types of ministries in which churches can be involved, including foster care, adoption, and orphan care. Local church models, para-church models, and denominational models will be reviewed.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of the course you will:

1. Have an awareness of who “orphans” are and the types of ministries provided by denominational agencies, local churches, and para-church organizations.
2. Value God’s heart for orphans as presented in the Scripture.
3. Influence a local church to care for and minister to orphans.

## **Required Texts**

Davis, Tom. *Fields of the Fatherless: Discover the Joy of Compassionate Living*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2008.

Moore, Russel D. *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

Weber, Jason and Paul Pennington. *Launching an Orphans Ministry in Your Church*. Scituate, MA: Family Life Publishing, 2009.

## **Supplemental Texts**

Atwood, Thomas and Schooler, Jayne E. *The Whole Adoption Book: Realistic Advice for Building a Healthy Adoptive Family*. NavPress, 2008.

Bennett, Daniel J. *A Passion for the Fatherless: Developing a God-Centered Ministry to Orphans*. Kregel, 2011.

Elliot, Cheryl. *This Means War: Equipping Christian Families for Foster Care or Adoption*. Sweetwater Still Publishing, 2010.

Moore, Russell D. (Editor). *A Guide to Adoption and Orphan Care*. SBTS Press, 2012. (Kindle Edition available).

## Course Teaching Methodology

### Units

Orphans in the Scriptures  
Orphan Care and the Church  
Domestic Adoption  
International Adoption  
Foster Care  
Orphanages in International Settings  
Orphans in Refugee Camps  
Street Children  
Trafficked Children  
Involving Children in Orphan Ministry

\* A course schedule will be distributed the first day of class.

### Methodology

This course will involve guest speakers, lecture, class discussion, internet research, reading, and individual student assignments.

### Format

This class is being offered in a workshop on the main campus.

## Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

### **1. Personal Call (15%)**

**Due: Sept. 17**

You will write a three to five-page paper on your call to minister to *the least of these*. This assignment may be written in first person. Prior to writing your call, you should:

- a. Read the required texts
- b. Examine Scripture and commentaries regarding ministry to orphans, the poor, and needy
- c. Reflect over what your response to the scriptural mandate will be and what challenges you may encounter.

*This assignment is related to SLO #2.*

### **2. Text Reading/Response Essays (5% each; 20%)**

**Due: Oct. 9**

I. All texts should be read prior to the workshop.

II. You will read each of the required texts and one supplemental text and submit a two to three-page response essay of each. Refer to the course schedule for due dates of specific texts. Refer to and follow *Writing a Reaction or Response Essay* at <http://leo.stcloudstate.edu/acadwrite/reaction.html>. Concepts drawn from the text that will be helpful for ministry to children and families should be included in your response essay. *This assignment is related to SLO #1, #2, and #3.*

### **2. Orphan Care Ministry Proposal and Plan (45%)**

**Due: Oct. 9**

You will develop *ministry proposal* related to the support and/or care of orphans, foster care, adoption, or human trafficking which could be submitted to church leaders for consideration. Once the proposal is developed, you will develop the ministry *plan* as outlined below.

#### I. Ministry Proposal (15%)

Write a ministry proposal to be submitted for approval by church leaders that presents the mission, structure, and requirements. Include how the ministry will be promoted and any costs. Explain how you will report the outcomes and successes of the ministry.

## II. Ministry Plan (30%)

Step One: Review the church's mission and vision and then develop a ministry mission, vision, and value statements.

Step Two: Review and analyze the demographics of the church. Who do you need to target?

Step Three: Develop desired ministry (program) outcomes, ensuring that they compliment your mission and vision.

Step Four: Identify Action Steps for each key area – support functions. Support functions are created or identified in response to the developed orphan care ministry.

- Review the mission, vision, and value statements of the proposed orphan care ministry.
  - Identify the biblical or theological principle or premise for the event or program
- Identify human resources necessary to accomplish the agreed upon goal
  - Identify the leaders and workers necessary to accomplish the goal (staff and volunteer)
- Identify the financial resources necessary to accomplish the goals of the program.
  - Operating budget
  - Is it in the mission budget?
  - Is it unfunded? What are the financial resources available to accomplish your goal if not in the budget?
    - Fund raising
    - Designated offering
    - Special appeals
    - Other
- Identify physical and logistical resources available to accomplish your goals for the ministry. Be specific.
- Identify those who will promote the ministry, how it will be promoted, and how the promotion will be funded. Be specific.

Step Five: Identify challenges and potential issues to making the ministry happen and specific ways to overcome those challenges.

*This assignment is related to SLO #3.*

(These steps were adapted from Northumberland Presbytery Ministry Plan Guidelines and Handbook found at <http://www.northumberlandpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/1-Northumberland-Ministry-Plan-Guideline.pdf>)

## 4. Ministry Presentation (20%)

**Due: September 19**

You will select and extensively research a particular local, national, or international ministry related to adoption – domestic or international, orphan care, foster children, or trafficked children. A 30-minute presentation regarding this ministry is to be given on the last day of class.

*Your topic must be approved to avoid duplication.* Presentations should include the following:

- 3-4 slide PowerPoint or Prezi (or other presentation program) – include a bibliography
- Video (no more than 5 minutes)
- An activity that engages the class
- Recommendations for local church response
- 1 to 2-page handout

Your presentation, video, and handout should be posted on the designated discussion board on

the last day of class.

*Ministry selections should be submitted to the professor by Monday, Sept. 7 via email at [dpeavey@nobts.edu](mailto:dpeavey@nobts.edu) and will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis.*

### **Course Evaluation**

Personal Call	15%
Ministry Action Proposal and Plan	45%
Text Reading/Reflection	20%
Ministry Presentation	20%

### **Grading Scale**

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

### **Course Policies**

**Absences:** You are permitted no absences from an academic workshop. Any student seeking an exception to this policy must see the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**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 documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will not be accepted.

**Assignment Submission:** All assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

**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.

**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:** Only under extreme circumstances, and with prior approval, will a late assignment be accepted. Late assignments will be assessed an initial 10 percent penalty and 1 percent for each day after the due date (i.e. 10/1 points for a 100 point assignment, 3/.3 points for a 30 point assignment). No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Missed presentations may not be made up.

**Netiquette: 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 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.

**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:** 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**

**Blackboard and SelfServe:** You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will be need to enroll in the course on Blackboard.

**Correspondence with the Grader:** You should contact the grader via email at [peaveygrader@gmail.com](mailto:peaveygrader@gmail.com). 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.

**Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation:** For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1, WWL AM 870
- WWL Channel 4
- [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:** 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> .

**Office Hours:** Monday/Tuesday: 9-12; Friday 9-12

**Special Needs:** If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

**Technical Support:** If you experience any problems with your Blackboard account you may email [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) or call the ITC at 504-282-4455, ext. 8180.

### Selected Bibliography

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- Beazley, Jan. *The Strength of Mercy: Making a Difference in the World One Child at Time*. Colorado Springs: Waterbrook Press, 1999.
- Bell, Jane A. *Jesus is Always Near!* Longwood, FL: Xulon Press, 2007.
- Bennett, Daniel. *A Passion for the Fatherless: Developing a God-Centered Ministry to Orphans*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Academic & Professional, 2011.
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- Gerstenzang, Sarah. *Another Mother: Co-Parenting with the Foster Care System*. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2007.
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- Moore, Russell D. *Adopted for Life: The Priority of Adoption for Christian Families & Churches*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2009.
- Purvis, Karyn P., David R. Cross and Wendy Lyons Sunshine. *The Connected Child*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 2007.
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