



LEAVELL COLLEGE

NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

LSCM 4300: Senior Seminar

Spring 2015 (term 152) Tuesday 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm

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The mission of Leavell College 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.

Core Value

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

Course Description

The Senior Seminar is designed to complete the studies for the baccalaureate degree. The purpose is to help prepare seniors for ministry and/or graduate studies. Emphasis will be placed on a synthesis of knowledge within each discipline, utilizing research, writing skills, and oral presentation skills. *Successful completion of "Research and Writing" is a prerequisite for this class.*

Student Outcomes

In order to achieve an acceptable level of life skills, the students, by the end of the course, should:

1. Synthesize their prior learning.
2. Value the integration of each discipline of study.
3. Research, write, and present critical arguments.

Course Texts

Required:

Gushee, David P., and Walter C. Jackson, eds. *Preparing for Christian Ministry: An Evangelical Approach*. Grand Rapids: BridgePoint Books, 1998. ISBN 9780801090349

Recommended:

Turabian, Kate. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. ISBN 9780226823379

Course Methodology

This course will consist primarily of class discussion centered around the reading of the text and the discussion of students' senior papers. Most of the class meetings will be student-led. During the semester, attention will be given to writing styles, proper use of Turabian, and grammatical/syntactical issues by means of lecture and professor feedback to the students.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Each student will be required to attend seminar meetings and *participate verbally* in discussions as a result of reading the textbook and other pertinent information.
2. A one- to two-paragraph critique of each chapter of the required text must be brought to each class for discussion on the assigned date.
 - a. The critiques should briefly indicate the purpose of the chapter, several key thoughts, strengths and weaknesses, and a conclusion about the chapter. You are not summarizing the material but learning to think critically about the author's work. Support your position with data from the text!
 - b. These critiques must be typed, *may not be turned in late, and can be turned in only if you are present for the discussion.*
 - c. Please double-space all summaries.
 - d. Do not write in first-person for the summaries, and use past-tense verbs to tell what the author wrote or said.
3. Each student will be required to research, write, and present a critical paper on an approved topic.
 - a. The students will be required to submit an annotated selected bibliography, a developed thesis statement, and a detailed outline of the senior paper they are intending to write.
 - i. Each of these assignments will be brought to class for presentation and discussion. Assignment dates are listed in the course schedule.
 - ii. **Note:** These papers are intended to be position papers in which the writer presents a thesis and either defends or discredits the thesis in the paper.
 - (1) The thesis **must** be clearly stated in the introduction of the paper.
 - (2) Other types of papers are not acceptable to satisfy this requirement.
 - iii. Assignments submitted late will result in a point-penalty on the final paper. Penalties are as follows: 1 point per day late, up to seven points total. No assignments will be accepted more than one week past the original due date.
 - b. The paper must be 14-18 pages of text in length, typed and double-spaced.
 - i. Note: Papers longer or shorter than the required length will be penalized.
 - ii. The required number of pages **does not** include title page, contents page, the blank page, or the selected bibliography.
 - iii. You must use Times New Roman 12-point font for the entire paper (text and footnotes); left-justify your paper.
 - c. The format must be according to the latest edition of Turabian with footnotes. Endnotes are not acceptable. An electronic copy of the latest Turabian Tutor is available in Course Documents in Blackboard.
 - d. The paper should be generated by using a computer and a word processing program. WordPerfect is preferable because neither Word nor Pages conform to some important Turabian requirements. (Please discuss this issue with the professor if you have a program that is not one of the three mentioned above.)

- e. The paper must be submitted to the professor on the due date with a five-point penalty assessed for each late day (including weekends).
 - i. Each paper must be submitted in hard copy format.
 - ii. The student must also submit a copy of his/her paper for each person in the seminar. The student's copies will be in electronic format and will be submitted at the same due date in Blackboard.
 - iii. No paper will be accepted more than five days past the due date.
 - f. The seminar paper will be graded on *style, format, grammar, and adherence to the rules of Turabian*.
 - i. In addition, the student's presentation in class will be a part of the grade.
 - ii. The major emphasis for the grade, however, will be on the **content** of the paper.
 - g. Each student must demonstrate that adequate research has been performed in preparation for the paper.
 - h. The due date will be published in the Course Schedule.
4. In preparation for the latter seminars (those seminar meetings in which senior papers are presented and critiqued), each student **must** read the senior papers to be discussed in class on that assigned day.
 - a. A critique form must be completed for each paper (except one's own) before coming to class. *Critique forms may be turned in only if you are present for the class discussion of that paper.*
 - b. Critique forms are available in Course Documents on Blackboard.
 - c. Each section of the evaluation form should be completed, and examples demonstrating your evaluation should be given.
 - d. The papers will be available for the students to pick up on the last day of class.
 5. Each student will give an oral critique of one senior paper from another member of the class.
 - a. The student will be required to identify the thesis of the paper and to note strengths/weaknesses of the paper being reviewed.
 - b. Some attention should be given both to format (Turabian, grammar, syntax) issues and to the content (evidence presented, organization, does evidence support thesis/conclusion(s), etc.).
 6. Each student must submit a reflection paper regarding his/her own Senior Seminar and Leavell College experience.
 - a. This reflection paper must be 4-6 typed, double-spaced pages in length.
 - b. The paper is due no later than the time of final exam in hard copy.
 - c. **No late reflection papers will be accepted.**
 7. A NOTE ABOUT PLAGIARISM: All written assignments must be your own work!
 - a. If you use an author's exact words, you must put his/her words in quotation marks and footnote the source. You must also cite the author in the text of the paper.
 - b. If you paraphrase, you must footnote the source. You must also cite the author in the text of the paper.
 - c. Any information that you include in your paper that you did not previously know must be footnoted because the information came from someone else.
 - d. If you do not footnote someone else's information, you are plagiarizing that person's work.
 - e. Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and the penalties can include (1) a failing grade in the course, and/or (2) dismissal from seminary.
 8. Course documents will be available on Blackboard. The course title for this section of Senior Seminar is LSCM4300DL. The access code is ss152.

Course Evaluation

The final grade will be determined by the professor in the following manner:

10% — Attendance and verbal participation in class

60% — Research paper and oral presentation

10% — Written critiques of senior papers and oral critique of another senior paper

10% — Chapter summaries of text

10% — Reflection paper

Additional Course Information

Personal meetings with the professor shall be by appointment. The best way to contact the professor outside of class is via email. Please use **only** the `dlema@nobts.edu` email address for all correspondence. Please text **only** in case of an emergency.

Any necessary schedule revisions shall be posted on the Announcements page of Blackboard. Please make sure you enroll in the Blackboard shell for the course, and verify that the email address in Blackboard is an email address that you check frequently. Please send professor a test email to verify your email during the first week of class.

Using computers, smart phones, tablets, or other electronic devices is a privilege rather than a right, and student abusing the privilege will be asked to turn off such devices. Students should place electronic devices on silent mode during class time. Students needing to make or receive texts or calls should arrange to do so outside of class time. At no time during class hours should students use computers or tablets for anything other than class notes or assignments.

Course Schedule (Topics and Dates Subject to Change)

Class Date	Assignment	Professor/Student(s) Responsible
Jan. 20	Introduction to the course; organization of the course; assignments; lecture on writing style, key Turabian issues, plagiarism, and writing thesis statements	Professor
Jan. 27	Ch. 4: Toward a Biblical View of Call	
	Ch. 10: Clergy Sexual Misconduct: A Crisis in Ministerial Ethics	
	Senior Seminar Topic: Begin Discussion	
Feb. 3	Ch. 12: Worship Leadership	
	Ch. 13: The Ministry of Shepherding	
	Discussion of Topics	Class
Feb. 10	Ch. 15: Social Ministry in the Community	
	Ch. 16: Evangelism through Church Planting	
	Narrow Topic (bring typed topic to class); begin research for senior paper.	Class
Feb. 17	Ch. 17: Church Staff Relations	(Mardi Gras)
	Ch. 18: Authority in Ministry	
	Bring typed, <i>annotated</i> selected bibliography with a minimum of twenty sources (incl. books, journal articles, internet/electronic sources)	Class
Feb. 24	Ch. 22: Moral Issues Facing the Contemporary Church	
	Bring typed thesis statement and outline to class; outline must include major points and at least two subpoints under each major point. Final discussion of paper topics; discussion of students' roles in critique session; guidelines for critiquing papers	Class
Mar. 3	CLASS WILL NOT MEET—Research Time	
Mar. 10	CLASS WILL NOT MEET—Research Time	
Mar. 17	CLASS WILL NOT MEET—Research Time	

Mar. 24	NOBTS Spring Break	
Mar. 31	Papers Due–Submit ____ copies of your paper to the professor’s office no later than 8:00 p.m. Consult the syllabus for information regarding late submissions. CLASS WILL NOT MEET	
Apr. 7*		
Apr. 14*		
Apr. 21*		
Apr. 28*		
May 5*		
May 12	Reflection papers due by 6:00 p.m.	

*We will complete this portion of the course schedule later in the semester.

Instructions for Mini-Assignments Related to the Thesis Paper

Annotated Bibliography

For the first mini-assignment, you will submit an annotated bibliography. An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to the sources that you will use (or may use) in your final paper. Following each correctly formatted citation, you will provide a brief descriptive, evaluative paragraph known as an annotation. In other words, you will write several sentences about the source including its overall content and its usefulness in the paper. An example of an annotated bibliography entry is as follows:

Schultz, Thom, and Joani Schultz. *Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: And How to Fix It*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 1993.

The Schultzes argued that churches are not teaching their members to apply what they are learning from God's word. They suggested several strategies for getting learners to apply biblical truths. This book will be useful in the section of the paper advocating the use of Sunday school as a means of discipleship.

Thesis Statement

The second mini-assignment is your thesis statement. Because you are writing a thesis paper—a paper in which you attempt to defend or deny a thesis statement—a well-written thesis statement is a critical component of the paper. Your thesis statement must make a claim and should convey to the reader that the claim you are making has been researched thoroughly and is defensible by evidence. Your thesis cannot be an opinion but must indicate to the reader what your argument is and what claim you are making about that argument. Please refer to the handouts in Course Documents on Blackboard for more information regarding writing a solid thesis statement.

Detailed Outline

The final mini-assignment is your outline. The outline should include up to five first-level sections. The first section will be the introduction and the last section will be the conclusion, leaving you with two or three sections for the body of your paper. Under each section heading, you must include *at least* two subpoints. This outline will become the basis for the contents page in your paper. Note that because you will not submit rough drafts for your paper, the outline will be only chance for the professor to assess the logic of your paper. Students not submitting specific information in the outline will lose points off the final paper.