



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN THEORY AND PRACTICE  
CECH 6230  
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**

Children's Ministry in Theory and Practice is designed to familiarize students with issues and practices which are fundamental to ministering to and with children and families through 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 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 2014-2015 academic year that Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*. The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus of *Spiritual Vitality*.

## Curriculum Competencies Addressed

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary curriculum is guided by seven basic competencies: biblical exposition, Christian theological heritage, disciple making, interpersonal skills, servant leadership, spiritual and character formation, and worship leadership.

This course will emphasize the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical Exposition*: To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately to children in developmentally-appropriate methods and terminology.
2. *Disciple Making*: To stimulate church health through mobilizing children and their families for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.
3. *Interpersonal Skills*: To perform pastoral care for children and their families effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.
4. *Servant Leadership*: To serve children and their families effectively through team ministry.
5. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: To promote effective ministry with children and their families to meet their spiritual and developmental needs.

## Course Description

A survey is made of Christian education ministry in the local church for children, birth through eleven years of age. Characteristics and needs of children are examined.

## Student Learning Outcomes

You will be able to:

1. Become aware of and reflect on what the Bible has to say about children.
2. Value ministry to children and families.
3. Explore how the church can meet the developmental and learning needs of children and their families.

## Required Readings

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

- Haywood, Janice. *Enduring Connections*. St. Louis, MO: Chalice Press, 2007.
- *Family Discipleship Vision, Philosophy, and Training Manual for Volunteers*. This manual is found on the course's Blackboard within **Course Documents**.

## Course Teaching Methodology

### **Units of Study**

- The Bible and Children
- Vision, Philosophy and Mission
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Kids
- Ministry to Children and Families
- Teaching and Learning
- Children and Salvation
- Children and Worship
- Special Needs Ministry
- Recruiting and Equipping Teachers
- Programming
- Facilities
- Reducing the Risk of Abuse
- Policies and Procedures

**Teaching Method.** This course will utilize group and individual assignments, PowerPoint presentations, and videos, among other methods, to engage learners on the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor levels. This course is delivered on the main campus in a block-class format.

### Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Children Presentation (10%)

*Due:* February 12

You will create a presentation from the following for the week of “21<sup>st</sup> Century Children”: Children and Technology, Children and Fashion, Children and Bullying, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Families, Children and Educational Practice, Child Abuse.

You will research the assigned topic and present the information found in a 25-minute presentation. Present ministry opportunities and challenges regarding the assigned topics. The presentation format is to be determined by you.

A Discussion Board for each topic is available for you to post your final presentation. Presentations may include PowerPoints, videos, handouts, charts, graphs, etc., all of which may be posted to a Discussion Board. *This is related to SLO #3. A rubric for this assignment is posted on Blackboard in Assignment Upload.*

## 2. Scripture Memory (5%)

*Due:* February 26

You will memorize the following Scripture passages and recite them to a proctor. The proctor must acknowledge the level of completion of these verses on the rubric for this assignment which is posted on Blackboard. You will scan the completed rubric and post it to Blackboard on the assigned date.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Joel 1:3

Ephesians 6:1-4

Psalms 139:13-16

Matthew 18:10

2 Timothy 3:14-15

Mark 10:13-16

Luke 2:52

## 3. Exegetical Papers (15% - 3.75% each)

*Due:* February 26

You will select 4 Scripture passages identified in Assignment 1 and write a 2-page exegetical paper of each, including how each passage should influence the practice of children's ministry in the local church. A minimum of three resources, including two commentaries, must be used. *Guidelines for an Exegetical Paper* is posted on Blackboard. *This assignment is related to SLO #1. A rubric for this assignment is posted on Blackboard in Assignment Upload.*

## 4. Interviews Perspectives Paper (15%)

*Due:* March 19

You will interview a minimum of 6 people regarding preschool and/or children's ministry in a local church. You will interview:

- (A) a minimum of 2 *Preschool and/or Children's Ministers* to gain an understanding of how children's ministry in particular ministry contexts is addressed. Questions should relate to strengths of the ministry, challenges, and other areas of interest to you.
- (B) a minimum of 2 *parents of preschoolers and/or school-age children* regarding
  - their understanding of the church's responsibility towards them and their child(ren) – spiritually, relationally, emotionally, socially, and physically.
  - their assessment of the effectiveness of the local church's ministry to their family.
- (C) 2 *older children* (4-6 grade) regarding their understanding of the church's responsibility towards them, and what they enjoy the most and least about church, etc.
  - A permission form must be completed by a parent/legal guardian prior to conducting an interview with a child.
  - You should not, under any circumstances, be alone with a child during an interview. A second *adult* must be present. These interviews may be held with other children in the room (ex: Sunday School).

A maximum of *two interviews* with adults may occur via Skype or phone. At least two adult interviews and both children's interviews must be in-person, face-to-face. Questionnaires are not interviews and are not acceptable for this assignment.

At the conclusion of the interviews, you will write a 4 to 5-page paper including the following:

- *Ministers' Perspectives:* The section should include *a summary* of the ministers' perspectives of children's ministry in a local church – at least three key insights gleaned from their responses (1 page).
- *Parents' Perspectives:* This section should include *a summary* of the parents' perspectives of children's ministry in a local church – at least three key insights gleaned from their responses (1 page).
- *Children's Perspectives:* This section should include *a summary* of the children's responses - at least three key insights gleaned from their responses (1page).
- *Scripture Analysis:* This section should be a critical analysis of the interview responses to the Scripture passages from Assignment 1 (i.e., how does the ministers' perspectives and the parents' perspectives align with Scripture? How are their perspectives incongruent with Scripture?) Provide exegetical content to support your conclusions (1-2 pages). This may be written in first person.

*This assignment is related to SLO #2. A rubric for this assignment is posted on Blackboard in Assignment Upload.*

5. Observations-4 (20% -5% each)

*Due: April 2*

You will observe two preschool and two school-age Christian education learning sessions in a local church setting. The sessions are to be with four different age groups (birth – 2 yr., 3 yr.-5yr., 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>); you will prepare a 2-page report of each observation following the *Preschool Observation Guidelines* and *Children's Session Guidelines* posted on Blackboard. *This assignment is related to SLO #3. A rubric for this assignment is posted on Blackboard in Assignment Upload.*

6. Philosophy of Preschool and Children's Ministry (15%)

*Due: April 23*

You will write a 2 to 3-page philosophy of preschool and children's ministry which synthesizes course readings and assignments 1-5 and reflects how this course has impacted your understanding of children's ministry in the local church. This may be written in first person. *This assignment is related to SLO #2. This is an embedded assignment that will be completed by all students for all sections of this course. The rubric for grading this assignment is attached to this syllabus and is also posted on Blackboard in Assignment Upload. Please complete the assignment according to this rubric.*

7. Class Participation (10%)

You are expected to participate fully throughout the course. This portion of the course grade will be evaluated by the professor with regard to attendance, meaningful participation, assignment completion, the timely submission of assignments, and evidence of engagement with course materials. You begin with 100. The class participation grade will be reduced one point for each absence.

**Course Evaluation**

21 <sup>st</sup> Century Group	10%	Scripture Memorization	5%
Exegetical Papers (4)	20%	Interview Perspectives	20%
Observations	20%	Philosophy	15%
Participation	10%		

## Course Schedule

Week of	Week	Unit	Topic	Reading Assignment
January 22	1		Introduction	
January 29	2	1	The Bible and Children	Haywood, "Introduction" (pgs. 1 – 6)
February 5	3	2	Vision, Philosophy and Mission	Haywood, chapters 1 and 2 <i>Family Discipleship Vision, Philosophy, and Training Manual for Volunteers</i>
February 12	4	3	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Children	<b>Assignment #1: Presentations</b>
February 19	5	4	Ministry to Children and Families	Brian Haynes's <i>Legacy Milestones</i> ( <a href="http://legacymilestones.com">http://legacymilestones.com</a> )
February 26	6	5	Teaching and Learning	Haywood, chapter 11 <b>Assignments #2 and #3: Scripture Memory and Exegetical Papers Due</b>
March 5	7	6	Children and Salvation	Haywood, chapter 6 and appendix 2
March 12	8	7	Children and Worship	Haywood, chapter 2 and appendix 3
March 19	9	8	Special Needs Ministry	Haywood, chapter 5 <b>Assignment #4: Interview Perspectives Paper Due</b>
March 26	10		SPRING BREAK	
April 2	11	14	Curriculum	<b>Assignment #5: Observations Due</b>
April 9	12	9	Recruiting and Equipping Teachers	Haywood, chapters 4 and 9
April 16	13	10	Programming	Haywood, chapter 8
April 23	14	11	Facilities	<b>Assignment #6: Philosophy Due</b>
April 30	15	12	Reducing the Risk of Abuse	
May 7	16	13	Developing Policies and Procedures	Haywood, chapters 10, 11 and appendix 7

**\*The Professor reserves the right to change topics/dates as necessary (see course policies).**

## Course Policies

**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.

**Absences:** You are permitted a maximum of 6 hours of absence from this course. However, participation in this course is partially based on attendance. You can't participate if you are absent.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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 2014-2015 catalog.

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

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**Office Hours:** Monday-Wednesday: 9-12; Friday 9-12

**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.

**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.

**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> .

**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. 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.

### **Selected Bibliography**

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Alley, Steve. *Growing a Healthy Children’s Ministry: Step-by-Step Handbook to Cultivating Christian Kids in Any Environment*. Boston: Standard Publishing Company, 2002.

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