



Special Event: Catalyst Conference

DISC5399

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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide the student an opportunity for attendance in conferences, seminars, professional meetings, and other types of short term events and gain academic credit for participation.

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. *Biblical Exposition*: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately by examining what God has declared in His Word about discipleship topics and the leadership philosophy promoted by the various conference presenters.
2. *Disciple Making*: To stimulate church health through equipping and mobilizing Christian men and women for disciple making and fulfillment of the Great Commission.

3. *Interpersonal Skills*: To perform Christian brotherly and sisterly care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
4. *Servant Leadership*: To serve one another effectively through collaborative ministry efforts.
5. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: To promote Christ-honoring leadership development with emphasis on character, speech, integrity, faith, conduct, love, and purity of leaders.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to expose students to a variety of topics specific to “Next Generation Leaders,” including organizational leadership, integrity, character, relationships, and teamwork, among others. Student will attend the Catalyst Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, October 7-9, 2015. The Catalyst Conference is about shaping leaders in the church, presenting the next big ideas, practices and content. Catalyst exists to ignite passion for Christ and develop leadership potential in the “Next Generation,” equipping them to engage and impact our world. Every year, 12,000-13,000 next generation leaders converge in Atlanta, Georgia, for the Catalyst Conference.

Student Learning Outcomes

In order to serve churches effectively through Christian Education, by the end of the course, you should:

1. Be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of current discipleship topics and resources available for developing leaders in the church.
2. Value personal development as a ministry leader and corporate investment in developing other ministry leaders in the church by striving for a vibrant relationship with Christ.
3. Be able to gain skills in the area of observation and evaluation for the purpose of synthesizing characteristics of effective discipleship, assessing personal leadership qualities and developing practical application for effective discipleship in the church.

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Textbooks

Brown, Brené. *Rising Strong*. New York: Random House Publishing, 2015.

Feinberg, Margaret. *Wonderstruck: Awaken to the Nearness of God*. Brentwood, TN: Worthy Publishing, 2012.

Select Two Additional Required Texts from the list below:

Brown, Brené. *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead*. Penguin Random House, 2012.

Caine, Christine. *Unstoppable: Running the Race You were Born to Win*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2014.

Feinberg, Margaret. *Fight Back With Joy: Celebrate More. Regret Less. Stare Down Your Greatest Fears*. Brentwood, TN: Worthy Publishing, 2012.

Giglio, Louie. *I Am Not But I Know I Am: Welcome to the Story of God*. Colorado Springs, CO: Multnomah, 2012.

Kawasaki, Guy. *The Art of the Start 2.0: The Time-Tested, Battle-Hardened Guide for Anyone Starting Anything*. New York: Penguin Group, 2015.

OR

Kawasaki, Guy and Peg Fitzpatrick. *The Art of Social Media: Power Tips for Power Users*. New York: Penguin Group, 2014.

Lee, Trip. *The Good Life*. Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2012.

McManus, Erwin. *The Artisan Soul: Crafting Your Life into a Work of Art*. New York: HarperCollins, 2014.

Stanley, Andy. *Deep and Wide: Creating Churches Unchurched People Love to Attend*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2012.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will take place at the Catalyst Conference 2015 in Atlanta, GA and involve pre-conference work, conference attendance, and post-conference work.

Special Event Course Considerations:

- **Conference Fee:** In addition to NOBTS tuition, you are required to pay the **\$299** Catalyst Conference fee for the labs and conference sessions. Your NOBTS student account will be assessed this fee (\$299) for conference ticket and lab ticket. Tickets are purchased as a group by NOBTS and will be distributed to you at the conference.
- **Housing and Meals:** All travel, food, and rooming costs are your responsibility. Hotels are located in the area of the Gwinnett Arena. Go to the conference website <http://catalystconference.com/atlanta/> for details and hotel options.

Teaching Method

This course will emphasize observation and listening comprehension skills during the conference sessions and require conversation and analysis skills for assignment completion and discussions.

Delivery Format

The course will be delivered in a conference setting with group interaction incorporated at various times during the conference schedule and a pre- and post-conference discussion via Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

You are expected to complete the course assignments in the three learning domains: cognitive, affective, and psychomotor.

Cognitive Domain of Learning

1. *Textbook Reading, PowerPoint & Verification:* (15%)

Due: **October 6, 2015**

You will read the **Brown text** and the **Feinberg text** prior to the conference. Completion of reading before the conference is intended to improve understanding of course content and enhance discussion participation. You will be asked to indicate their reading percentage of the required texts ****Textbook Reading Verification will be conducted via Blackboard (online)**. You will submit a **PowerPoint presentation** of concepts from each text as a means of reviewing the textbook content with classmates. A minimum of 15 slides per textbook are required and the slides should focus on **pertinent concepts** from each text.

2. *Research Paper or Video Documentary*: (25%) Due: **November 9, 2015**
You will write a **5 - 7 page research paper** for one discipleship concept presented during the conference. The paper may be either argumentative or analytical, but must be **biblically supported**.

- Argumentative: You will introduce the topic and inform the reader of exactly which position the student intends to take (thesis statement). Since the goal is to persuade the reader, the topic should be debatable and controversial. You should support this thesis throughout the paper with **a minimum of 5 primary sources** (*excluding course textbooks*) with the intent to persuade the reader to a particular interpretation of the discipleship topic.
- Analytical: You will ask a research question upon which he or she has taken no stance, but rather is seeking to offer a critical interpretation of primary and secondary sources for the purpose of informing the reader of a particular discipleship topic. The paper must be supported with **a minimum of 5 sources** (*excluding course textbooks*).

The paper should be written in Turabian form using Times New Roman 12 pt font including page numbers and cover page. A grading rubric for the research paper is posted on Blackboard. Use Scripture references to support paper content, but do not consume or waste valuable page space with quoting long passages of Scripture in the document.

OR

You have the option to select an alternative assignment: **Video Documentary** (25%). You will write a **5 to 7-page script** for a video documentary about a specific person or ministry introduced at the conference. The script must include a minimum of 5 bibliographic resources supporting the content of the documentary. A 5-minute video must be produced corresponding to the script and the bibliographic resources.

Affective Domain of Learning

3. *Conference Journal & Evaluation*: (10%) Due: **October 17, 2015**
During the conference, you should make notations about each conference session speaker, each Lab session leader, booths, displays, events, and any resources provided (i.e., have **a conference journal** (electronic or written) recording the three days of speakers, activities, etc.). At the conclusion of the conference, you will be required to evaluate the event by writing a review. The review should include a **1-page schedule** listing the sessions and activities participated followed by a **3-page paper** including items such as theme explanation, best speaker/worst speaker, best resource/worst resource, venue critic, schedule consideration, vendor availability, etc. Also, the review should include a **1-page critical analysis** of the event worth/value regarding leader

development and personal discipleship practices (i.e., will you be a “better” leader or a more “effective” disciple maker because of attending?”). The paper should be a total of 5-full pages of content and include a Turabian cover page and page numbers.

4. *Conference Speaker Reading:* (20%) Due: **October 31, 2015**
You will choose two books from the list provided on pages 2-3 of this syllabus. The books are authored by the conference speakers. The books you select must not be books you have read previously. After reading each text in its entirety, you should generate *a list of 7 quotes* from each book which are significant for your own personal discipleship, leadership development and/or for your discipleship of other ministry leaders. After each quote, you should include a *3-5 sentence paragraph* explanation of the quote’s significance and its future usage for personal growth and in ministry with at least one practical application for implementation in local church ministry. At the conclusion of the paper, you should *indicate the percentage of each text read*. Submit paper with Turabian cover page and page numbers.

Psychomotor Domain of Learning

5. *Blackboard Discussion:* (5%) Due: **October 6 and October 17, 2015**
You will be responsible for participating in two discussion boards for the course. The pre-conference discussion board via Blackboard should be completed by **October 6**. The post-conference discussion board via Blackboard should be completed by **October 17, 2015**. Discussion questions and guidelines will be posted on Blackboard.
6. *Personal Action Plan:* (15%) Due: **October 31, 2015**
As a result of participating in this conference and reading the course textbooks, you will select one aspect of leadership, mentoring, or discipleship and *design an action plan* to be implemented in your life in the next 6 to 12 months following the course. Be Specific. Include description of personal goal, action steps to accomplish goal, timeline for specific steps to be completed, resources needed, etc.
7. *Conference Participation:* (10%) Due: **October 7-9, 2015**
You are expected to participate fully in the conference Labs (Wednesday afternoon) and the main conference sessions (Thursday and Friday). Note: Pre-labs (Wednesday morning) are optional. This portion of the course grade will be evaluated by the professor with regard to attendance notifications, meaningful interaction during conference, and evidence of discussion engagement.
You are expected to attend one brief introductory meeting before the conference begins (**Wednesday at 9:45AM**) and at least one of the Team Collective times occurring after Session 2, Session 4 and Session 7 at the conference. Professor will designate a specific meeting place at the conference venue and you will be expected to participate in the selected Team Collective /class meeting time.

Time Commitment

This course should involve a minimum of 10 hours of pre-conference work of reading two textbooks, creating PowerPoint presentation and one Blackboard discussion. The course will require conference attendance beginning on **October 7, 2015** and concluded **October 9, 2015**, totaling 30 hours of conference participation. Also, the course will involve post-conference work

constituting a minimum of 30 hours for post-conference assignment completion: Blackboard discussion, conference journal & evaluation, conference speaker reading, and research paper.

Course Evaluation

The professor will prescribe a grade based upon the student's satisfactorily completion of the following:

Textbook Reading, PowerPoint, and Verification	15%
Research Paper	25%
Conference Journal & Evaluation	10%
Conference Speaker Reading	20%
Blackboard Discussion	5%
Leadership Action Plan	15%
Conference Participation	10%

Grading Scale

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

Course Policies

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

Blackboard: You are responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents and announcements. You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding e-mail address on the Blackboard system and Self-Serve.

***Blackboard Discussion Board Involvement:** You are expected to reflect on the reading and presentations in each unit through Blackboard Discussion. In order to get credit for your involvement in Blackboard Discussion, you must *post at least one substantive response* to the specific unit questions. A substantive response should be concise and may include, but not limited to, the following: a reflection or personal example on a concept from readings, a different perspective on a topic, a quote or link from another source that relates to the topic, an experience you have had in a ministry that relates to the topic.

Technical Support: Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC:

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.

If you experience any problems with your Blackboard account you may email BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu or call the ITC at 504-282-4455, ext. 8180.

Assignment Submission: Assignments should **not** be e-mailed to the professor. All assignments should be submitted via Blackboard. Course pre-assignments (i.e., textbook reading and discussion board) are due before the conference begins. Course pre-assignments not completed

are considered late and must be submitted no later than the final conference session or a zero will be earned for the assignments. All other late assignments are due no later than 6 weeks after conference, no exceptions. ***If all course assignments are not uploaded to Blackboard by the sixth week after the conference, a grade of zero is automatically earned for all missing assignments.***

Assignment Format: Unless otherwise noted, all written assignments must be Word documents. All assignments should be typed, double-spaced with 12-point font (Times New Roman preferred) and 1-inch margins written in third person unless otherwise instructed. Assignment pages include a Turabian format cover page that includes name, date of submission and assignment title. A Turabian style guide is available in the NOBTS library and located on the NOBTS web site.

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).

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior. You are expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. You are 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 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.

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.

Absences

Class attendance is essential for effective learning and according to the NOBTS Graduate Catalog, **no absences** are allowed in conference courses, Saturday classes, academic workshops, or one-week summer courses. Arriving late to conference sessions or leaving early will count as an absence. A grade of "F" will be assigned to students who fail to attend the minimum number of course hours.

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. The student is responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. Students must do the proper paperwork to ensure that they will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if they choose not to engage online once they are enrolled in the course. NOTE: Withdrawal from a conference course must occur before any conference meetings or sessions occur. Otherwise, failure to withdrawal results in a grade of "F."

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.

Grading Scale

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

Course Schedule

The schedule for the course is dictated by the Catalyst Conference schedule, **October 7-9, 2015.**

****Pre-conference class meeting with professor at 9:45am on October 7, 2015.**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

11:00am Labs Registration
12:00pm Opening Session - **Conference participation beginning at 12noon is required.**
1:15pm Break
1:30pm Lab Session 1
2:15pm Break
2:45pm Lab Session 2
3:30pm Break
4:00pm Lab Session 3
4:45pm Break
5:00pm Closing Session
6:15pm End of Day - **Conference participation until 6:45pm is required.**

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:30am Session 1 - **Conference participation beginning at 8:30AM is required.**
9:45am Break
10:15am Session 2 + Team Collective (possible *class meeting time*)
12:00pm Lunch
1:30pm Session 3
2:45pm Break
3:15pm Session 4 + Team Collective (possible *class meeting time*)
5:15pm Dinner
7:15pm Session 5 - **Conference participation is required until 9:15PM.**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:30am Session 6 - **Conference participation beginning at 8:30AM is required.**

9:45am Break
10:15am Session 7 + Team Collective (possible *class meeting time*)
12:00pm Lunch
1:30pm Session 8
2:45pm Break
3:15pm Session 9 - **Conference participation requirement concludes at 4:30pm.**