



Support Groups for Women, CEWM 5166

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 an understanding of how support groups can strengthen the women's ministry of a local church.

Core Value Focus

Each academic year, a core value is emphasized. This academic year, the core value is *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."

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical Exposition*: The student will explore biblical teachings about small groups for ministry.
2. *Christian Theological Heritage*: The student will explore theological and historical background for small groups.
3. *Disciple Making*: The student will learn to facilitate spiritual growth in Christian women.
4. *Interpersonal Skills*: The student will improve interpersonal and ministry skills.
5. *Servant Leadership*: The student will discover how to provide support groups for women in the church and community.
6. *Spiritual and Character Formation*: The student will develop personal and spiritual maturity as she learns to lead support groups.

7. *Worship Leadership*: The student will increase skills for training others in support groups for women.

Course Description

This course is designed to explore how support groups sponsored by the women's ministry can meet the needs of women in the church and community. The following topics about groups will be explored: scriptural basis, Jesus and groups, historical background, need, advantages/ disadvantages, dynamics, formation, leadership, types, support groups, roles, problems, stages, and termination of groups.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

1. Be aware of a scriptural basis for groups.
2. Have knowledge of the historical background of groups in the church.
3. Identify the needs for groups in the church.
4. Understand the dynamics for groups.
5. Evaluate possible leadership styles for groups.
6. Evaluate and assess a current support group.
7. Discuss various groups available to/for women.
8. Develop a plan for a specific small group in the local church.
9. Evaluate their own group leadership styles.

Required Readings

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

1. Arnold, Jeffrey. *The Big Book on Small Groups*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004. ISBN: 0830823700
2. Bozeman, Jeanine Cannon and Argile Smith (eds.). *Interpersonal Relationship Skills for Ministers*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing, 2004. ISBN: 1589802489

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study topics will include:

1. Biblical Basis for Groups
2. Historical Background for Groups
3. Need for Groups
4. Advantages and Disadvantages of Groups
5. Leadership of Groups
6. Types of Groups
7. Dynamics of Groups
8. Formation of Groups

9. Support Groups
10. Roles in Groups/Skills for Group Leadership
11. Problems in Groups
12. Stages of Groups
13. Termination of Group
14. Celebration

Teaching Method. This course will utilize lecture and interactive discovery-learning. The student should expect different presentation formats to enhance the learning motif.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Cognitive Domain:

1. **Students will develop one group presently needed in their churches. Group Plan Report:** Students will write a description of a specific group needed in their churches. Write a plan to develop the proposed support group. The plan should include the following section headings: biblical basis, historical basis, need for the group, recruitment of members, formation of the group, structure of first meeting, plan for eight sessions and plans for termination. This plan should be ten to fifteen pages, typed double-spaced, following *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* by Kate Turabian, published by University of Chicago Press. Pray that God will give you the opportunity to begin it in your church.
2. **Students will read assigned textbooks and provide a statement of completion.** Reading assignments will include readings from the textbooks, Scripture, and other sources. The student will provide a statement of completion of all reading assignments, due four weeks after completing the last week of class.
3. **Students will complete a Final examination.** Final exam will be posted on BlackBoard and will be due four weeks after completing the last week of class.

Affective Domain:

1. **Students will participate in a small group.** Students are required to attend a small group at least 6 times throughout the course (and up to four weeks after the last week of class). The purpose is to observe, evaluate and experience the dynamics of an actual group in process. Assignments will be posted on Blackboard.

Psychomotor Domain:

1. **Students will attend class as stated in the graduate catalog.** The course is divided into 8 one-week units. Each week's unit will have a variety of in-class content items, typically consisting of a video lecture and a slide show. Class attendance is based on a self-reported percentage of content completed. The student will provide a statement of the percentage of completion of all in-class content items, due four weeks after completing the last week of class.
2. **Students will participate in class discussion.** Participation is determined by postings and responses in the Threaded Discussions held each week. These discussions will be related to the material covered in each week's content. All students are required to post a minimum of three responses in

the discussion each week: one in answer to the presenting questions, and two in response to classmates' postings. In order for the threaded discussion to be of maximum benefit to everyone involved it is recommended that you stay as close to the course schedule as possible—so that everyone will participate in the discussion in the same week. Postings are graded for timeliness and thoroughness in answering the questions. Please limit discussions in this venue to the assigned topic. Students may email or use the miscellaneous forum to discuss other topics with classmates.

Course Evaluation

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

A=93-100	20% = Class Attendance/Class Participation
B=85-92	20% = Textbook Reading
C=77-84	20% = Group Plan
D=70-76	20% = Final exam
F=Below 70	20% = Small-group Participation

Course Policies

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

Students who choose to present assignments via electronic mediums need to present those documents in a Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx) format.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on the Discussion Board. 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.

Course Schedule

Week One: <i>Begins January 19, 2016</i>	Biblical Basis for Groups Historical Background for Groups
Week Two: <i>Begins January 25, 2016</i>	Need for Groups Advantages and Disadvantages of Groups
Week Three: <i>Begins February 1, 2016</i>	Leadership of Groups

Week Four: <i>Begins February 8, 2016</i>	Types of Groups
Week Five: <i>Begins February 15, 2016</i>	Dynamics of Groups Formation of Groups
Week Six: <i>Begins February 22, 2016</i>	Support Groups
Week Seven: <i>Begins February 29, 2016</i>	Roles in Groups/Skills for Group Leadership Problems in Groups
Week Eight: <i>Begins March 7, 2016</i>	Stages of Groups Termination of Group Celebration

Selected Bibliography

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