



Death, Loss, & Grief CCSW6365

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian and Community Ministry Division

Dr. Jeanine C. Bozeman, Ph.D., LCSW, ACSW, BCD, LPC, AAMFT, BAS
Senior Professor of Social Work
jbozeman@nobts.edu Office: (504) 282-4455 ext.3207
Cell: (504) 881-8525

Grader: Stephanie Cline
Email: stephanie.l.cline62312@gmail.com Phone: 405-740-2009
Assistant: Sarah Clawson Phone: (504) 816- 8106
Email:socialwork@nobts.edu

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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to minister effectively and therapeutically to persons who have experienced loss.

Core Value Focus

The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned annually by the Administrative Council. This year's core value focus is Spiritual Vitality.

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.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. Biblical exposition: Devotionals illustrating spiritual comfort for grievers will be presented daily in class devotionals.
2. Theological and historical perspective: Speakers and texts will address these two issues.
3. Effective servant leadership: Texts, group work and speakers will address this competence.
4. Interpersonal relationships: This competency will be addressed by visits with grievers, speakers and role play.
5. Disciple making: Texts, speakers, and role playing will offer opportunities to become more effective in disciple making.
6. Spiritual and character formation: Journaling, reflection, and scripture will address this competence.

Course Description

The focus in this course is on death, loss, and grief throughout the life span. Attention will be given to basic therapeutic interventions that can be used to assist individuals and groups through a wide variety of loss experiences such as illness, divorce, unemployment, relocation, infertility, death, and purpose. The role of the counselor/minister in the helping relationship will be explored. Lecture, discussion, guest speakers, role playing, and small group components will be utilized.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Share grief and loss experienced in his/her own life.
2. Assess his/her readiness to minister to persons in various grief experiences.
3. Develop plans for support groups focusing on death, grief, and loss.
4. Evaluate skills related to helping persons confront death, grief, and loss.
5. Network with professionals in the community who provide supportive services to the griever.
6. Utilize biblical truths when relating to grieving persons.
7. Become acquainted with resources related to death, grief, and loss.
8. Gain understanding regarding the impact of death upon a family.
9. Experience being a companion to a griever.

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study

| | |
|--------|---|
| Unit 1 | The Christian Viewpoint of Death |
| Unit 2 | Normalizing Grief, Influencing Factors, Confronting Myths |
| Unit 3 | The Dying Process |
| Unit 4 | Understanding Grief, Kinds of Grief |
| Unit 5 | The Grieving Process |
| Unit 6 | Grieving and Your Family |
| Unit 7 | Loss Related to Children |
| Unit 8 | Children and Grief |
| Unit 9 | Loss of a Child |

| | |
|---------|--|
| Unit 10 | Divorce |
| Unit 11 | Complicated Grief |
| Unit 12 | Special Issues Related to Loss, Teen Loss, Suicide, Male Grief |
| Unit 13 | Therapeutic Interventions, Death of a Baby, The Role of the Church |
| Unit 14 | Funerals, Rituals, Death and the Community |

Required Readings

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

Required Texts

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Rando, Therese A. *Grief, Dying, and Death: Clinical Interventions for Caregivers*. Champaign, IL: Research Press, 1984.

Wolfelt, Alan D. *Companioning the Bereaved*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2006.

Wolfelt, Alan D. *Death and Grief: A Guide for Clergy*. Munice, IN: Accelerated Development Inc. Publishers, 1988.

Journal Articles

Cloud, John "A Kinder, Gentler Death". Time. September 18, 2000, pp. 75-82.

Kurn, Walter "Should You Stay Together for the Kids?" Time. September 25, 2000, pp. 75-82.

Jefferson, David J. "The Divorce Generation Grows Up". Newsweek. April 23, 2008.

Optional Texts

Niemeyer, Robert A. *Lessons of Loss: A Guide to Coping*. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1998.

Rando, Therese. *How To Go on Living When someone You Love Dies*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1988.

Worden, J. William. *Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy, 4ed*. New York: Springer Publishing Co., 2006.

Teaching Method

Lecture, discussion, role playing, small group meetings, videos, guest speakers, journaling, field trips, and scripture will be utilized in this class.

Course Evaluation

1. Read the four texts. The expectation is that the student reads the assigned readings daily and be prepared to participate in class discussions.
2. Prepare a daily (Tuesday-Thursday minimum) reactionary notebook on personal thinking and feelings related to the reading, class discussions, field trips, speakers and encounters with grievors. Due Thursday, March 5 and Thursday, April 30, 2015. Please see page 12 for grading rubric.
3. Successfully complete the midterm and final examination.
4. Present and analyze a personal grief experience integrating grief theory and readings with your personal experience. The paper is to be typed, Turabian style. Recommended length, 8-10 pages, double-spaced. Minimum resources, 15. Due Thursday, April 16, 2015, at class time. Please see page 12 for grading rubric.
5. Be prepared for and be involved in class and small group discussions.
6. Read *A Grief Observed* and watch video, *Shadowlands*. Type a paper 3-5 pages expressing your reactions to both. A. What feelings did you experience (10 points)? B. What were your thoughts (10 points)? C. Could you have walked through the experience with anyone of the persons (10 points)? Explain which one and how you would help (10 points). (40 points total on final exam) Submitted to the professor at time of exam.
7. Participate in regular small group discussions and lead one group meeting.
8. Visit a grieving person 4 times and listen to their stories. You may visit the same person or 4 different persons. Integrate your reactions into your journal entries. Note visit date to verify.

Late papers are not acceptable with the exception of serious illness or death in the family. The best grade possible after the due date is 85. No work is acceptable after 5 days.

Class Evaluation

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Midterm | 20% |
| Thursday, March 12 | |
| Final Exam | 20% |
| As scheduled | |
| Daily Reactionary Notebook | 20% |
| Thursday, March 19 | |
| Tuesday, April 30 | |
| Grief Experience | 20% |
| Thursday, April 16 | |

Class Involvement 20%
(attendance, punctuality, participation, network with guests).

Course Policies

Policies Regarding Assignments

All work is due on the assigned day and at the assigned time.

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.

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog 2014-2015*.

Absences: For the four-time per semester hybrid courses, students can only miss one of the four monthly class sessions.

Classroom Decorum

Each student is expected to treat the professor and other students with respect; arrive on time for class sessions; and use laptops and other technological devices for class purposes only.

Blackboard

Blackboard will be used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information on Blackboard is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, please contact the Information Technology Center.

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.

Course Schedule

Week 1 - January 20-22

Introduction, Goal Setting, Contracting, Parameters
Normalizing Loss/Kinds of Grief
Myths
Read: Rando, Chapter 1
Read: Cloud, Time. 9/18/00, pp. 60-74
Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, Chapters 1-4
Read: Wolfelt, *Companioning the Bereaved*, pp. 3-27

Week 2 - January 27-29

Manifestations of Grief
Influential Factors
Videos
Small Group Discussion (No. 1) Thursday
Read: Rando, Chapter 2-3
Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, Chapter 5
Read: Wolfelt, *Companioning the Bereaved*, Tenet 1-2.
View: *The Bucket List* (movie)

Week 3 – February 3-5

Individual Meanings of Death
The Dying Process
The Christian View of Death
Read: Rando, Chapters 8, 9, 10
Read: Wolfelt, *Companioning the Bereaved*, Tenet 3-4
Speaker: Hospice Group (Tuesday)
Speaker: Ginger Moskau (Thursday)

Week 4 - February 10-12

Anticipated Death
Understanding Grief
Read: Rando, Chapter 11
Read: Wolfelt, *Companioning the Bereaved*, Tenet 5-6
Speaker: Dr. Steve Lemke

Week 5 - February 17-19

Tuesday, Feb. 17: Mardi Gras (No Class).
Understanding Grief (continued)
The Grieving Process
Small Group Discussion (No. 2) on Thursday
Read: Rando, Chapters 5 and 12
Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, Chapter 6
Read: Wolfelt, *Companioning the Bereaved*, Tenet 7-8
Video: *Mourning*

Week 6 – February 24-26

Grieving and Your Family

Read: Rando Chapter 6

Read: *How To Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies (Part III)*

Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, Chapters 7-8

Read: Wolfelt, *Companioning the Bereaved*, Tenet 9-10

Week 7 – March 3-5

The Family in Grief (video)

Small Group Discussion (No. 3) Thursday

Read: Rando, Chapters 8-11

Companioning the Bereaved, Tenet 11

Week 8 – March 10-12

General Review for Midterm

Small Group Discussion (No. 4) Tuesday

Midterm Exam: Thursday, March 12.

Review Complicated Grief

Week 9 – March 17-19

Loss Related to Children

Children and Grief

Read: Rando, Chapter 5

Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, Chapter 10-13, 24

Journals Due March 17th

Week 10 - March 23-27 Spring Break

Week 11 – March 31-April 2

Children and Grief

Read: Rando, Chapter 5 and 6

Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, 10-13, 24

Week 12 - April 7-9

Loss of a Child

Male Grief

Read: Rando, Chapter 5-6

Video: *A Mother's Grief*

Speaker: Dr. Bob Welch (Thursday)

Week 13 - April 14-16

Examining Loss: Divorce

Family Grief Regarding Divorce

Read: Smoke, *Growing Through Divorce*

Read: Kurn, *Time*, 9/25/00, pp. 75-82

View: *Hope Floats* or *Stepmom*

Grief Experience Paper due April 23

Lake Lawn Funeral Home Visit Thursday, April 16

Week 14 - April 21-23

Special Issues Related to Loss

Teen Loss, Suicide, Male Grief

Video: *Suicide*

Small Group Discussion (No. 5) Tuesday

Read: Rando, Chapter 6

Read: Wolfelt, *Death and Grief*, Chapter 15-17

Speaker: Garrett Slater (Thursday)

Week 15 - April 28-30

Therapeutic Interventions - The Death of a Baby

The Role of the Church

Read: Rando, Chapters 4 and 5

Read: Wolfelt, Chapters 18 and 22

Speaker: Widows in Ministry-Fl. Blvd. Baptist Church (Tuesday)

Journals Due April 30

Week 16 - May 5-7

Death and the Community

Funerals, Rituals, and Cremation

Small Group Discussion (No. 6) Tuesday

Read: Rando, Chapters, 7 and 14

Read: Williams, Chapter 15

Read: Wolfelt, Chapters 13, 25-26

Review/Celebration

Week 17 – May 12-14

Review

Final Exam as scheduled

Shadowlands paper due at time of exam

President's Reception for Graduates—May 15-16

Graduation – May 16, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Leavell College Graduation—May 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

Selected Bibliography

- Arent, Ruth P. *Helping Children Grieve*. Fredonia, WI: Champion Press, 2005.
- Berry, Diane M. *Child Friendly Divorce: A Divorce(d) Therapist's Guide to Helping Your Children Thrive*. Manitowac, WI: Blue Waters Publications, 2004.
- Butler, Ian. *Divorcing Children: Children's Experience of Their Parents' Divorce*. New York: Jessica Kingsley, 2003.
- Charlish, Anne. *Caught In the Middle: Helping Children to Cope With Separation and Divorce*. London: Cassell Illustrated, 2003.
- Collins, Margaret. *It's OK to Be Sad: Activities to Help Children Aged 4 to 9 to Manage Loss, Grief, or Bereavement*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2005.
- Doka, Kenneth J. and Terry L. Martin. *Grieving Beyond Gender: Understanding the ways men and women mourn*. New York, NY: Taylor and Francis Group, 2010.
- Doka, Kenneth J., ed. *Living With Grief: Children, Adolescents, and Loss*. Philadelphia, PA: Brunner/Mazel, 2000.
- Erickson, Mel, and Nanette Flynn. *Helping Children Grieve: Talking About Death and Healing*. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2005.
- Goldman, Linda. *Children Also Grieve: Talking About Death and Healing*. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006.
- Greeman, James T. *What Happened to My World? Helping Children Cope with Natural Disaster and Catastrophe*. Watertown, MA: Comfort for Kids, 2005.
- Golden, Thomas R. *Swallowed by a Snake*. Gaithersburg, MD: G.H. Publishing LLC, 2000.
- Grollman, Earl A., and Joy Johnson. *A Complete Book About Death for Kids*. Omaha, NE: Centering Corporation, 2006.
- Hodges, Samuel J., and Kathy Leonard. *Grieving with Hope*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011
- Jordan, John R. and John L. McIntosh. *Grief after Suicide: Understanding the consequences and caring for the survivors*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2011.
- Kalter, Neil. *Growing Up With Divorce: Helping Your Child Avoid Immediate and Later Emotional Problems*. New York: Free Press, 2006.

- Kelley, Melissa M. *Grief: Contemporary Theory and the Practice of Ministry*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2010.
- Lewis, Alaric, and R.W. Alley. *When Someone You Love Has Cancer: A Guide to Help Kids Cope*. St. Meinrad, IN: One Caring Place Abby Press, 2005.
- Long, Thomas G. and Thomas Lynch. *The Good Funeral : death, grief, and the community of care*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
- Lund, Dale A., ed. *Men Coping with Grief*. Amityville, New York: Baywood Publishing Co., 2001.
- MacGregor, Cynthia. *The Divorce Helpbook for Kids*. Atascadero, CA: Impact Publishers, 2001.
- Marquardt, Elizabeth. *Between Two Worlds: The Inner Lives of Children and Divorce*. New York: Crown Publishers, 2005.
- Marshall, Sharon, and Jeff Johnson. *Take My Hand: Guiding Your Child Through Grief*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- McWhorter, Gay. *Healing Activities for Children in Grief: Activities Suitable for Support Groups With Grieving Children, Preteens, and Teens*. Warminster, PA: MarCo Products, 2003.
- Monroe, Barbara, and Frances Kraus, eds. *Brief Interventions With Bereaved Children*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Neimeyer, Robert A. *Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society: Bridging research and practice*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2011.
- O'Connor, Joey. *Children and Grief: Helping Your Child Understand Death*. Grand Rapids, MI: Fleming H. Revell, 2004.
- Paxton, Laura. *Grief: A Journey of Discovery*. Tucson, AZ: Elusive Press, 2007.
- Perkins, Janice. *How To Help a Child Cope With Grief: A Book for Adults Who Live or Work with Bereaved Children*. London: Foulsham, 2007.
- Rathkey, Julia Wilcox. *What Children Need When They Grieve: The Four Essentials: Routine, Love, Honesty, and Security*. New York: Three Rivers Press, 2004.
- Requarth, Margo. *After a Parent's Suicide: Helping Children Heal*. Sebastopol, CA: Healing Hearts Press, 2006.

- Rossi, Melody. *May I Walk You Home?* Bloomington, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2007.
- Samuels, Valerie R., and Najah Clemmons. *Always My Twin: For Young Children Who Have Experienced the Death of Their Twin Sibling*. Victoria, BC, Canada: Trafford Publishing, 2005.
- Schwiebert, Pat. *When Hello Means Goodbye: a guide for parents whose child dies before birth, at birth or shortly after birth*. Portland, OR: Perinatal Loss, 2012.
- Silverman, Phyllis R. *Never Too Young to Know: Death in Children's Lives*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Spencer, Donald W. *35 Ways to Help a Grieving Child*. Portland, OR: The Dougy Center for Grieving Children, 2004.
- St. Thomas, Bruce, and Paul Johnson. *Empowering Children Through Art and Expression: Culturally Sensitive Ways of Healing Trauma and Grief*. Philadelphia: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2007.
- Wells, Rosemary. *Helping Children Cope With Grief: Facing a Death in the Family*. London: Sheldon, 2007.
- Wolfelt, Alan D. *A Child's View of Grief: A Guide for Parents, Teachers, and Counselors*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2004.
- Wolfelt, Alan D. *Companioning the bereaved child: A soulful guide for caregivers*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2012.
- Worden, J. William. *Children and Grief: When a Parent Dies*. New York: Guilford Press, 1996.
- Wright, H. Norman. *It's Okay to Cry: A Parent's Guide to Helping Children Through the Losses of Life*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2004.
- _____. *The Truth About Children and Divorce: Dealing With the Emotions So You and Your Children Can Thrive*. New York: Penguin, 2006.

Video Recording

Helping those in grief, crisis and trauma [video recording] / H. Norman Wright. 2011

Instructions for Journal

Your journal is to have 2 entries each week. Express briefly your personal thinking and feeling. Do not write what you think you should be feeling and thinking. Be honest and specific. The professor will read it twice—once and make recommendations, secondly for grading purposes.

Rubric for Grading Journal

Grades will be based on the following:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Expression of thoughts | 25 points |
| Expression of feelings | 25 points |
| Relationships to class experience (reading, speakers, trips) | 25 points |
| Reflects personal viewpoint | 25 points |

Rubric for Grading Personal Grief Experience

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Thoughts and feelings | 25 points |
| Degree of integration/theory and personal | 25 points |
| Adequate length/minimum errors | 25 points |
| Adequate resources (15) | 25 points |