



# CEYH6352 Equipping Youth for Decision Making and Critical Thought

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 and its ministries.*

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### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to equip those who work with youth to guide students to think critically and to apply critical thought to the decision-making process.

### **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. The seminary core value emphasis for 2015-2016 is *Mission Focus*.

### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition*: Communicate scriptural truth in large/small groups
2. *Theological and historical perspective*: Study and interpret the Scripture using various study tools; embrace and articulate right doctrine as part of mission and strategy
3. *Effective servant leadership*: Understand and interpret the youth culture; appreciate the urgency and necessity of pastoral care in the church, especially in

- the youth ministry; discern both perceived and felt needs among youth in their church region in order to direct relevant ministry
4. *Interpersonal relationships*: Build relationships with teenagers and help teenagers build relationships with their peers, their families, and their leaders; provide short-term counseling for teenagers and adults and understand the processes of helping individuals and groups in crisis, including referral; help youth leaders and teenagers develop coping skills
  5. *Disciple making*: Design and implement needs-based, ongoing educational programming which, through adult volunteers, address the basic functions of the church including: Bible study, discipleship, ministry, worship, evangelism, and fellowship
  6. *Spiritual and character formation*: Develop and consistently implement a Christian work ethic; see the need for and be able to stay refreshed spiritually

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to help church leaders understand that their relationship with Christ must permeate every part of their life as a disciple, including priorities, decisions, and lifestyle. With studies on God's truth, Satan's techniques, God's provisions, choices, and the consequences, it focuses on teaching students how to determine right from wrong in their everyday lives, specifically applying the decision-making process to moral questions about lying, cheating, getting even, and premarital sex.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following objectives, stated in terms of learning domains:

Cognitive:

1. You will identify principles of critical thought including current theories.
2. You will understand the decision-making process.
3. You will identify cultural tendencies (postmodernism) that preclude critical thought.

Affective:

4. You will appreciate the difference between critical thought and typical herd mentality.
5. You will grasp the urgency of equipping youth for critical thought.

Psychomotor:

6. You will be able to lead youth to a discussion of critical thought.
7. You will be able to articulate practical application of critical thinking principles in decision making.

**Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:**

1. Evaluate your own relationship with Christ by examining life's priorities.
2. Describe the basic disciplines of the Christian life and list ways they are related to decision-making.
3. Determine right from wrong in their everyday lives and teach students to do the same.

4. Understand the decision-making process.
5. Apply the decision-making process to moral questions about lying, cheating, getting even, and pre-marital sex.
6. Challenge teens to develop a life-long habit of making right moral choices by comparing each decision to the very nature of God.
7. Apply what you learned to real-life situations.

### **Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified. (IMPORTANT NOTE: For YMI weekend workshops, texts are provided. You will receive the text either in communication prior to the weekend or during class time at the YMI weekend workshop.)

#### **Required Texts**

- Friesen, Gary. *Decision Making and the Will of God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Multnomah Books, 2004.
- Gibbs, Pam and Mike Wakefield. *Complete: A Life of Purity*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2007.
- Iorg, Jeff. *Is God Calling Me?: Answering the Question Every Believer Asks*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2008.
- King, Clayton and Sharie King. *True Love Project: How the Gospel Defines Your Purity*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2014.
- Sigsby, Pamela. *Vital Truth: God's Will: What Does God Want Me to Do?* Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2001.

#### **Required Article**

[http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/The-Teen-Brain-Behavior-Problem-Solving-and-Decision-Making-095.aspx](http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/The-Teen-Brain-Behavior-Problem-Solving-and-Decision-Making-095.aspx)

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

#### **Introduction**

Syllabus, registration, get acquainted  
 Basic Disciplines of the Christian life: Bible study, scripture memorization, sharing faith  
 Everyday in America: Alarming Findings from Doctrinal Survey

#### **Decision Making and the Will of God**

In Search of the Missing Dot, *Decision Making and The Will of God*, Chapters 5-8  
*Complete: A Life of Purity* and *True Love Waits: The Complicated Struggle for Sexual Purity* (video)  
 Report on pre-assignment (Doctrinal Youth Survey)  
*Decision Making and The Will of God*, Chapters 11-13  
*Decision Making and The Will of God*, Chapters 14-16 and Conclusion

## Research and Report

Pre-assignment findings (Doctrinal Youth Survey)

Case Study: *Controversy over Capital Punishment*

Discuss an Implementation Plan

*Vital Truth: God's Will*

Case Studies: *To what extent is the use of narcotics a moral issue? But do you explain it to these guys?*

**Teaching Method.** Methodology is experiential which includes: lectures, video tapes, small and large group discussions, power point presentations, demonstrations and pre- and post-assignments, several assignments in required texts.

## Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

### Pre-Assignments

due at the first class meeting

#### 1. Reading of Texts:

The textbooks will provide a cognitive base for class discussion and interaction.

Complete all required reading before coming to class on the first day of the workshop.

#### 2. Review and Apply:

Follow the link provided in the "Required Article" section (found in "Required Texts"). Read the article, "The Teen Brain: Behavior, Problem Solving, and Decision Making." Rewrite it as an essay entitled, "The Teen Brain: Implications for Youth Ministers." Successful completion of this assignment is a one-page, double-spaced paper with a title page. Part of your grade is formatting correctly for Turabian in both content and on the title page, so consult [www.youthministryinstitute.org](http://www.youthministryinstitute.org) for some Turabian tricks when writing your pre- and post-assignments. Be prepared to informally present your ideas from this essay in class and share with your classmates.

#### 3. Read and Review

Read and write a three-page evaluation of *Is God Calling Me?* Include the book's relevancy to your calling and use in your ministry. Also, use correct Turabian formatting for this assignment. Consult [www.youthministryinstitute.org](http://www.youthministryinstitute.org) for tips.

#### 4. Blackboard

Prior to the first class meeting, the Blackboard Center of NOBTS will enroll you, the student, into the course in Blackboard. This is where your grades will appear for each of your assignments.

### **During the Course**

1. Attend each session of the *Equipping Youth for Decision Making and Critical Thought* weekend.
2. Complete each of the assignments made during the weekend.

### **Post-Assignments**

due no later than Friday, December 11, 2015 (5pm central time)

1. **Read** *Decision Making and The Will of God* and *Vital Truths: God's Will*. Using lecture notes and the pre-assignment texts, submit a ten-page paper evaluating the content of each resource. Include readability, usability, personal reflection, and an implementation plan describing the potential use of each resource with youth and youth leaders.
2. **Read** *True Love Project* and submit a two-page book review. As in all other written assignments for this course, follow Turabian guidelines for your document.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Electronic submissions are not acceptable. A copy of your assignment(s) must be submitted on or before the deadline. If you wish for your work to be returned, a stamped, self-addressed envelope must accompany your post-assignments. Otherwise, your documents will be destroyed.

### **Course Policies**

#### **Course Evaluation**

<i>Teen Brain</i> Essay	20%
<i>Is God Calling Me?</i> Review	30%
Ten-Page Text Review & Implementation Plan	30%
<i>True Love Project</i> Review	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

#### **Grading Policies**

- Assignments are due by the beginning of class on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each class period the assignment is late. Pre-assignments will be submitted at the beginning of class on the first day of the workshop. Post-assignments are to be mailed or dropped off at the YMI office. Whether mailed or delivered in person, the post-assignments are due by 5:00pm Central, Friday, December 11, 2015.
- Since exams are given via Blackboard; students will have a 24-hour window in which to take the exam. There should be no reason for any exams to be missed. If dire illness, personal emergency, or school sponsored events prevent access to the internet, the student will be responsible for contacting the professor before the exam to secure permission to schedule the exam and to schedule an appointment for a make-up exam. Failure to do so will result in an automatic grade of 0.
- Email submissions are not accepted. If this information changes at any point during the semester, you will be notified by the professor.

## Style

Guidelines for papers submitted in this course are found in the current edition of *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate L. Turabian, which is available in the bookstore.

## Formatting

- All assignments are to be typed, double-spaced with a 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and 1-inch margins unless otherwise indicated.
- Be sure to include your name, date of submission and the assignment title on the cover page. (An example of a correctly formatted title page is located on the YMI website: [www.youthministryinstitute.org](http://www.youthministryinstitute.org))
- Be sure to staple all assignment pages together before submission.

## Attendance

Students are expected to attend class sessions. Students missing any of the class sessions during a weekend workshop will automatically receive a final grade of F. Late arrivals will count as 1/3 of an absence, as will early departures (*NOBTS Graduate Catalog 2015-16*, 191).

## 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.

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## 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 once 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.

**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 decline 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 2015-2016 catalog.

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

**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 e-mail notification.

**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 cannot issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure 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. The ITC department will enroll

you into the correct Blackboard shell.

**Correspondence with the Grader:** You should contact the grader via email at [jacksonsec@nobts.edu](mailto:jacksonsec@nobts.edu) . 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 Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu)

**Mandatory Evacuation:** Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30 each year. 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 during the Spring 2016 semester:** By appointment only (schedule appointments by emailing [jacksonsec@nobts.edu](mailto:jacksonsec@nobts.edu) )

**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:** Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC using the following contact information.

**Selfserve@nobts.edu** Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://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](http://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/](http://www.NOBTS.edu/itc/)** General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

## Course Schedule

### **Class Schedule and Location**

**Thursday:** 6:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.; **Friday:** 8:30 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.;

**Saturday:** 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- Consult Self-Serve for class location. If you are a YMI conference attender, please email jacksonsec@nobts.edu one week prior to the first day of the workshop for information regarding room location.
- The class schedule appears on the previous page... just a reminder that New Orleans is in the Central Standard Time Zone.
- Please check YMI's website at [www.youthministryinstitute.org](http://www.youthministryinstitute.org) for up-to-date changes and memos prior to the course.
- The Professor reserves the right to change topics/dates as necessary (see course policies).

### Selected Bibliography

Friesen, Garry. *Decision Making*. Cincinnati, OH: Multnomah Press, 2000.

Hughes, Bill. *Living Pure Inside Out*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2002.

Knierim, Neil and Yvonne Burrage. *God's Call: The Cornerstone of Effective Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 1997.

McDowell, Josh. *Setting You Free to Make Right Choices, Jr. High/Sr. High Edition, Student*. Nashville, TN: World Bridge Press, 1995.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Setting You Free to Make Right Choices, Jr. High/Sr. High Edition, Leader*. Nashville, TN: World Bridge Press, 1995.

Payne, David. *True Love Waits Takes a Look at Courting, Dating, and Hanging Out*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2000.

Ross, Richard, compiler. *The 24 Hour Counselor* CD Rom. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 2000.

\_\_\_\_\_ and Tony Rankin. *When True Love Doesn't Wait*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 1998.

Sheldon, Charles M. *In His Steps*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999.

Stanley, Charles. *Charles Stanley's Handbook for Christian Living: Biblical Answers to Life's Tough Questions*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1996.

Yeary, Dan. *Make Up Your Mind*. Nashville, TN: Lifeway Press, 1997.

A complete youth ministry bibliography is available online at: [www.youthministryinstitute.org](http://www.youthministryinstitute.org) )