



Expanding Your Women's Ministry through Writing CEWM 5179

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.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide specialized training in the area of writing for women's ministry leaders.

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 the 2014-2015 academic year, this Core Value is *Spiritual Vitality*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Disciple Making*: To train others by sharing spiritual lessons learned through personal research, study, and life experience.

2. *Interpersonal Skills:* To use writing as a way to build relationships with women of different ages and levels of spiritual maturity.
3. *Spiritual and character formation:* To develop spiritual maturity through ongoing written expression of personal study and life experience.

Course Description

This course is designed to provide the basic knowledge of writing for publication as an extension of ministry. Specific skills will be taught to enhance writing of various publications including articles, books, church newsletters, and devotionals.

Student Learning Outcomes

By completion of this course, each student should be able to accomplish the following:

Cognitive:

- Explore areas of opportunity for writing, both in one's churches and in the publishing world.
- Learn the basics of article and book proposal submission.

Psychomotor:

- Examine the relationship between teaching, speaking, leading, and writing and how one can enhance the other.

Affective:

- Value the opportunities for expanding one's ministry through the written word.

Required Readings

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

Ellison, Edna and Linda Gilden. *Called to Write: Seven Principles to Become a Writer on Mission*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 2014. ISBN: 978-1-59669-398-2

Herr, Ethel. *Introduction to Christian Writing (2nd ed.)*. Phoenix, AR: ACW Press, 1999. ISBN: 978-1-89252-516-1

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study

- The Basics of Writing from Spiritual Growth
- The Basics of Writing from Scripture Study
- The Basics of Writing from a Christian Worldview
- The Basics of Relationships in Writing
- The Basics of Communicating to Reach Out to Others
- The Basics of Writing for Ministry
- Writing Opportunities: Local Church, Articles, Books
- The Basics of Writing for Christian Leadership
- Submitting your Work for Publication

Teaching Method. This course will utilize lecture and interactive discovery-learning and will be team-taught. It will be delivered in a workshop format.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Students will attend class. Seminary policy states that a student may not miss any class due to the short length of the workshop.
2. Students will participate in class. Students should contribute to the learning process through comments and questions.
3. Students will read the assigned textbooks and write a one-page review for each text. The reviews should include basic bibliographic information, brief summary of each book, and comments related to the book's application to the student's writing experience and future. These are due four weeks after class.
4. Students will complete a writing project due four weeks after class. The project will include defining a topic of interest to each individual student (and brainstorming the subject in class); developing an outline by which to write an article for consideration for the NOBTS Gatekeeper (or similar publication); and writing the article. The completed article must be 750-1200 words and include a query letter targeted to the editor of the Gatekeeper.
5. Students will complete a take-home final exam due four weeks after class.

The book reviews, writing project, and final exam should be mailed to Dr. Judi Jackson, 3939 Gentilly Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 or emailed to jjackson@nobts.edu. Requirements must be received by the end of each semester or the student will receive a course grade of an "F". Students may request an incomplete in the course in case of emergency.

Course Evaluation

This course will follow the grading system for the Graduate School.

A = 93-100	1/4 = Class Attendance/Participation
B = 85-92	1/4 = Two Book Reviews
C = 77-84	1/4 = Writing Project
D = 70-76	1/4 = Take-Home Final
F = Below 70	

Course Policies

Blackboard

The student will be expected to have access to online resources to download teaching and presentation documents in the Seminary's BlackBoard system.

Assignment Submission

Students who choose to present assignments via electronic mediums need to present those documents in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format. WordPerfect and PDF files will not be accepted for grade via electronic format.

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.

Course Schedule

Monday, 1:00 p.m.

Chapel

Welcome/Orientation/Registration

The Basics of Writing from Spiritual Growth

The Basics of Writing from Scripture Study

Monday, 6:30 p.m.

The Basics of Writing from a Christian Worldview

The Basics of Relationships in Writing

Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.

The Basics of Communicating to Reach Out to Others

The Basics of Writing for Ministry

Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

Writing Opportunities (Local Church, Articles, Books)

The Basics of Writing for Christian Leadership

Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

Project Idea Forum: Brainstorming and Direction

Submitting Your Work for Publication / Where Do I Go From Here?

Selected Bibliography

Bagnull, Marlene. *Write His Answer*. Phoenix, AR: ACW Press, 1999.

Beach, Mark. *Editing Your Newsletter*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books, 1995.

Boetig, Donna Elizabeth. *Feminine Wiles*. Clovis, CA: Quill Driver Books, 1998.

Cook, Claire Kehrwald. *Line By Line: How to Edit Your Own Writing*. Boston, MA: Modern Language Association, 1985.

Ellison, Edna and Linda Gilden. *Called to Write: Seven Principles to Become a Writer on Mission*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 2014.

Fessenden, David E. *Writing the Christian Nonfiction Book: Concept to Contract*. Galax, VA: Sonfire Media, 2011.

- Flesch, Rudolf. *The Classic Guide to Better Writing: Step-by-Step Techniques and Exercises to Write Simply, Clearly, and Correctly*. New York, NY: Harper Collins, 1996.
- Goss, Leonard G. and Carolyn Stanford Goss. *The Little Style Guide to Great Christian Writing and Publishing*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Holman, 2004.
- Hensley, Dennis and Miller, Holly. *Write on Target*. Boston, MA: The Writer, Inc. 1995.
- Hensley, Dennis. *How to Write What You Love*. Colorado Springs, CO: Shaw Waterbrook Press, 2000.
- Herr, Ethel. *Introduction to Christian Writing*. Phoenix, AZ: ACW Press, 1999.
- Hudson, Bob and Shelley Townsend. *A Christian Writer's Manual of Style*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing, 1988.
- Jenkins, Jerry. *The Christian Writer's Market Guide 2014: Your Comprehensive Resource for Getting Published*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2014.
- LaRoque, Paula. *The Book on Writing: The Ultimate Guide to Writing Well*. Grey and Guvnor Press, 2013.
- Leal, Carmen. *Writerspeaker.com*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2000
- Leighton, Jan and Hallie Leighton. *Rare Words: And Ways to Master Their Meaning*. Delray Beach, FL: Levenger Press, 2003.
- Lerner, Betsy. *The Forest for the Trees: An Editor's Advice to Writers*. New York, NY: Riverhead Book, 2000.
- Miller, Holly. *How to Earn More Than Pennies for Your Thoughts – A Christian Writer's Guidebook*. Anderson, IN: Warner Press, Inc. 1990.
- Neff, Jack and Glenda and Prues, Don. *Formatting and Submitting Your Manuscript*. Cincinnati, OH: Writer's Digest Books, 2000.
- Osborn, Susan Titus. *A Complete Guide to Writing for Publication*. Phoenix, AZ: ACW Press, 1999.
- _____. *Just Write!* Phoenix, AR: Write Now Publications, 2000.
- Palms, Roger. *Effective Magazine Writing*. Colorado Springs, CO: Waterbrook Press, 2000.

Provost, Gary. *100 Ways to Improve Your Writing (Mentor)*. New York, NY: New American Library, 1985.

Ross-Larson, Bruce. *Stunning Sentences (The Effective Writing Series)*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company, 1999.

_____. *Powerful Paragraphs (The Effective Writing Series)*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton and Company, 1999.

Stilman, Anne. *Grammatically Correct: The Writer's Essential Guide to Punctuation, Spelling, Style, Usage and Grammar*. Cincinnati, OH: F & W Publishers, 1997.

Thoene, Bodie and Brock. *Writer to Writer*. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 1990.

Truss, Lynne. *Eats, Shoots, and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*. New York, NY: Gotham Books, 2003.

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th Edition*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Wallraff, Barbara. *Your Own Words*. New York, NY: Counterpoint, 2004.

Walsh, Bill. *The Elephants of Style*. Chicago, IL: McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Zinsser, William. *On Writing Well*. New York, NY: Harper Resource, 2001.