



## CERW6371

### Recreation and Sports Ministry

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Christian Education Division

Spring 2016 Hybrid

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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.*

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#### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to overview the value of sports and recreation ministry in church, community, and mission settings.

#### **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 2015-2016 academic year, this Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

#### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Effective servant leadership*: In the midst of recreation and sports programs and activities, a servant leader models character qualities reflecting a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.

2. *Interpersonal relationships:* Relationship skills are vital to communication among recreation ministry staff, volunteers, and participants.
3. *Disciple making:* Multiplying one's efforts through leader training and mentoring extends the impact of recreation and sports ministries.

### **Course Description**

The functions of recreation and sports ministry as well as its practices are studied. Attention is given to compiling recreational materials and planning various types of programs.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the conclusion of this course:

- 1) You will be able to the difference between leisure and recreation and, more specifically, the characteristics and misconceptions of recreation, especially as they relate to a ministry setting. You also will be acquainted with the purpose of games in group building and teaching with a variety of age groups. (*Cognitive*)
- 2) You will be challenged to grasp the urgency of creating environments to share the gospel through sports and social recreation. You will value ministry through sports and recreation. (*Affective*)
- 3) You will be able to analyze the recreation options presented during the semester, and provide the purpose and rationale of individual components of a year-round recreation program for a local church. (*Psychomotor*)

### **Required Reading**

The following is required reading for class discussions and is to be read in its entirety.

Garner, John, ed. *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003.

### **Optional Text**

Ladd, Tony, and James A. Mathisen. *Muscular Christianity: Evangelical Protestants and the Development of American Sport*. Grand Rapids, MI: BridgePoint Books, 1999.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

#### **UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS**

Introduction to Sports and Recreation Ministry / Cultural Context  
Biblical Foundations of Recreation and Sports Ministry  
Historical Foundations of Recreation and Sports Ministry  
Recreation and Sports for All Ages (Developmental Issues)  
Ethics of Competition in a Ministry Setting

## **UNIT 2: ADMINISTRATION**

Organization of Sports and Recreation Ministry  
Administration of Sports and Recreation Ministry  
Programming: Process and Theory  
Recreation Facilities: Design and Programming  
Legal Issues: Risk Management for Churches  
Care and Feeding of Volunteers  
Evangelism in Sports and Recreation Ministry

## **UNIT 3: PUZZLE PIECES**

Student Presentations on Research Topics  
Social Recreation: The Anatomy of Big Events  
Sports Ministry: League-Based and Event-Based

## **UNIT 4: THE MINISTER**

Professional Conduct  
Ministry Possibilities

**Teaching Method.** This course may be taught in multiple styles: on-campus, internet, hybrid, or internet, using methods most appropriate for the applicable delivery system.

### **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

#### *1. Class Participation*

20%      **Due: Weekly**

Each week you will be directed to a particular unit of study in which you are expected to complete the related assignments. These assignments may include (but are not limited to) regular reading assignments, discussion boards, blogs, journals, power points, and quizzes. You will be assigned to lead particular chapter discussions, both on-line and at our February 18 meeting. The week of your chapter, you will enter the appropriate Discussion Board forum on Monday and post a significant and relevant question that your classmates will interact about. As chapter leader, you are expected to comment on classmates' comments as well. (Due dates will be assigned by instructor and correspond with in-class meetings throughout the semester.) Quizzes on reading assignments also should be expected periodically (and factored into the weekly class participation grade). Attached please find the rubric for unit assignments/class participation.

#### *2. Interview Project*

20%      **Due: March 31**

You will interview three recreation ministers from different Southern Baptist churches or ministries, and submit a typed-report (6-8 page). Choose between a verbatim or summary format. At the end of *each* interview report, please include a wrap-up section with a brief discussion of three take-away points.

#### *3. Recreation Research Project and Presentation*

20%      **Due: April 28, 2016**

Choose a topic (from the list provided or another subject approved by instructor). You will record your choice in the Research Project wiki by the second week of class. Periodic reports on

your progress will be requested to eliminate last-minute papers. Your research will be compiled in a paper (double-spaced, Turabian format expected, 6 page minimum, no less than 10 credible resources) *and* a power-point presentation.

**4. Learn-Ministry-by-Planning-Ministry Project** 20% **Due: May 5, 2016**

Analyze the recreation options presented during the semester, and provide the purpose and rationale of individual components for a year-round recreation program for a local church. Consider everything from registration to celebration! General 'puzzle pieces' should include social recreation, sports, crafts, fitness/wellness, and special interest offerings.

**5. Final Exam** 20% **Due: May 9 or 11**

The final exam will go on-line the weekend before graduation (look for an announcement on Blackboard). Graduating seniors will need to complete the exam by Monday 5 p.m. of exam week; all other students will have until Wednesday 5 p.m. of exam week. There are no early or late finals. Throughout the semester, you will find resources that the rest of us may benefit from. I expect everyone to post on our course wiki board no less than seven unique and credible resources (websites, books, journals, etc.) by the last week of class. Your contributions will be factored into your final exam as 20% of the grade.

### Course Policies

**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.

**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.

**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 unless specifically requested. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission may be extremely inefficient.

**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 2015-2016 catalog.

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

**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.

**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.

**Withdrawal from the Course:** The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administrative 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 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. Once your registration and payment for the course is complete, you will be enrolled in the course on Blackboard.

**Correspondence with the Grader:** Typically, you should contact the grader via 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. *NOTE: this class will be monitored and graded by the professor.*

**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.

**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> .

**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.

**Technical Support:** Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today:

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.

504.816.8180 - Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website. 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.

### **Selected Bibliography**

This selected bibliography is only a beginning. Be prepared to add to it as different programming areas are covered through the course of the term. A possible final exam question: "List five recreation and sports ministry resources you have discovered during this term. Be sure to include title, author, and publisher."

Altrogge, Stephen. *Game Day for the Glory of God: A Guide for Athletes, Fans, and Wannabes*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2008.

Baack, Sharon, Hal Hill, and Joe Palmer. *Adventure Recreation: An Adventure in Group Building*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1989.

Baack, Sharon and Brad Smith. *Adventure Recreation 2*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Blanton, Gail. *Scripts to Reach In and Out*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1993.

- Capps, Michael W. *Screamers and Scramblers*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.
- Cordes, Kathleen A. and Hilmi M. Ibrahim. *Applications in Recreation & Leisure for Today and The Future*. Boston: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1999.
- Ellis, Robert. *The Games People Play: Theology, Religion, and Sport*. Indianapolis, IN: Wipf and Stock, 2014.
- Ettinger, Walter H., Brenda S. Mitchell, and Steven N. Blair. *Fitness After 50: It's Never Too Late to Start!* St. Louis: Beverly Cram Publications, 1996.
- Garner, John, ed. *Recreation and Sports Ministry: Impacting Postmodern Culture*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003.
- Harvey, Lincoln. *A Brief Theology of Sport*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2014.
- Heintzman, Paul, Glen Van Andel, and Thomas Visker (eds). *Christianity and Leisure: Issues in a Pluralistic Society*. Sioux City, IA: Dordt College Press, 2006 (rev).
- Hicks, Joe and Michelle. *The Retreat Notebook*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1995.
- Hoffman, Shirl James. *Good Game: Christianity and the Culture of Sport*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2010.
- Jackson, Allen and Judi. *The Retreat Notebook 2*. Nashville: Convention Press, 2000.
- Kluck, Ted. *The Reason for Sport: A Christian Fanifesto*. Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2009.
- Ladd, Tony, and James A. Mathisen. *Muscular Christianity: Evangelical Protestants and the Development of American Sport*. Grand Rapids, MI: BridgePoint Books, 1999.
- Mahaney, C.J. *Don't Waste Your Sports*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010.
- Messenger, Troy. *Holy Leisure: Recreation and Leisure in God's Square Mile*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2000.
- Miniard, Linda. *Games That Teach*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1993.
- Newman, Wendell T. *Guidebook for Planning Church Recreation Facilities, 2d ed.* John Garner. Nashville: Sunday School Board, 1992.
- Quatro, Steve. *Intentional Outreach: A Guide to Simple Church Sports Ministry*. Maitland, FL: Xulon Press, 2009.

Raus, Bob. *Ministry Through Camping*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1990. (Out of print)

Rice, Wayne and Mike Yaconelli. *Play It! and Play It Again!* Grand Rapids: Youth Specialties/Zondervan.

Russell, Ruth V. *Planning Programs in Recreation*. St. Louis, MO: The C. V. Mosby Company, 1982.

Siler, George. *Games with A Purpose*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1994.

Smith, Greg S. *Sports Theology: Finding God's Winning Spirit*. Indianapolis, IN: Dog Ear Publishing, LLC: 2010.

Yessick, Tommy. *Sports Ministry for Churches*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1996.

## Project/Presentation Topics

The Ministry of Retreats

Family Camp

Day Camping

Outdoor Camping

Resort Ministry

Recreation without a Facility

After-School Program

Performing Arts/Drama

Health/Wellness Ministry

Crafts Ministry

Recreation for Individuals with Disabilities

Puppet/Clowning Ministry

Recreation and Senior Adults

Recreation in Women's Ministry

Adventure Recreation

Intergenerational Recreation Issues & Ideas

Competition-Centered Sports Evangelism  
(Ministry using Sports Leagues)

Event-Centered Sports Evangelism

Recreation in a Missions Setting

Using Extreme Sports/Games in Ministry

Each of the areas listed above has a valid place in recreation and sports ministry. Take your project area and make it grow. Research it inside and out. What purpose does it serve? How does it fit into the overall church recreation program? Who is it for? Where will it take place? What benefits will its participants experience? How will it be promoted? Give at least one significant example (more if appropriate) of this area at work. One good way to research your area is to talk with people who have done (or are doing) work related to it. You will be graded on information as well as creativity. Be sure to include footnotes and bibliography.

**CERW6371 Recreation and Sports Ministry**  
*Grading Criteria for Unit Assignments (Internet/Hybrid)*

Each unit is worth 7 points and is graded according to the following rubric:

7 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed all unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Original thoughts presented in discussion forums and writing assignments.</li> <li>• Clear, succinct, and complete presentation of ideas.</li> <li>• Reference to reading assignments, when appropriate.</li> </ul>
6 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed all unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Original thoughts presented in discussion forums and writing assignments.</li> <li>• Mostly clear, succinct, and complete presentation of ideas.</li> <li>• Reference to reading assignments, when appropriate.</li> </ul>
5 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed at least 90% of unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Some original thoughts, some repeated ideas from others in discussion forums and writing assignments.</li> <li>• Information presented not always clear or succinct.</li> <li>• Concepts described fully or communicated effectively.</li> </ul>
4 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed at least 80% of unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Some original thoughts, some repeated ideas from others in discussion forums and writing assignments.</li> <li>• Information presented not always clear or succinct.</li> <li>• Concepts not described fully or communicated effectively.</li> </ul>
3 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed at least 70% of unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Weak presentation of ideas as evidenced by poor organization, lack of clarity, and ineffective communication of concepts.</li> </ul>
2 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed at least 50% of unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Weak presentation of ideas as evidenced by poor organization, lack of clarity, and ineffective communication of concepts.</li> </ul>
1 point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed at least 25% of unit assignments by the due date.</li> <li>• Minimal effort on all assignments completed.</li> </ul>
0 points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed less than 25% of unit assignments.</li> </ul>