



CCSW8305 Essential Grief Ministry Skills
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Division of Church Ministry
Fall Trimester, September 13-15, 2022

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The focus of this seminar is on death, loss, and grief throughout the life span. Attention will be given to basic therapeutic interventions that can be useful in assisting individuals and groups through a wide variety of loss experiences such as illness, divorce, unemployment, relocation, infertility, death, purpose and loss of dreams. The role of the counselor/minister in the helping relationship will be explored.

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 across the life span.
3. Become acquainted with resources related to death, loss, and grief.
4. Gain understanding regarding the impact of loss upon a family.
5. Apply listening skills effectively to grievers.

Textbooks

The following texts are required reading for the seminar and are to be read in their entirety before the first seminar meeting.

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

Roe, Gary. *The Grief Guidebook: Common Questions, Compassionate Answers, Practical Suggestions*. Healing Resources, 2021.

Wolfelt, Alan D. *When Grief is Complicated: A Model for Therapists to Understand, Identify, Companion Grievers Lost in the Wilderness of Complicated Grief*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2018.

Worden, J. William. *Grief Counseling and Grief Therapy: A Handbook for the Mental Health Practitioner*, 5th ed. New York: Springer, 2018.

Wright, H. Norman. *What to Say When You Don't Know What to Say: In Times of Grief, Heartache, and Crisis*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2014.

Movie: *Shadowlands*

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies:

Student presentations, group discussions, lecture, guest speakers, and written assignments.

Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar Assignments – All pre-seminar assignments are due on the first day of the seminar at class time (September 13, 1:00 p.m.) and should be submitted on Canvas.

1. Each student should read the 5 required textbooks in their entirety and be prepared to discuss the books in class.
2. For all textbooks except *A Grief Observed*, students should prepare a 2-page reaction paper for each book that includes the following:
 - a. Overall impression of the book – strengths and weaknesses (at least two of each)
 - b. New insights or perspectives gained (at least two)
 - c. Specific points of application to student's ministry context (at least three)
3. Personal Grief Experience Paper and Presentation. Each student will analyze and present a personal grief experience integrating grief theory and readings with their personal experience. The paper should be typed according to Turabian style. The recommended length of the paper is 8-10 pages, double spaced with a minimum of 10 sources. The paper will be presented during the seminar. The paper and presentation should include adequate exploration of the grief experience with references to relevant material in textbooks and additional resources. Students will have 45 minutes for their presentations.
4. Reaction Paper – *A Grief Observed* and *Shadowlands*. Each student should read *A Grief Observed* and watch the movie *Shadowlands*. The reaction paper should be 4-5 pages and should include the following:
 - a. Overall reaction to the book and movie. What were your thoughts and feelings?
 - b. Reaction to the grief Lewis experienced. How comfortable would you be helping Lewis with his grief? How would you help Lewis? Would you consider Lewis' grief complicated? Why or why not?
 - c. Discuss the grief experiences of others in the book and movie, besides Lewis.
 - d. How might you utilize the book and movie to help others?

Post-Seminar Assignment Due: October 6, 2022, 11:59 p.m.

5. Each student will develop a plan for grief ministry within their ministry context. The ministry should be focused on a specific loss, such as loss of spouse, loss of child, divorce, infertility, suicide, or retirement. The paper should include the following: introduction; discussion of the type of loss; description of ministry context; need within the ministry context for grief ministry in the chosen area, specific plan for the ministry, including leadership, training, and resources. The paper should be 12-15 pages in length with 10 resources [Course textbooks can be utilized in the paper, but they do not count toward the 10 required sources.].

NOTE: This assignment will also be evaluated by the ProDoc Style Reader. In addition to submitting this assignment to the professor, also submit to the style reader. Follow these directions:

The Post-Seminar Assignment will be evaluated by the Writing Assessment Coordinator for re: grammar, writing style, and Turabian formatting. Please email the assignment in a Word document to pgarrett@nobts.edu. The Coordinator will evaluate the document by inserting comments and email the edited document back to the student. After revising and correcting the assignment, the student should upload the revised assignment to Canvas one week after receipt from the style reader.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Textbook Reaction Papers	20%
Personal Grief Experience Paper	20%
Personal Grief Experience Presentation	20%
Reaction Paper – <i>A Grief Observed</i> and <i>Shadowlands</i>	15%
Grief Ministry Plan	25%

Assignment Guidelines

Turabian style should be used for all seminar assignments. Papers will be graded based on 80% content and 20% form, spelling, and grammar. All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Late assignments may incur a late penalty up to 15 points.

Directed Study

Students who choose to take this course as a Directed Study are expected to complete all of the class assignments as detailed as well as additional assignments as determined by the seminar instructor.

Attendance Policy –

Students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions. Because of the nature of the seminar, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Blackboard shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

The seminar is scheduled to meet from 1:00 to 9:00 p.m. Central Time on September 13, and 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on September 14 and 15. Breaks and meal times will be scheduled as needed. The schedule is subject to change depending on the number of students in the seminar.

September 13

1:00 – 9:00 Introductions, Devotion, and Seminar Overview
 Discussion of Textbooks
 Discussion of *A Grief Observed* and *Shadowlands* Paper

September 14

8:00 – 4:00 Devotion
 Guest Speaker
 Personal Grief Experiences

September 15

8:00 – 4:00 Devotion
 Personal Grief Experiences
 Conclusion and Post-Seminar Assignment Overview

Selected Bibliography

Abrams, Rebecca. *When Parents Die: Learning to Live with the Loss of a Parent*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

Berns, Nancy. *Closure: The Rush to End Grief and What it Costs Us*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2011.

Bowlby, John. *Attachment and Loss*. Vol. III, *Loss: Sadness and Depression*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1982.

———. *The Making and Breaking of Affectional Bonds*. New York: Tavistock Publications, 1979.

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.

Corr, Charles A., Donna M. Corr, and Kenneth J. Doka. *Death and Dying, Life and Living*. 8th ed. Cengage Learning, 2019.

DeSpelder, Lynne A., and Albert Lee Strickland. *The Last Dance: Encountering Death and Dying*. 11th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, 2019.

- Doka, Kenneth J., ed. *Disenfranchised Grief: New Directions, Challenges and Strategies for Practice*. Champaign, IL: Research Press, 2002.
- Doka, Kenneth J. and Terry L. Martin. *Grieving Beyond Gender: Understanding the Ways Men and Women Mourn*. New York, NY: Taylor and Francis Group, 2010.
- Feinberg, John S. *When There Are No Easy Answers: Thinking Differently about God, Suffering, and Evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2016.
- Frankl, Viktor. *Man's Search for Meaning*. New York: Pocket Books, 1959.
- Guthrie, Nancy. *What Grieving People Wish You Knew About What Really Helps (And What Really Hurts)*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway, 2016.
- Hodges, Samuel J. IV and Kathy Leonard. *Grieving with Hope: Finding Comfort as You Journey through Loss*. Grand Rapids, MI: Bake Books, 2011.
- Jayne, Tabitha. *Thriving loss: Move beyond grief to a place of peace, passion and purpose*. Bloomington, IN: Balboa Press, 2011.
- Jeffreys, J. Shep. *Helping Grieving People – When tears are not enough: A Handbook for Care Providers*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2011.
- Jong, Jonathan, and Jamin Halberstadt. *Death Anxiety and Religious Belief: An Existential Psychology of Religion*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury, 2016.
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- Kubler-Ross, Elisabeth, ed. *On Death and Dying*. New York: MacMillan Publishing Col, 1969.
- Lagrand, Louis E. *Healing Grief, Finding Peace: 101 Ways to Cope with the Death of Your Loved One*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks, Inc., 2011.
- Leming, Michael R., and George E. Dickson. *Understanding Dying, Death, and Bereavement*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2011.
- Lindemann, Erich. "Symptomatology and Management of Acute Grief." *American Journal of Psychiatry* 101 (1944): 141-48.
- Long, Thomas G. and Thomas Lynch. *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.
- Neimeyer, Robert A. *Grief and Bereavement in Contemporary Society: Bridging Research and Practice*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2011.
- Rando, Therese A. *Loss and Anticipatory Grief*. Lexington: D.C. Health & Co., 1986.
- Roe, Gary. *Grief Walk: Experiencing God after the Loss of a Loved One*. Healing Resources, 2020.
- Schwiebert, Pat. *When Hello Means Goodbye: A Guide for Parents Whose Child Dies Before Birth, at Birth or Shortly After Birth*. Portland, OR: Perinatal Loss, 2012.
- Smith, William A. *Reflections on Death, Dying and Bereavement: A Manual for Clergy, Counselors, and Speakers*. Amityville, NY: Baywood, 2003.

- Talbot, Kay. *What Forever Means After the Death of a Child*. New York: Brunner-Routledge, 2002.
- VanDuivendy, Tim P. *The Unwanted Gift of Grief: A Ministry Approach*. New York: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2006.
- White, P. Gill. *Sibling Grief: Healing After the Death of a Sister or Brother*. New York: iUniverse, Inc., 2006.
- Wolfelt, Alan D. *Companioning the Bereaved Child: A Soulful Guide for Caregivers*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2012.
- . *Death and Grief: A Guide for Clergy*. Brestal, PA: Accelerated Development, 1998.
- . *Healing a Parent's Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas After Your Child Dies*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2002.
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- . *Healing a Teen's Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2001.
- . *Healing the Adult Child's Grieving Heart: 100 Practical Ideas After Your Parent Dies*. Fort Collins, CO: Companion Press, 2002.
- Wright, H. Norman. *Experiencing Grief*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2004.