



CEAD 6358 Ministry with Older Adults  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Discipleship and Ministry Leadership Division  
Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:50

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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 this course is to familiarize students with the programs, resources, and organizational structures an older adult ministry of 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 worshipping 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 2019-2020 academic year that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*.

**Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

The course addresses the curriculum competencies within the area of Christian education and supports interpersonal relationship skills as well by enhancing one's ministerial skills in relating to the ministry of older adults.

**Course Description**

The characteristics and needs of older adults are a primary part of this study. Possible programs churches may use in ministry with aging persons are considered.

## Student Learning Objectives

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

- Identify and discuss older adult ministry from biblical, historical, demographic, and developmental perspectives.
- Value specific components of older adult ministry in the local church setting.
- Utilize administrative procedures in planning and implementing an older adult ministry in the local church.

## Required Readings

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

Dean, Jody, and Hal Stewart, ed. *Together We Equip: Integrating Discipleship and Ministry Leadership for Holistic Spiritual Formation*. Bloomington, IN: Westbow Press, 2018.

Gentzler, Jr., Richard H. *An Age of Opportunity: Intentional Ministry By, With, and For Older Adults*. Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2018.

Hanson, Amy. *Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults over 50*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.

## Course Teaching Methodology

### **Units of Study**

Unit 1 Introduction

Unit 2 Who are Older Adults?

Unit 3 Definitions & Terms

Unit 4 Biblical & Theological Perspectives on Aging

Unit 5 Physiological, Psychological, and Sociological Dimensions of Older Adults

Unit 6 Theories of Aging

Unit 7 Communicating with Older Adults

Unit 8 Needs and Interests of Older Adults

Unit 9 Planning for Senior Adult Ministry in Your Church

Unit 10 Pastoral Ministries and Senior Adults

Unit 11 Utilizing Senior Adults in Ministry/Caring Ministries

Unit 12 Older Adults and Mission Activity Involvement

Unit 13 Homebound Ministries

Unit 14 Ministry with Older Adults –The Future

### **Teaching Method.**

This course will utilize lecture, group presentations, and an interactive discovery-learning format

## Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

### Course Requirements

#### **Senior Adult Surveys - 25%**

Students should interview five adults over the age of 60 to determine needs and interests. Students should utilize the survey form in Appendix F of the Gentzler textbook. Students should submit each survey along with a narrative (1/2 typed page for each interview) of additional comments from the interviewee or observations from the interviewer. Finally, students should determine implications for ministry based on the compilation of the surveys. (2 typed pages for implications)

#### **Program/Ministry Reports – 25%**

Students will participate in a group project to highlight the church program ministry organizations or specialized ministries that relate to the interests and needs of older adults and form important building blocks for a senior adult ministry. In small groups students will prepare a 45-minute presentation for the class on the components of the program organization or ministry, the unique aspects related to older adults, and the administration and incorporation of the organization or ministry into the overall senior adult ministry. Groups may choose from the following programs or ministries:

- Ministries in nursing homes or assisted living centers
- Senior adults trips and retreats
- Older adults and mission activity involvement

#### **Issues of Aging/Ministry Plan Paper & Presentation – 30%**

Students will select an issue related to aging as the focus of research. The paper should provide an overview of the issue and a plan for ministry relevant to the issue. The body of the research paper should be 12-14 pages and typed (double-spaced) according to Turabian. All paper topics should be submitted to the professor by September 5. Students will present the finding of their research in class on the assigned days; each student will have 30 minutes for their presentations.

#### **Final Exam – 20%**

Students will complete a final exam on the scheduled date.

### Course Policies

#### **Late Assignments**

All work is due on the assigned day and at the assigned time. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by 10 points. Assignments that are over one week late will not be accepted.

#### **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 Policies**

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the current *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog*.

**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.

**Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”**

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

**Plagiarism on Written Assignments**

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

**Emergency Plan**

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu). Also, students should use Blackboard to follow any announcements that may be posted. Students should ensure their current email address is updated on Blackboard.

**Course Schedule**

Date	Topic	Reading Assignment
August 20, 22	Introduction Who are Older Adults?	Gentzler, Introduction and Ch. 1, 4; Hanson, Ch. 1-2
August 27, 29	Definitions and Terms Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Aging	Dean & Stewart, Ch. 1 Gentzler, Ch. 3
September 3, 5	Physiological, Psychological, and Sociological Dimensions of Older Adults	Gentzler, Ch. 2 Hanson, Ch. 3
September 10, 12	Theories of Aging	
September 17, 19	Communicating with Older Adults	“Communicating with Older Adults” posted in

		Blackboard shell
September 24, 26	Needs and Interests of Older Adults	Hanson, Ch. 4-5
October 1, 3	Planning for Senior Adult Ministry in Your Church	Dean & Stewart, Ch. 13 Gentzler, Ch. 5-7 Hanson, Ch. 6
October 8, 10	Pastoral Ministries and Senior Adults	Hanson, Ch. 8
October 14-18	Fall Break – No Class	
October 22, 24	Utilizing Senior Adults in Ministry/Caring Ministries	Dean & Stewart, Ch. 4, 6; Gentzler, Ch. 8-9; Hanson, Ch. 7, 9
October 29, 31	Older Adults and Mission Activity Involvement (student presentation) Senior Adult Trips and Retreats (student presentation)	
November 5, 7	Ministries in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living Centers (student presentation) Homebound Ministries	“Remembering Faith: Rural Faith Communities’ Outreach to Members with Dementia” by Kenneth Flanagan, <i>Social Work &amp; Christianity</i> , 45 (1), 24-41. Available on EBSCOhost.
November 12, 14	Student Presentations – Issues of Aging	
November 19, 21	Student Presentations – Issues of Aging	
November 25-29	Thanksgiving Break - No Class	
December 3, 5	Ministry with Older Adults –The Future	Gentzler, Ch. 10
December 12, 9-11 a.m.	Final Exam	

### Selected Bibliography

Bengtson, Vern. L, and Richard Settersten, Jr. *Handbook of Theories of Aging*, 3rd ed. New York: Springer, 2016.

Buchanan, Missy. *Living with Purpose in a Worn-out Body: Spiritual Encouragement for Older Adults*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books, 2008.

Carozza, Linda S. *Communication and aging: Creative approaches to improving the quality of life*. San Diego, CA: Plural Publishing, 2016.

Estep, James R., and Mark Maddix. *Practicing Christian Education*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2017.

- Hanson, Amy. *Baby Boomers and Beyond: Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults over 50*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.
- Houston, James M., and Michael Parker. *A Vision for the Aging Church: Renewing Ministry for and by Seniors*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 2011.
- Irving, Paul, ed. *The Upside of Aging: How Long Life is Changing the World of Health, Work, Innovation, Policy and Purpose*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2014.
- Isaac, E. Paulette, ed. *Expanding the Boundaries of Adult Religious Education: Strategies, Techniques, and Partnerships for the New Millennium*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.
- Jackson, Shelly L. *Understanding Elder Abuse: A Clinician's Guide*. Washington, DC: American Psychological Association, 2018.
- Knowles, Malcolm S., Elwood F. Holton, and Richard A. Swanson. *The Adult Learner: The Definitive Classic in Adult Education and Human Resource Development*, 7th ed. New York, NY: Routledge, 2012.
- Parr, Steve. *Sunday School that Really Works: A Strategy for Connecting Congregations to Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2010.
- . *Sunday School that Really Responds: Wisdom for Confronting 24 Common Sunday School Emergencies*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2011.
- . *Sunday School that Really Excels: Real Life Examples of Churches with Healthy Sunday Schools*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishers, 2013.
- Sbanotto, Elisabeth A. *Effective Generational Ministry: Biblical and Practical Insights for Transforming Church Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.
- Sugar, Judith A. *Introduction to Aging: A Positive, Interdisciplinary Approach*, 2nd ed. New York, NY: Springer, 2019.
- Walter, Carolyn A., and Judith McCoyd. *Grief & Loss Across the Lifespan: A Biopsychosocial Perspective*, 2nd ed. New York, NY: Springer, 2016.
- Whalley, Lawrence J. *Understanding Brain Aging and Dementia: A Life Course Approach*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2015.
- Wright, Thomas Lee. *The Family Guide to Preventing Elder Abuse: How to Protect Your Parents and Yourself*. New York: Skyhorse, 2017.
- Whitfield, Keith. E., and Tamara A. Baker. *Handbook of minority aging*. New York, NY: Springer, 2014.