

PATH8303 Essential Skills for Denominational Leaders
A Professional Doctoral Seminar
Spring 2015 Trimester (May 25-27)
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NOBTS Mission Statement

The mission of the 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 Seminar

The purpose of this seminar is to enhance and improve basic leadership skills for denominational leaders. Seminar components will include administrative skills; networking and partnership interactions; vocational transitions; and business management as they relate to various levels of Southern Baptist denominational leadership. Seminar participants will be challenged through research, dialogue, and evaluation in their ministry context.

Core Value Focus

The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned annually by the President. This year's core value focus is Spiritual Vitality.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students will explore leadership issues related to denominational leaders.
Students will interview denominational leaders concerning vocational transitions.
Students will apply various management skills to their ministry context.
Students will examine strategic development in denominational structures.
Students will discuss denominational networking strengths and weaknesses.

Required Textbooks

Dockery, David S., editor. *Christian Leadership Essentials: A Handbook for Managing Christian Organizations*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2011. (ISBN: 0805464771)

Watkins, Michael D. *Your Next Move: The Leader's Guide To Navigating Major Career Transitions*. Boston: Harvard Business Press, 2009. (ISBN: 1422147634)

Williams, Pat. *21 Great Leaders: Learn Their Lessons, Improve Your Influence*. Uhrichsville, OH: Shiloh Run Press, 2015.

Seminar Requirements

Before the Seminar

1. **Assignment on Watkins:** Students will write a **Reaction** of Watkins' book *Your Next Move*. The Reaction will involve the following: (1) a one-page summary of the book, indicating strengths, weaknesses, and surprises. (2) select any three (3) of the book

chapters and write a one-page discussion for each challenge (for a total of three pages), discussing the implications and applications of this challenge for ministry transitions.

2. **Assignment on Williams.** Students will read *21 Great Leaders* and develop **Leadership Lessons** for EACH chapter in the following format: (1) a one-paragraph discussion of the most surprising insight from the leader's life, (2) a one-paragraph discussion of a significant take-away from the leader's life.
3. **Assignment on Dockery.** Students will write an **Executive Summary** of three assigned chapters from the textbook *Christian Leadership Essentials*. (**See chapter assignments listed below**). Each executive summary will be three pages, single-spaced, and will involve the following components: (1) a one-page content analysis of the chapter; (2) a one-page discussion of five key insights, principles, and/or "take-aways" from the chapter related to leadership skills, and (3) a one-page discussion of the value and importance of this issue in denominational organizations.

Students are expected to read the other chapters assigned in order to be familiar with the content.

Chapter Assignments from Dockery:

Hughes – Chapter 1: A Biblical Model of Leadership; Chapter 2: Christian Leadership and the Identity and Mission of an Organization; Chapter 3: Leadership, Vision, and Strategic Planning.

Rivera – Chapter 4: Governance and Board Relations; Chapter 5: Managing the Organization; Chapter 6: Financial Oversight and Budget Planning

Dodson – Chapter 9: Leadership, Organizations, and External Relations; Chapter 10: Relationships with Multiple and Various Constituencies; Chapter 11: Selecting and Building Leadership Teams.

Hooke – Chapter 13: Employee Relations in a Grace-filled Community; Chapter 15: Crisis Management; Chapter 18: Leadership Transitions and Search Process.

Format for Assignments 1 & 3: Single-spaced, with a space between each paragraph, and no paragraph indentions. All other formatting as per Turabian, regarding headings/subheadings, pagination, margins, footnotes, etc. No first person allowed.

Format for Assignment 2: No specific formatting required.

Due Date: Assignments 1, 2, & 3 are to be posted in Dropbox no later than 8:00 am the first day of the seminar (May 25).

Instructions for DROPBOX:

All assignments for this course will be submitted via a shared folder on dropbox.com. You will receive a separate email from Dr. Ogea requesting that you share the folder **Essential Skills for Denominational Leaders**. If you already have a dropbox account, then simply accept the shared folder. If you do not have a dropbox account, you will need to follow the instructions to create a free dropbox account and then accept the shared folder.

In the folder **Essential Skills for Denominational Leaders**, you will find subfolders for each assignment. Save your assignment using your last name and the name of the assignment

(i.e. ogea.dockeryexecutivesummary), and place the file in the appropriate folder. Dropbox will automatically update everyone's folder.

Important: do not alter anyone's file while it is in dropbox (e.g., save comments in the file) or remove anyone's file from the dropbox folder, as that will alter or remove the file for everyone. Open the file and "save as" to your computer before making notes.

Following the Seminar:

4. Students will **Interview** a denominational leader and present a five-page summary of and reaction to the interview. The interview is to focus on the five areas of the seminar objectives listed above: leadership skills, vocational transitions, management skills, strategy planning, and denominational networking. The interview questions should relate to these five areas. A list of the interview questions should be attached as an appendix to the paper. The summary is NOT to be a verbatim of the interview.

Note: A denominational leader would be an Association Director of Missions, a State Convention leader, an SBC entity leader, etc. Students must submit the name of the person to be interviewed prior to the conclusion of the seminar.

5. Each student will write a **Reflection Paper** on **five (5)** essential skills for denominational leaders. The skills may be selected from class discussion, textbook readings, and/or interview data. The following areas should be addressed for each skill: (1) Why the student selected this skill for reflection; (2) How this skill impacts the student's ministry context; (3) What steps the student intends to take to personally develop this skill. **The Reflection Paper is to be double-spaced, 10-15 pages in length, Turabian format.**

Due Date: Assignments 4 & 5 are to be posted in Dropbox, no later than June 30, 2015.

Course Evaluation

In Residence Seminar Students:

Assignment on Watkins	20%
Assignment on Williams	20%
Assignment on Dockery	20%
Interview	20%
Reflection Paper	20%

Directed Study Assignments

Students taking the seminar as a directed study are to complete the following assignments:

1. Complete Assignments #1, 2, 4, and 5 as presented above.
2. Regarding Assignment #3 as presented above, write an Executive Summary for **EVERY** chapter of the Dockery textbook (18 chapters, excluding the Introduction and Conclusion).

Course Bibliography

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- Fisher, David. *The 21st Century Pastor*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.
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- _____. *Team Leadership in Christian Ministry: Using Multiple Gifts to Build a Unified Vision*, revised edition. Chicago: Moody Press, 1997.
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