



## **CCSW6365 Death, Loss, and Grief**

Church and Community Ministries 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 and its ministries.*

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### **Purpose of Course**

The purpose of this course is to prepare students to minister effectively and therapeutically to persons who have experienced loss.

### **Our Core Values**

The seminary has five core values. The focal core value for 2016-2017 is Characteristic Excellence. 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**

NOBTS faculty members realize that all ministers need to develop specific competencies if they are going to have an effective ministry. To increase the likelihood of NOBTS graduates having an effective ministry, the faculty developed a competency-based curriculum after identifying seven essential competencies necessary for effective ministry. All graduates are expected to have at least a minimum level of competency in all of the following seven areas:

*Biblical Exposition:* To interpret and communicate the Bible accurately.

*Christian Theological Heritage:* To understand and interpret Christian theological heritage and Baptist polity for the church.

*Disciple Making:* To stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth.

*Interpersonal Skills:* To perform pastoral care effectively, with skills in communication and conflict management.

*Servant Leadership:* To serve churches effectively through team ministry.

*Spiritual and Character Formation:* To provide moral leadership by modeling and mentoring Christian character and devotion.

*Worship Leadership:* To facilitate worship effectively.

The curriculum competencies addressed in this course are:

1. Biblical exposition: Devotionals illustrating spiritual comfort for grievers will be presented daily in class devotionals.
2. Theological and historical perspective: Speakers and texts will address these two issues.
3. Effective servant leadership: Texts, group work and speakers will address this competence.
4. Interpersonal relationships: This competency will be addressed by visits with grievers, speakers and role play.
5. Disciple making: Texts, speakers, and role playing will offer opportunities to become more effective in disciple making.
6. Spiritual and character formation: Journaling, reflection, and scripture will address this competence.

## **Course Catalog Description**

The focus in this course is on death, loss, and grief throughout the life span. Attention will be given to basic therapeutic interventions that can be used to assist individuals and groups through a wide variety of loss experiences such as illness, divorce, unemployment, relocation, infertility, death, and purpose. The role of the counselor/minister in the helping relationship will be explored. Lecture, discussion, guest speakers, role playing, and small group components will be utilized.

## **Student Learning Outcomes**

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

1. Share grief and loss experienced in his/her own life.
2. Assess his/her readiness to minister to persons in various grief experiences.
3. Develop plans for support groups focusing on death, grief, and loss.
4. Evaluate skills related to helping persons confront death, grief, and loss.
5. Network with professionals in the community who provide supportive services to the griever.
6. Utilize biblical truths when relating to grieving persons.
7. Become acquainted with resources related to death, grief, and loss.
8. Gain understanding regarding the impact of death upon a family.
9. Experience being a companion to a griever.

## **Textbooks**

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

### **Required Texts**

Lewis, C.S. *A Grief Observed*. San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Rando, Therese A. *Grief, Dying, and Death: Clinical Interventions for Caregivers*  
Champaign, IL: Research Press, 1984.

Wolfelt, Alan D. *Companioning the Bereaved*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2006.

Wolfelt, Alan D. *Death and Grief: A Guide for Clergy*. Munice, IN: Accelerated  
Development Inc. Publishers, 1988.

### **Journal Articles**

Cloud, John. "A Kinder, Gentler Death." *Time* (September 18, 2000): 75-82.

Kurn, Walter "Should You Stay Together for the Kids?" *Time* (September 25, 2000):  
75-82.

Jefferson, David J. "The Divorce Generation Grows Up". *Newsweek* (April 23, 2008)

### **Optional Texts**

Niemeyer, Robert A. *Lessons of Loss: A Guide to Coping*. New York: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., 1998.

Rando, Therese. *How To Go on Living When someone You Love Dies*. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1988.

Worden, J. William. *Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy, 4ed*. New York: Springer Publishing Co., 2006.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Read the four texts. The expectation is that the student reads the assigned readings daily and be prepared to participate in class discussions.
2. Prepare a daily (Tuesday-Thursday minimum) reactionary notebook on personal thinking and feelings related to the reading, class discussions, field trips, speakers and encounters with griever. Due Thursday, March 9 and Thursday, April 27, 2017. Please see page 17 for grading rubric.
3. Successfully complete the midterm and final examination.
4. Present and analyze a personal grief experience integrating grief theory and readings with your personal experience. The paper is to be typed, Turabian style. Recommended length, 8-10 pages, double-spaced. Minimum resources, 15. Due Thursday, April 13, 2017, at class time. Please see page 17 for grading rubric.
5. Be prepared for and be involved in class and small group discussions.
6. Read *A Grief Observed* and watch video, *Shadowlands*. Type a paper 3-5 pages expressing your reactions to both. A. What feelings did you experience (10 points)? B. What were your thoughts (10 points)? C. Could you have walked through the experience with anyone of the persons (10 points)? Explain which one and how you would help (10 points). (40 points total on final exam) Submitted to the professor at time of the final exam.
7. Participate in regular small group discussions and lead one group meeting.
8. Visit a grieving person 4 times and listen to their stories. You may visit the same person or 4 different persons. Integrate your reactions into your journal entries. Note visit date to verify, and name of person(s) visited.

## Course Assignment Evaluation Percentages

Midterm: Thursday, March 9	20%
Final Exam: As scheduled	20%
Daily Reactionary Notebook: Thursday, March 9/Thursday, April 27	20%
Grief Experience: Thursday, April 13	20%
Class Involvement: attendance, punctuality, participation, network and hospitality with guests	20%

## Course Policies

### **Reading Assignments**

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

### **Professor's Policy on Late Assignments**

All work is due on the assigned date in the syllabus. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by 10 points each day. No work is acceptable after 5 days.

### **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/studentervices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf](http://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/studentervices/NOBTSHandbook.pdf) where the definition, penalties and policies associated with plagiarism are clearly defined.

### **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](mailto:Selfserve@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the [Selfserve.nobts.edu](http://Selfserve.nobts.edu) site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
- [BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu](mailto:BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System [NOBTS.Blackboard.com](http://NOBTS.Blackboard.com).
- [ITCSupport@nobts.edu](mailto:ITCSupport@nobts.edu) - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
- [www.NOBTS.edu/itc/](http://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.

## Course Schedule

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
January 24-26	Introduction, Goal Setting, Contracting, Parameters Normalizing Loss/Kinds of Grief <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 1	Myths <u>Read:</u> Cloud, <u>Time Magazine</u> , (Issue 9/18/00) pp. 60-74 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Death and Grief</i> , Chapters 1-4 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , pp. 3-27
January 31- February 2	Manifestations of Grief Influential Factors Videos <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 2-3	Hospice Group Small Group Discussion (No. 1) <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Death and Grief</i> , Chapter 5 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenet 1-2. <u>View:</u> <i>The Bucket List</i> (movie)
February 7-9	Individual Meanings of Death The Dying Process The Christian View of Death <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 8, 9	<u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 10 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenet 3-4 Speaker: Dr. Loretta Rivers Speaker: Ginger Moskau
February 14- 16	Anticipated Death Understanding Grief <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 11	<u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenet 5-6 Speaker: Dr. Steve Lemke
February 21- 23	Understanding Grief (continued) The Grieving Process <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 5 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Death and Grief</i> , Chapter 6 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenet 7-8 Video: <i>Mourning</i>	The Grieving Family <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 12 Speaker: Roger Sullivan
February 28- March 2	Mardi Gras - No Class	Grieving and Your Family <u>Read:</u> Rando Chapter 6 <u>Read:</u> <i>How To Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies (Part III)</i> <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Death and Grief</i> , Chapters 7-8 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenet 9-10 Speaker: Christi Gibson
March 7-9	General Review for Midterm Review Complicated Grief	Midterm Exam Journals Due
March 14-16	Spring Break – No Class	Spring Break – No Class
March 21-23	The Family in Grief (video) <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 8-9 <i>Companioning the Bereaved</i> , Tenet 11	Small Group Discussion (No. 3) <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 10-11
March 28-30	Loss Related to Children	<u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Death and Grief</i> , Chapter 10-

	Children and Grief <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 5	13, 24
April 4-6	Loss of a Child Male Grief <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 5-6 <u>Video:</u> <i>A Mother's Grief</i>	Small Group Discussion (No. 4) <u>Read:</u> Grieving Beyond Gender Speaker: Melinda Hendrix
April 11-13	Examining Loss: Divorce Family Grief Regarding Divorce <u>Read:</u> Rando page 403-404 <u>Read:</u> Kurn, <i>Time Magazine</i> , (Issue 9/25/00) pp. 75-82 <u>View:</u> <i>Hope Floats</i> or <i>Stepmom</i>	<u>Read:</u> Smoke, <i>Growing Through Divorce</i> <u>Speaker:</u> Josh Smith
April 18-20	Special Issues Related to Loss Teen Loss, Suicide, Male Grief <u>Video:</u> <i>Suicide</i> <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapter 6 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, <i>Death and Grief</i> , Chapter 15-17	Grief Experience Paper due <u>Read:</u> Rando: page 149-154 <u>Read:</u> Rando page 151-153 Speaker: Trey Gibson
April 25-27	Therapeutic Interventions - The Death of a Baby The Role of the Church <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters 4 and 5 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, Chapters 18 and 22	Funerals, Rituals, and Cremation Lake Lawn Funeral Home Visit
May 2-4	Death and the Community Funerals, Rituals, and Cremation Small Group Discussion (No. 5) <u>Read:</u> Rando, Chapters, 7 and 14 <u>Read:</u> Williams, Chapter 15 <u>Read:</u> Wolfelt, Chapters 13, 25-26 Review for Final Exam	Celebration Shadowlands paper due at time of exam
May 9-11	Finals Week - No Class	Final Exam 9:00-11:00 Shadowlands paper due

President's Reception for Graduates—May 12-13

Graduation – May 14, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Leavell College Graduation—May 13, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

## Selected Bibliography

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- Becvar, Dorothy Stroh. *In the Presence of Grief: Helping Family Members Resolve Death, Dying, and Bereavement Issues*. New York: Guilford Press, 2001.
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- Brabant, Sarah. *Mending the Torn Fabric: For Those Who Grieve and Those Who Want to Help Them*. Amityville, NY: Baywood, 1996.
- Burns, Bob. *The Adult Child of Divorce*. Nashville: Oliver-Nelson, 1991.
- Christ, Grace Hyslop. *Healing Children's Grief: Surviving a Parent's Death from Cancer*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Clinton, Timothy E., and Archibald D. Hart. *Caring for People God's Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma*. Nashville: Nelson Reference and Electronic, 2005.
- Coleman, Jan. *After the Locusts: Restoring Ruined Dreams, Reclaiming Wasted Years*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2002.
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- Cox, David, and Candy Neely-Arrington. *Aftershock: Help, Hope, and Healing in the Wake of Suicide*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2003.
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Zotovich, Katherine Dorn. *Good Grief for Kids: A Journal to Help Children Cope with Their Grief During Times of Loss*. Los Osos, CA: Journal Keepers, 2000.

### **Video recordings**

A Guide to the Grief Journey [videorecording] / [hosted by] Darcie Sims and Alan Pederson. 2012

Helping Those in Grief, Crisis and Trauma [video recording] / H. Norman Wright. 2011

## **Instructions for Journal**

Your journal is to have 2 entries each week. Express briefly your personal thinking and feeling. Do not write what you think you should be feeling and thinking. Be honest and specific. The professor will read it twice—once and make recommendations, secondly for grading purposes.

### **Rubric for Grading Journal**

Grades will be based on the following:

Expression of thoughts	25 points
Expression of feelings	25 points
Relationships to class experience (reading, speakers, trips)	25 points
Reflects personal viewpoint	25 points

### **Rubric for Grading Personal Grief Experience**

Thoughts and feelings	25 points
Degree of integration/theory and personal	25 points
Adequate length/minimum errors	25 points
Adequate resources (15)	25 points

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

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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