



CCSW 6371 Social Work Practice and Christianity
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church and Community Ministries

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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 and its ministries.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to enable students to draw upon Scripture and a Christocentric worldview to better inform their Social Work practice.

Core Value Focus

The seminary has five core values. This course supports the five core values of the seminary.

Doctrinal Integrity: Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. Our confessional commitments are outlined in the “Articles of Religious Belief” and the “Baptist Faith and Message 2000.”

Spiritual Vitality: We are a worshiping community emphasizing both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary family 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

The seminary has seven curriculum competencies: Biblical Exposition, Christian Theological Heritage, Discipleship Making, Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership, Spiritual and Character

Formation, and Worship Leadership. This course addresses Interpersonal Skills, Servant Leadership and Spiritual and Character Formation.

Course Description

This course will examine the integration of the Christian faith and Social Work practice. Beginning from a historical perspective that connects early charity work and the roots of historical Social Work in the Christian tradition, this course will explore a wide variety of social justice issues and best practices to the present day. The course will address areas of strength and possible conflict for Christians practicing in the field of Social Work.

Student Learning Outcomes

Practicing Social Work in a world that has become increasingly skeptical of Christians requires a thorough understanding of key social justice issues from a Biblical and Christocentric worldview. In this course students will learn to:

1. Apply critical thinking to inform and communicate professional judgments using Biblical and Christian perspectives as they apply to key social justice issues.
2. Advance human rights and social and economic justice by applying Biblical and Christian perspectives to a wide variety of human rights issues.
3. Evaluate policies related to social and economic justice issues and compare best practices of the faith-based community as they apply to remediating inequity.
4. Respond to contexts that shape practice by examining how social welfare policy has changed over time and in various places in response to particular contexts and how Christians have influenced social welfare.
5. Engage diversity and difference in practice by better understanding the cultural complexities of the church and how this shapes social work practice and can help empower marginalized groups for change.
6. Identify as a professional Social Worker and conduct themselves accordingly by understanding the rich history of the Social Work profession, the values that have guided it, and develop a commitment to further enhancement of the profession through personal growth and conduct.

Required Readings

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

Cannon, M. E. (Ed.). (2009). *Social justice handbook: Small steps for a better world*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books.

Hugen, B. and Scales T. L. (Eds.). (2008). *Christianity and social work: Readings on the integration of Christian faith and social work practice*, 4th Ed. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Supplemental Texts

Cannon, M. E. (2013). *Just spirituality: How faith practices fuel social action*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Corbett, S. & Fikkert, B. (2012). *When helping hurts: How to alleviate poverty without hurting the poor and yourself*. Chicago: Moody Press.

Garland, D. R. (Ed.). (1992). *Church social work*. Philadelphia: The North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Holmes, A. (1984). *Ethics: Approaching moral decisions*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press.

Keith-Lucas, A. (1987). *So you want to be a social worker: A primer for the Christian student*. Botsford, CT: North American Association of Christians in Social Work.

Mott, S. C. (1982). *Biblical ethics and social change*. NY: Oxford University Press.

Specht, H. & Courtney, M. (1994). *Unfaithful angels: How social work has abandoned its mission*. NY: The Free Press.

Unruh, H. R. & Sider, R. (2005). *Saving souls, serving society: Understanding the faith factor in church-based social ministry*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Course Teaching Methodology

This class is offered in an online environment with weekly units presented in the Blackboard environment. To successfully participate will require a high speed Internet connection, a computer with a modem, a reasonable skill with Internet usage. More information about the Seminary's Online Learning Environment is available on the Seminary's website. Technical challenges can be resolved by contacting the Seminary's Information Technology Center at <http://www.nobts.edu/itc/>. All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Complete all the requirements assigned in Units 1-12, two exams and a final project due at the end of Unit 10. Students are expected to be engaged in online dialogue with fellow students via weekly discussion boards via Blackboard. Each Unit has an online discussion board and students are expected to make an entry of 3 paragraphs of 3 sentences at minimum answering the prompt provided. Students are expected to read each of their fellow student's entries and respond at least once to each, using appropriate online behaviors as described in the Netiquette paragraph below.
2. Class participation depends upon preparation and thus students must complete the requirements of each unit before completing the discussion board so as to assure a well-informed discussion (see #1 above).
3. Students will complete a weekly exercise that draws upon all the materials presented in the corresponding unit. While exercises vary, students will be graded using the assignment rubric that corresponds to the exercise of the week. These may include essay-

type responses to a prompt, a timeline project, or other exercises designed to evaluate the student's knowledge of the materials presented in the unit.

4. Students will complete a 10-question, timed quiz (10 minutes) upon the completion of each unit. The quizzes will count for 10% of the final grade. Quizzes are based upon the entire unit and are typically multiple choice or matching. A portion of the midterm and final exams will be drawn from the quizzes and thus students are encouraged to learn from their mistakes in an effort to improve their performance on the exams.
5. Students will complete a final presentation worth 30% of the final grade. This project will be in the Pecha Kucha format which consists of 20 narrated slides timed at 20 seconds each. The Pecha Kucha will present scholarly research based on one of the topics presented in the 12 units of the class. It requires a depth and precision of knowledge presented in rapid and concise format. Students will research the topic beforehand and present new knowledge in this unique format which requires that the essence of the material be presented in a way that is informative, enjoyable to watch and helps fellow students to understand the research in an innovative way. Rather than simply turning in a paper to be read by the professor, the Pecha Kucha allows fellow students to participate by watching the presentation and responding to it. Watching the presentations will be one of the assignments in Unit 11, so assignments **MUST** be completed and submitted on or before Unit 10. The student will demonstrate an understanding of the issue encapsulated in the presentation and will frame the presentation based upon scripture, a Christian worldview and relevant literature. Each student will watch and respond to the presentations of their fellow students. Relevant information about the Pecha Kucha presentation format can be found at:

<http://www.pechakucha.org/>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PechaKucha>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9NZOt6BkhUg>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJ2yepIaAtE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I9zxNTpNMLo>

The project will be graded using the following rubric (a more detailed rubric can be found on Blackboard under Pecha Kucha):

Pecha Kucha Presentation Rubric		
Slideshow	20 slides timed to advance every 20 seconds	20 points
Organization	ideas and images flow smoothly, seamless transitions	20 points
Visual Appeal	images and text are thoughtful and conveyed well	20 points
Presentation	presenter is well prepared & demonstrates superior knowledge	20 points
Skill	pace/tone/volume, confidence/poise, rapport with audience	20 points

6. Students will complete the midterm examination, worth 20% of the final grade, and the final examination, worth 20% of the final grade, on or before the due date. Both exams will be a combination of questions drawn from the quizlets in each unit and essay questions designed to evaluate learning at a critical thinking level. They will be posted

on Blackboard for taking online at the end of Units 6 and 12. Students will be penalized 10 points for each calendar day the exam is late. The exams must be submitted by the Saturday corresponding to the end of the class period on which they are due; any submission past that deadline will be penalized.

Assignment	% of Grade	Due On:
Discussion Boards	10%	Unit completion
Weekly Exercises	10%	Unit completion
Weekly Quizlets	10%	Unit completion
Pecha Kucha	30%	Unit 10
Midterm Exam	20%	Unit 7
Final Exam	20%	Unit 12

Course Policies

Absences and Late Assignments

As this is an online course and is completed at the student's discretion it is imperative that all Units be fully completed. Assignments are by the Saturday that corresponds to the completion of the Unit. Late assignments automatically will be penalized a letter grade and may receive additional penalties depending on the amount of time the assignment is late.

Professor's Availability and Assignment Feedback

The student may contact the professor at any time using the email address provided in the course syllabus. The professor will make every effort to return answers to emailed questions within a 24-hour period of time. Assignments requiring grading will be returned to the student within a reasonable period of time. Student feedback on graded assignments will be provided through the grading rubric located in the student's Blackboard Grade Book. The student will find comments in the grading rubric, as well as on graded paper assignments. The student may also email the course grader with questions regarding grading.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

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.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please be aware that plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. Refer to the NOBTS Student Handbook <http://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/studentservices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf> where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

Classroom Parameters

Please arrive on time.

Turn off cell phones. Utilize laptops and other technology for class purposes only.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.

Participate in class and group discussions.

Blackboard and ITC Technical Support

Blackboard is the instructional platform used in this class. Please make sure that your contact information is accurate and up-to-date. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, Selfserve, or other technical support, please contact the Information Technology Center (Hardin Student Center 290 or call **504.816.8180**). Here are other helpful links to ITC assistance.

- Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
- ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.
- For Student Assistance in using Blackboard, visit: [Student Bb Help](#)

Netiquette

Netiquette refers to appropriate online behavior in Blackboard or other online discussions. 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.

Academic Policies

Academic policies relating to absences, grading scale, final examination schedules, and other topics can be found in the current online catalog: [New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog](#).

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating Seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of your intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00 PM) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Emergency Plan

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. Also, students should use Blackboard to follow any announcements that may be posted. Students should ensure their current email address is updated on Blackboard.

Course Schedule

May 30-June 4, 2016	Units 1 & 2 must be completed by 6/4 at 11:59 PM
June 5-June 11, 2016	Units 3 & 4 must be completed by 6/11 at 11:59 PM
June 12-June 18, 2016	Units 5 & 6 must be completed by 6/18 at 11:59 PM
June 19- June 25, 2016	Units 7 & midterm must be completed by 6/25 at 11:59 PM
June 26-July 2, 2016	Units 8 & 9 must be completed by 7/2 at 11:59 PM
July 3-July 9, 2016	Unit 10 & Pecha Kucha must be completed by 7/9 at 11:59 PM
July 10-July 16, 2016	Unit 11 & response to Pecha Kuchas must be completed by 7/16 at 11:59 PM
July 17-July 22/2016	Unit 12 & final exam must be completed by 7/22 at 11:59 PM

Unit	Assignment
Unit 1: Introduction Objectives Introductions Review Syllabus Discussion of texts and course	Cannon Intro, Chas. 1-2 C&SW Intro, Cha. 1
Unit 2: Foundations of Christian Social Work	Cannon Cha. 3, Multi-Ethnic Churches, pp. 193-194 C&SW Cha. 2
Unit 3: History of Christian Social Work I	Cannon pp. 213-224 C&SW, Cha. 3-5
Unit 4: History of Christian Social Work II	Cannon, Chas. 4-5 C&SW Cha. 10

Unit 5: Social Work and Advocacy	C&SW Cha. 6-7 Cannon: Capitalism, 133; Class System, 137; Global Economy, 164; Poverty, 201-209
Unit 6: Christian Social Worker's Worldview I	C&SW Chas. 8-9 Cannon: White Privilege, 241; Urban Decay, 237; Work, 251-255
Midterm will be posted on Blackboard	Due 6/25; 11:59 PM
Unit 7: The Christian Social Worker's Worldview, Part II	C&SW 11-12 Cannon: Domestic Abuse, p. 144; Drugs & Addiction, p. 146; Euthanasia, p. 157; Education, pp. 148-153
Unit 8: Beyond Fairness: Ethics in Social Work Practice	C&SW Chas. 13-14 Cannon: Women, pp. 243-251; Children, p. 134; Child Soldiers, p. 136
Unit 9: Human Behavior and Spiritual Development I	C&SW Chas. 15-16 Cannon: AIDS, pp. 122-129; Sexuality, pp. 229-231
Unit 10: Human Behavior and Spiritual Development II	C&SW Chas. 17-18 Cannon: Homelessness, p. 174; Housing, p. 175; Human Rights, p. 180; Hunger, p. 182; Immigration, p. 185 PECHA KUCHA DUE
Unit 11: Contemporary Issues in Practice I	C&SW Chas. 19-20 Cannon: Bioethics, p. 130; Globalization, p. 167; Capital Punishment, p. 131; Consumerism, p. 140; Water, p. 237 Respond to Pecha Kuchas
Unit 12: Contemporary Issues in Practice II	C&SW 21-22 Cannon: Healthcare, pp. 168-174; Incarceration, p. 187; Politics, p. 200; Prostitution, p. 211; Sex Trafficking, p. 227
Final exam is due by end of final class period	Due 7/22; 11:59 PM

Selected Bibliography

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Student Services

This is a partial list of NOBTS student services available to all students, no matter your delivery system or location. If you have questions or do not see what you need here, please refer to www.nobts.edu/student-services, email us at studentservices@nobts.edu, or call the Dean of Students office at 800-662-8701, ext. 3283. We are glad to assist you!

Need	Email	Phone	Web Page
Advising – Graduate Program	studentservices@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3312	www.nobts.edu/registrar/default.html#advising
Advising – Undergraduate Program	lcadminasst@nobts.edu	504.816.8590	www.nobts.edu/LeavellCollege
Church Minister Relations (for ministry jobs)	cmr@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3291	www.nobts.edu/CMR
Financial Aid	financialaid@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3348	www.nobts.edu/financialaid
PREP (help to avoid student debt)	Prepassistant1@nobts.edu	504.816.8091	www.nobts.edu/prep
Gatekeeper NOBTS news	pr@nobts.edu	504.816.8003	nobtsgatekeeper.wordpress.com
Information Technology Center	itcsupport@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	selfserve.nobts.edu
Help with Blackboard	blackboardhelpdesk@nobts.edu	504.816.8180	nobts.blackboard.com
Library	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	www.nobts.edu/Library
Online library resources	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/research-links/default.html
Writing and Turabian style help	library@nobts.edu	504.816.8018	http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html
Guest Housing (Providence Guest House)	ph@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x4455	www.provhouse.com
Student Counseling	lmccc@nobts.edu	504.816.8004	www.nobts.edu/student-services/counseling-services.html
Women’s Programs	womensacademic@nobts.edu	504.282.4455 x3334	www.nobts.edu/women

For additional library resources in your state, check <http://www.nobts.edu/library/interlibrary-loan.html>

- GALILEO for Georgia students
- LALINC for Louisiana students
- Florida Virtual Library (<http://www.flelibrary.org/>) for Florida students
- Interact with us online at –



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