



# Interpersonal Relationship Skills

## CESW6214

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Christian Education Division  
Spring 2012 Hybrid

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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.*

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### **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of this course is to study the nature of interpersonal relationships with particular reference to personal, family, church, and community relationships.

### **Core Value Focus**

The course will emphasize the seminary's current core value focus assigned annually by the Administrative Council. This year's core value focus is Characteristic Excellence.

### **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Effective servant leadership*: This course assists students in learning how to serve effectively with others in ministry in churches and communities.
2. *Interpersonal relationships*: This course will provide opportunities for students to enhance their relationship skills both personally and professionally.

### **Course Description**

The purpose of the course will be to study the nature of interpersonal relationships with particular reference to personal, family, church, and community relationships. Goals will be to learn to establish positive relationships, to improve weak relationships, and to develop skills in resolving problematic relationships.

### **Learning Objectives**

In order to perform pastoral care effectively with skills in communication and conflict management, the student, by the end of the course, should:

1. Be able to apply their knowledge and comprehension of healthy relationships through knowledge of self, family, church, and community to the process of performing pastoral care effectively with skills in communication and conflict management.
2. Value the following concepts:
  - a. Self-evaluation and self-care in building and maintaining healthy relationships.
  - b. Healthy family relationships.
  - c. The dignity and worth of all human beings as being made in the image of God.
3. Be able to accomplish the following:
  - a. Practice listening skills, assertion skills, conflict-resolution skills, collaborative problem solving skills, and skill selection.
  - b. Establish and maintain healthy boundaries.
  - c. Model healthy relationships in family, church, and community.

### **Required Readings**

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

#### **Required Texts**

Bozeman, Jeanine C., and Argile Smith, eds. *Interpersonal Relationship Skills for Ministers*. Gretna, LA: Pelican Publishing Company, 2004.

Floyd, Kory. *Interpersonal Communication*, 2d. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2011.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

#### **Units of Study**

Unit 1: Introduction  
Unit 2: The Self Concept  
Unit 3: Communication  
Unit 4: Communication: Culture/Language/Gender  
Unit 5: Listening Skills  
Unit 6: Assertiveness/Difficult People  
Unit 7: Decision Making  
Unit 8: Family of Origin  
Unit 9: Family of Creation  
Unit 10: Etiquette/Emotional Intelligence  
Unit 11: Relationships in the Church  
Unit 12: Conflict Resolution/Collaborative Problem Solving  
Unit 13: Relationships in the Community  
Unit 14: Social Media/Conclusion

**Teaching Method.** This course will be taught in the hybrid format using in-class lecture, discussion, small groups, case studies, exams, and personal evaluation exercises.

## Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

### **I. Unit Assignments/Class Participation**

Students should complete all unit assignments as instructed on Blackboard by the posted due dates. Unit assignments will be graded weekly. No late unit assignments will be accepted without prior permission from the professors.

Online participation is determined by completion of quizzes, threaded discussions, and other unit assignments. Threaded discussions should be timely and thought provoking, referencing reading content and making real-life application.

Classroom participation is determined by attendance, completion of all reading assignments prior to the scheduled class time, and active participation in classroom discussions and activities.

### **II. Personal Evaluation of Interpersonal Relationship Skills**

Each student should assess his/her interpersonal relationship skills using the evaluation forms posted on Blackboard.

In addition, each student is to interview two family members, two friends, two church members, and two persons from the community (total of 8 interviews). Students should ask each person to assess the strengths and weaknesses of their interpersonal relationship skills. Students should use the evaluation forms posted on Blackboard to aid in their assessments. For each person interviewed, submit his/her name, relationship category, and contact information (e-mail or phone number is sufficient).

Based upon your interviews and your personal assessment, prepare a 7-8 page report (typed, double-spaced) evaluating your interpersonal relationship skills. Include in your report a detailed plan for strengthening your interpersonal relationship skills (reference course materials that may be relevant). You may use first person pronouns in your report.

### **III. Interpersonal Relationship Skills Group Presentation**

Students will work in groups (as assigned on Blackboard) to prepare and lead an in-class presentation on the assigned topic. The presentation will be 30 minutes and should be an interactive time, rather than a lecture. Students will prepare a teaching plan, visual aids, handouts and/or a PowerPoint presentation, and a bibliography of a minimum of 15 sources related to the chosen topic (excluding the textbooks; at least 10 sources should be dated since 2006).

Each group will prepare a 3-page typed, double-spaced) report on the presentation evaluating the work of the group throughout the process and assessing interaction with the class during the presentation. All submissions should be typed and submitted together with a title page that includes each group member's name. In addition, each group member will submit an evaluation of the participation of other group members, as well as his/her own contribution to the group (guide posted on Blackboard).

### **IV. Final Exam**

Students will complete a final exam on the assigned date.

## **Course Evaluation**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Percentage of Grade</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Unit Assignments/Class Participation	25%	Unit assignments are due on Monday, at 11:55 p.m. (CST) as posted on Blackboard and on the course schedule
Personal Evaluation of Interpersonal Relationship Skills	25%	March 1
Group Presentation/Report	25%	Presentations: February 23, March 22 or April 26 (as assigned); Reports, May 2
Final Exam	25%	May 10, 12:00 p.m. (CST)

## **Course Policies**

### Policies Regarding Assignments

All work is due on the assigned day and at the assigned time. Grades for late submissions will be reduced by 10 points.

### Academic Integrity

Each student is responsible for the academic integrity of his/her work. The following are examples of violations of academic integrity: cheating on an exam, plagiarism, turning in work done by someone else, and submitting a paper which has been submitted in another class. These and other violations of academic integrity may result in failure of the course.

### Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog 2011-2012.

*Absences:* For the four-time per semester hybrid courses, students can only miss one of the four monthly class sessions.

### Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior

Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others. A spirit of Christian charity will be expected at all times in the online environment.

### Classroom Decorum

Each student is expected to treat the professor and other students with respect; arrive on time for class sessions; and use laptops and other technological devices for class purposes only.

### Blackboard

Blackboard will be used extensively in this class. Please make sure that your contact information on Blackboard is accurate and up-to-date. An access code for the course will be e-mailed to enrolled students. If you need assistance accessing Blackboard, please contact the Information Technology Center.

## Course Schedule

Unit	Topics/Reading Assignments	Due Dates	Professor(s)
Unit 1 January 17-23	Introduction Bozeman & Smith, Introduction Floyd, Chapter 1	Quiz Jan. 30, 11:55 p.m.; All other unit assignments, Jan.23, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow
Unit 2 January 24-30	The Self Concept Bozeman & Smith, Chapter 1 Floyd, Chapter 3	Reading Assignments, January 26, 2:00 p.m.; All other assignments, January 30, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
<b>Class Meeting January 26 2:00-4:50 CST)**</b>			Dr. Barlow Dr. Rivers
Unit 3 January 31-Feb. 6	Communication Bozeman & Smith, Chapter 2 Floyd, Chapters 4, 6	Unit Assignments, February 6, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow
Unit 4 February 7-13	Communication: Culture/Language/Gender Floyd, Chapters 2, 5	Unit Assignments, Feb. 13, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
Unit 5 February 14-20	Listening Skills Bozeman & Smith, Chapter 3 Floyd, Chapter 7	Unit Assignments, Feb. 20, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow
Unit 6 February 21-27	Assertiveness/Difficult People Bozeman & Smith, Chapters 4, 15 Floyd, Chapter 12	Reading Assignments, Feb. 23, 2:00 p.m. All other assignments, Feb. 27, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
<b>Class Meeting February 23 2:00-4:50</b>	Group Presentations		Dr. Barlow Dr. Rivers
Unit 7 Feb. 28-March 5	Decision Making Bozeman & Smith, Chapter 21	Unit Assignments, March 5, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow
Unit 8 March 6-12	Family of Origin Bozeman & Smith, Chapters 5-9	Unit Assignments, March 12, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
Unit 9 March 20-26	Family of Creation Bozeman & Smith, Chapters 10, 12, 13; Floyd, Chapter 10	Reading Assignments, March 22, 2:00 p.m. All other assignments, March 26, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
<b>Class Meeting March 22 2:00-4:50</b>	Group Presentations		Dr. Barlow Dr. Rivers
Unit 10 March 27-April 2	Etiquette/Emotional Intelligence Bozeman & Smith, Chapter 14 Floyd, Chapter 8	Unit Assignments, April 2, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
Unit 11 April 3-9	Relationships in the Church Bozeman & Smith, Chapters 17-18 Floyd, Chapter 9	Unit Assignments, April 9, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow

Unit 12 April 10-16	Conflict Resolution/Collaborative Problem Solving Bozeman & Smith, Chapter 16 Floyd, Chapter 11	Unit Assignments, April 16, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow
Unit 13 April 17-23	Relationships in the Community Bozeman & Smith, Chapters 19-20, 22	Unit Assignments, April 23, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Rivers
Unit 14 April 24-30	Social Media/Conclusion Bozeman & Smith, Conclusion	Reading Assignments, April 26, 2:00 p.m. All other assignments, April 30, 11:55 p.m.	Dr. Barlow
<b>Class Meeting</b> <b>April 26</b> <b>2:00-4:50 p.m.</b>	Group Presentations		Dr. Barlow Dr. Rivers
	<b>Final Exam</b>	May 10, 12:00 p.m.	

\*\*All times are in Central Standard Time.

### Selected Bibliography

Augsburger, David. *Caring Enough to Confront: How to Understand and Express Your Deepest Feelings Toward Others*, updated ed. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 2009.

Bolton, Robert. *People Skills: How to Assert Yourself, Listen to Others, and Resolve Conflicts*. New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1979.

Branson, Mark Lau, and Juan F. Martinez. *Churches, Cultures, and Leadership*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2011.

Gangel, Kenneth O., and Samuel L. Canine. *Communication and Conflict Management: In Churches and Christian Organizations*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock Publishers, 2002.

Goleman, Daniel. *Emotional Intelligence: Why It Can Matter More than IQ*, 10th anniversary ed. New York: Bantam, 2006.

Gray, John. *Mars and Venus Together Forever: Relationship Skills for Lasting Love*, Rev. ed. New York: Harper, 2005.

Hester, Dennis J. *Pastor, We Need to Talk! How Congregations and Pastors Can Solve Their Problems Before It's Too Late*. Shelby, NC: His Way Publishing, 2001.

Holladay, Tom. *The Relationship Principles of Jesus*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Lane, Timothy S., and Paul David Tripp. *Relationships: A Mess Worth Making*. Greensboro. New Growth Press, 2008.

McInerney, Virginia. *Single Not Separate: How to Make the Church a Family*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma House, 2003.

McKay, Matthew, Patrick Fanning, and Kim Paleg. *Couple Skills: Making Your Relationship Work*, 2d ed. Oakland, CA: New Harbinger Publications, 2006.

McKee, Jonathan. *Connect: Real Relationships in a World of Isolation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2009.

Rainer, Thom S., and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishing Group, 2011.

Richo, David. *How to Be an Adult in Relationships: The Five Keys to Mindful Loving*. Boston: Shambhala Publications, 2002.

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Vohs, Kathleen D., and Eli J. Finkel, eds. *Self and Relationships: Connecting Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Processes*. New York: Guilford Press, 2006.

Williams, Linda J. *Church Etiquette: A Handbook for Manners and Appropriate Behavior in Church*. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2009.

Wright, H. Norman. *Communication@Work: How to Get Along with Anyone at Church and in the Workplace*. Venutera, CA: Regal Books, 2011.

Wright, Walter C. *Don't Step on the Rope: Reflection on Leadership, Relationships, and Teamwork*. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press, 2005.