

MISS5331 New Orleans Missions: Disaster Relief Training and Experience

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Red Carpet Workshop, May 25-29, 2015

Seminary Mission Statement

The mission of the 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.

Course Description

This course provides training in disaster response and hands on experience in helping New Orleans rebuild. In this class students will also be introduced to ministries in urban settings. Attention will be given to preparing local churches to respond in positive ways to disaster situations and to opportunities to expand God's Kingdom in urban environments. A significant portion of the class time will be spent gaining ministry experience in the city. The experience can come in a variety of formats, including, but not limited to, physical efforts in the neighborhoods of our city, ministry to residents, and working with churches and ministries in the city.

NOBTS Core Purpose, Core Values, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to carry out the mission of NOBTS as is reflected through the core values and the core competencies in the following ways:

Core Values

1. The Core Value this academic year is Spiritual Vitality.
2. Mission focus- This value is at the center of this course. Involvement in disaster relief training opens many doors for missions. Involvement in work in New Orleans gives experience in missions.
3. Servant Leadership- This class prepares the student to lead in serving in difficult situations.
4. Doctrinal Integrity- The course will follow the confessional commitments that are outlined in the Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message 2000.

Core Competencies- The class will address five of the seven competencies.

1. Christian Theological Heritage- Students will consider the recent history of Southern Baptist involvement in disaster relief.
2. Disciple Making- Students will grow in their discipleship as they learn how to help those that are hurting.
3. Interpersonal Skills- Students will learn how effective interpersonal skills can be used to help those who have experienced disaster..
4. Servant Leadership- Students will learn to lead by serving in disaster situations.
5. Spiritual and Character Formation- Involvement in disaster relief will help students grow in their Christlikeness.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will gain an understanding of the biblical and theological foundations for disaster relief.
2. Students will demonstrate an awareness of and appreciation for the recent history of disaster relief ministry.
3. Students will develop an increase awareness of the need to share hope and comfort with individuals who have experienced disaster and loss.
4. Students will gain experience in working in a disaster relief setting.
5. Student will develop competencies that will encourage mobilization of churches for disaster relief.
6. Students will develop an understanding of the urban context of ministry in today's world.
7. Students will come to have a greater appreciation of and familiarity with the New Orleans metropolitan area, especially in light of the flooding caused by hurricane Katrina.
8. Students will become familiar with varied types of ministry, mission, relief, and recovery activities being carried on in New Orleans.
9. Students will become motivated to be involved in ministry and mission while they are in New Orleans.

Textbook

White, Randy. *Encounter God in the City: Onramps to Personal and Community Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

Course Requirements

1. Read the textbook by Randy White and submit in class a 5-7 page book review at the beginning of the first day of class, May 25. The review should follow Turabian style as to margins, double-spacing, etc. Be sure to include reflection on how the book has impacted your ideas about urban ministry.

2. Participate fully in class experiences, including actual disaster Relief ministry in New Orleans. Participate in Blackboard Discussion Forum on class experiences. Students will be made aware of these discussions by e-mail, but one is due BEFORE our first class meeting. That discussion forum concerns students' previous disaster relief training and experience and other ministry experience. That discussion is due by April 28.
3. On the discussion board entitled "Sharing Your Faith in New Orleans" discuss briefly two attempts you made to share your faith while in New Orleans during the week of the workshop. Due on June 2.
4. After interacting during the week of class with flood survivors enter several paragraphs (at least four or five significant paragraphs) of discussion in the discussion forum entitled "Reflection on Interaction with Katrina survivors." Discuss things like the individual's reflections on the evacuation experience and the recovery process, including the person's attitude toward the future. Seek to determine relief efforts that were meaningful. Enter the discussion by June 4.
5. Write a 6-8 page reflection paper integrating your encounter with New Orleans, its churches, post-Katrina relief efforts, your training and experience in disaster relief, your reading of the textbook, and your wider theological training and experience. Submit on the appropriate Blackboard assignment site. Due on June 19.
6. Prepare a disaster plan for your church and for your family. In the section on the church prepare for potential disaster on your church field and plan for the involvement of your church members to be involved in disaster relief efforts in other disaster locations. Include potentialities for both natural disasters and epidemics. This plan is due on June 19. Submit on the appropriate Blackboard assignment site.
7. Each student must enroll in the **Blackboard** part of this course by April 25 **and maintain a valid e-mail address recorded in your Blackboard account at all times**. To enroll follow the steps below :
Step 1: Open your web browser to the seminary home page at <http://www.nobts.edu>
Step 2: Click on the **NOBTS – Blackboard** link in the left-hand column.
If you already have a Blackboard account log in and skip to Step 6. (You only need one Blackboard account.)
Step 3: When the new page opens, choose the **Create Account** button on the left.
Step 4: Enter in your information. (Note: Fields with a red asterisk are required fields). When finished entering your information, click **Submit**.
Step 5: When the next page loads, confirming your registration, click **OK**.
Step 6: Now, your personal NOBTS – Blackboard home page should appear. To enroll in a class, click on the **Courses** tab at the top of the page.
Step 7: In the box under "Course Search" enter the word "Disaster" without the quotation marks.
Step 8: There you will see our course. Click on the **Enroll** button on the right hand side of the screen. Your course is New Orleans Missions: Disaster Relief Training and Experience [May 2015 Workshop].

Step 9: Enter the access code MISS5331 (Note: The access code is case sensitive).

Step 10: Click **OK** when the confirmation page appears.

8. Evaluation

Book Review	10%
Church and Family Disaster Preparedness Plan	25%
“Sharing Your Faith in New Orleans” Discussion	10%
Interaction with Survivors Discussion	15%
Reflection Paper	20%
Class and Community Involvement	10%
Blackboard Sign-up and Other Blackboard Discussions	10%

NOTE: Assignments turned in late will receive an automatic 15 point deduction. There will be a 10 point deduction for each additional weekday the assignment is late.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

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