

PATH5333 Christian Ministry
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Pastoral Ministries
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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.

Purpose of the Course, Core Value Focus, and Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the discipline of pastoral ministries. The core value focus of the course will emphasize characteristic excellence. The course will specifically address the competencies of interpersonal skills, servant leadership, spiritual and character formation, and disciple making. The 2014-2015 core value focus is spiritual vitality.

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to aid students in developing competency in personal ministry through a study of the theological, philosophical, and practical aspects of Christian ministry. This course is intended for students who do not have a pastoral ministry calling as pastors, chaplains, church ministry staff, or church planters. Thus, the course is designed to help students develop skills in Christian ministry to people in various settings and situations.

Student Learning Objectives

All Christians shepherd and minister to others in various roles and relationships (such as pastors, chaplains, parents, friends, counselors, teachers, mentors, helpers, or supervisors). However, students who take this course have a variety of ministry callings different from pastors and others who have a pastoral ministry calling. Therefore, by the end of this course, students who do not have a pastoral ministry calling will:

1. Be able to apply selected ministry principles, concepts, methodologies, and resources in their ministry and ministry and service for Christ.
2. Value their role and calling in caring for others through Christian ministry and service.
3. Demonstrate with an acceptable proficiency a knowledge of ministry functions and how to carry out those functions which are applicable to their role and calling (such as being able to articulate a clear theology and philosophy of Christian ministry, participate in ministry through a church or a ministry organization, identify the role of spiritual gifts in ministry, and list helpful resources for ministry).

Course Methods

1. Lecture presentations and other methods will be utilized to teach the course concepts and methodologies, as well as to present various resources available for Christian ministry.

2. Writing assignments and group activities will be required to facilitate experiential learning. Resource persons will be used to share experiences, as time permits.
3. Resource comparisons will be used to enhance and promote personal insights in ministry. Student interaction with peers, ministry resource persons, and the course instructor are encouraged during the duration of this class to facilitate such insights.
4. Conferences with the instructor are invited and may be accomplished via telephone, e-mail, or personal visits. Even informal conferences can stimulate learning and application of course principles and concepts.

Textbooks

Students are encouraged to explore the variety of resources useful for contemporary Christian ministry. The texts listed below and in the Selected Bibliography will be helpful.

The following textbooks are **required** (will be cited in various class lectures and/or used in assignments):

Rainer, Thom S., and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2011.

Weems, Lovett H., Jr., and Tom Berlin. *Bearing Fruit: Ministry with Real Results*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2011.

The following textbooks are **optional** (will be helpful and may be used in class assignments):

Johnston, Thomas P., ed. *Mobilizing a Great Commission Church for Harvest*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2011.

Rusaw, Rick, and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland: Group, 2004.

Course Requirements

Students are required to accomplish a reading assignment, theology and philosophy ministry assignments, a ministry biography assignment, and a major ministry assignment, as follows:

A. Reading Assignment.

Submit **one** typed, five pages or less (single-spaced) **annotated analysis** of the **two required** textbooks (i.e., Rainer/Rainer and Weems/Berlin) and **two** books from the syllabus bibliography of the student's choice on some aspect of Christian ministry. **Format:** this **one single-spaced** analysis should give a correct bibliographic listing of **each** of the four books with their associated annotations, which answer the following questions:

- a. What is a two-paragraph (or less) summary of the book?
- b. What is one (or more) helpful feature(s) of the book for Christian ministry?
- c. What is one difficulty, deficiency, or limitation in using the book for Christian ministry?

A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder (if submitted in class).

B. Theology and Philosophy Ministry Assignments (you must complete **both** ministry assignments).

1. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **theology of ministry**, which gives **biblical** references (i.e., two to five references per topic) **and** discusses these topics: ministry in the Old Testament theologically, ministry in the New Testament theologically, the church and ministry, the Holy Spirit and ministry, ministry evangelism, discipleship and ministry, spiritual gifts and ministry, worship and ministry, and the Christian's spiritual life and ministry. **Format:**

each topic is to be taken **in the order** cited herein and is to be listed as a heading followed by its respective **biblical references** and **discussion**. A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder.

2. Prepare a typed (single-spaced), **four-page** (or less) **philosophy of Christian ministry** with regard to: serving in Christian ministry personally, exemplifying Jesus in Christian ministry, working with ministry volunteers, identifying ministry needs, developing a vision for ministry, creating and contextualizing Christian ministries, sharing the gospel through ministry, ministering cross-culturally, discovering ministry resources, using social media in ministry, and ministering through worship. **Format:** same as the theology paper, **except** that **biblical** references are **not** to be cited and discussed. A cover page is to be **used**, but do not include an intervening blank page or binder (if submitted in class).

C. Biography Ministry Assignment.

Research and write a two-page, typed **biography** of a person who was or is noteworthy for performing a meaningful Christian ministry. In the ministry biography, you are to discuss **three topics**: a sketch of the person's life, a description of the person's ministry, and an explanation of why you consider the person to be noteworthy in ministry.

D. Major Ministry Assignment.

Research and write a documented ministry essay of no more than **twenty** pages in accordance with Turabian using **parenthetical references** [like this example of documenting a quote from *Studying and Serving with Success* by Dr. Jerry N. Barlow: "Fear can be friend or foe" (Barlow 1999, 23)]. The paper topic is to be **entitled**: WHAT I NEEDED TO LEARN ABOUT CHRISTIAN MINISTRY THIS SEMESTER, with the title placed on the cover page and first essay page. Students may select one or more topics to research from the course topics listed in the **Course and Assignments Schedule** in this syllabus. **Note:** the selected bibliography of the essay must list a **minimum** of 8 print sources (books, journals, or periodicals) and a **minimum** of 4 Internet sources which have informed your knowledge of the topic researched. **Please note: all** bibliography entries **must be cited** in the essay as parenthetical references.

Course Exam

Students must take a final exam in accordance with the course schedule. The final exam will be a take-home, open-book exam, and will include a personal assessment of the accomplishment of selected syllabus learning objectives.

Evaluation

All course objectives will be evaluated through the grading of the course assignments and examinations. Student participation and behavior in class will also be considered in the evaluation of the course objectives and grading.

The student's final grade will be determined as follows:

1. Reading Assignment	15%
2. Theology Paper	20%
3. Philosophy Paper	20%
4. Biography Ministry Assignment	10%
5. Major Ministry Assignment	25%
6. Final Exam	10%

Late Assignments

Assignments turned in **past the date due** will incur a late penalty of **ten** points, which will be deducted from the assignment grade. Assignments will **not be accepted more than one week past the date due** without permission from the course professor. However, students are reminded that some points for submitted assignments are better than no points for assignments not submitted.

Course and Assignments Schedule

Course topics will be derived from the following possibilities:

Introduction

- Course Syllabus

- Student Background Survey

A Theology of Ministry

- Ministry in the Old Testament

- Ministry in the New Testament

A Philosophy of Christian Ministry

- Ministry in Christian History

- Competencies for Christian Ministry

- Carrying Out Personal Christian Ministry

 - Spiritual Life and Ministry

 - Spiritual Gifts and Ministry

 - Exemplifying Jesus in Christian Ministry

 - Identifying Ministry Needs

 - Developing a Vision for Ministry

 - Creating and Contextualizing Christian Ministries

 - Sharing the Gospel through Ministry

 - Ministering Cross-Culturally

 - Discovering Ministry Resources

 - Using Social Media in Ministry

 - Ministering through Worship

 - Working with Ministry Volunteers

Concluding Matters in Christian Ministry

Assignments are to be submitted in class or by e-mail to graddeanassist@nobts.edu and are due no later than **the beginning of class** (or dated no later than **8:00 A.M.**, if submitted by e-mail) on these **Tuesdays**:

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|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Reading assignment | April 14 |
| 2. Theology paper | February 10 |
| 3. Philosophy paper | March 17 |
| 4. Biography ministry assignment | March 31 |
| 5. Major ministry assignment | May 5 |

The final exam will be **available** on **Tuesday, May 12**, and will be **due** in the Registrar's Office or submitted by e-mail (to registrar@nobts.edu) no later than **11:00 A.M.** on **Thursday May 14**. Please note: the course will not meet during March 23 - 27 (Spring Break).

Selected Bibliography

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- Barlow, Jerry N. "How to Use Time Wisely." In *Toolbox for [Busy] Pastors*, Barry Campbell, 139-140. Nashville: Convention Press, 1998.
- Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Blackaby, Henry T., Henry Brandt, and Kerry Skinner. *The Power of the Call*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1997.
- Bonem, Mike, and Roger Patterson. *Leading from the Second Chair*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005.
- Branson, Mark Lau, and Juan F. Martinez. *Churches, Cultures, and Leadership: A Practical Theology of Congregations and Ethnicities*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.
- Cothen, Joe H. *Equipped for Good Work: A Guide for Pastors*. 2d ed. Revised by Joe H. Cothen and Jerry N. Barlow. Gretna: Pelican, 2002.
- Crabb, Larry. *Real Church*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2009.
- Criswell, W.A. *Criswell's Guidebook for Pastors*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1980.
- Daman, Glenn. *Shepherding the Small Church: A Leadership Guide for the Majority of Today's Churches*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2002.
- Doriani, Daniel M. *Putting the Truth to Work: The Theory and Practice of Biblical Application*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2001.
- Everist, Norma Cook, and Craig L. Nessian. *Transforming Leadership*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2008.
- Fernando, Ajith. *Jesus Driven Ministry*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2002.
- Foyle, Marjory. *Honourably Wounded: Stress Among Christian Workers*. Grand Rapids: Monarch Books, 2001.
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- Hemphill, Ken. *The Antioch Effect*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1994.
- Hollinger, Dennis P. *Head, Heart, and Hands: Bringing Together Christian Thought, Passion, and Action*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP, 2005.
- Hirsch, Alan, and Lance Ford. *Right Here, Right Now: Everyday Mission for Everyday People*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011.

- Hunter, George G., III. *Church for the Unchurched*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1996.
- Hybels, Lynne, and Bill Hybels. *Rediscovering Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.
- Iorg, Jeff. *The Character of Leadership*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2007.
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- Klopp, Henry. *The Ministry Playbook: Strategic Planning for Effective Churches*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2002.
- Lawrenz, Mel. *The Dynamics of Spiritual Formation*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood G., ed. *Ministering Cross-Culturally*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.
- Lutzer, Erwin. *Pastor to Pastor: Tackling the Problems of Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1998.
- Malphurs, Aubrey. *A New Kind of Church: Understanding Models of Ministry for the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007.
- _____. *Developing a Vision for Ministry in the 21st Century*, 2d ed. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- _____. *Doing Church: A Biblical Guide for Leading Ministries through Change*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1999.
- _____. *The Dynamics of Church Leadership: Ministry Dynamics for a New Century*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1999.
- _____. *Values-Driven Leadership*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004.
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- Rainer, Thom S., and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation*. Nashville: B&H Publishing, 2011.
- Rusaw, Rick, and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Loveland, CO: Group, 2004.
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- Williams, Donna Reilly, and JoAnn Sturzl. *Grief Ministry: Helping Others Mourn*. Rev. ed. San Jose, CA: Resource Publications, Inc., 2001.
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