

CESW9402 Contemporary Context of Christian Education

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Christian Education Ministries

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NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY MISSION STATEMENT

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.

DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRIES MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Christian Education Ministries Division is to equip servant leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries by stimulating personal and spiritual growth of students and faculty, providing quality academic training, exploring the practical dynamics of Christian Education Ministries, and evaluating all that is done by using the mission and core values of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

COURSE PURPOSE, CORE VALUE FOCUS, AND CURRICULUM COMPETENCIES

The purpose of the course is to equip the student to minister more effectively in our current society, by understanding the present and preparing for the future.

This course will support the seminary's core value focus [2011-2012] of characteristic excellence.

This course addresses the Servant Leadership competency.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A survey is made of the contemporary context of Christian Education. Special attention is given to the disciplines of anthropology, political science, education, psychology, sociology, medicine, social work, missions, and evangelism as they influence the development and role of the Christian educator. An effort is made to enhance the student's understanding of the world confronting the Christian educator and to equip him/her to impact more effectively this world as a Christian educator.

OBJECTIVES

In this course, the student will:

1. Investigate current and future societal issues and trends in the world.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the world which presently confronts the Christian educator.
3. Analyze prevailing social values that impact Christian education.
4. Formulate a personal view of the relationship between the Christian educator and society.
5. Consider ways to become an effective change agent in confronting societal issues through Christian education.
6. Articulate his/her personal values as related to contemporary social problems.

COURSE TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The seminar will be introduced by the professors via Blackboard on August 22, 2011. The course will utilize group discussion, student presentations, interviews, panel discussion, and final exam.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Barna, George. *Futurecast: What Today's Trends Mean for Tomorrow's World*. Austin, TX: BarnaBooks, 2011.

Kimbrall, Dan. *They Like Jesus But Not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Loeb, Paul Rogat. *Soul of a Citizen: Living with Conviction in Challenging Times*, rev. and updated ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2010.

Stassen, Glen H., and David P. Gushee. *Kingdom Ethics: Following Jesus in Contemporary Context*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2003.

Stott, John. *Issues Facing Christians Today*, rev. and updated by Roy McCloughry. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2006.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. **Contemporary Issue: Visual Introduction and Summary** – Each student will choose 1 contemporary issue to follow throughout the semester. A visual introduction to the issue will be presented in the seminar and a concluding summary will be presented as part of the final exam. Visual presentations may include videos, PowerPoint, film clips, and other visual aids. Presentations will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- 1) current topic
- 2) creativity of presentation
- 3) knowledge of the subject
- 4) organization
- 5) contributes to understanding of the issue
- 6) abides by parameters of presentation

Students should follow the issue via various media and interview at least 5 persons (a minimum of 2 non-Christians) regarding their views of the issue. Students will have 10 minutes for their visual presentation, followed by 5-10 minutes of critique from professors and students.

Each student should communicate via Blackboard discussion board his/her choice of a topic for visual presentation by Friday, August 26, 2011.

2. **Research Paper** – Each student will research and present one paper on a contemporary social problem. Research topics for the paper should be communicated to Dr. Bozeman via e-mail by Thursday, September 8.

Papers should include an in-depth analysis of the issue with recommendations for how Christian educators can address the issue. Papers should be 30-40 pages, typed, double-spaced, according to Turabian. Each student will have 30 minutes to present his/her paper, followed by 15 minutes of critique and evaluation by participants. Papers should be provided to the class and the professors via Blackboard one week in advance of the presentation date. Each seminar participant is expected to study the paper prior to the seminar meeting and be able to critique the paper (content and form).

3. **Seminar Involvement** – Each student is expected to actively participate in the seminar including, reading textbooks; interacting with professors, guests, and participants; leading and participating in discussion; and reading and critiquing assigned papers. In preparation for leading and participating in discussion of the textbooks, each student will submit a 1-page bulleted summary of main points and a 1-page bulleted critique/personal reaction and evaluation of each book. In addition, students should prepare a 5 minute devotion based on the selected chapter in Peterson.
4. **Final Exam** – The final exam will be given at the last seminar meeting and will be due on Friday, December 9, at 1:00 p.m. The exam will require the student to demonstrate the ability to assimilate, analyze, and react to seminar material.

COURSE EVALUATION

Assignment	Percentage of Grade	Due Date
Contemporary Issue: Visual Introduction and Summary	20%	As assigned on September 15-16; December 9 (Summary on Final Exam)
Research Paper	40%	Papers as assigned on October 27 or November 23; Presentations as assigned on November 3-4; December 1-2
Seminar Involvement	20%	Textbook summaries and critiques – September 15; Every session - participation
Final Exam	20%	December 9

COURSE SCHEDULE

Dates	Seminar Schedule
September 15-16	*Devotion *Seminar Organization *Visual Introductions to Contemporary Issues *Panel Discussion *Reactions to Panel Discussion * Visual Introduction to Contemporary Issues
November 3-4	*Devotion *Discussion of Textbooks – Barna, Stott, and Kimbrall *Presentation and Evaluation of Papers
December 1-2	*Devotion *Presentation and Evaluation of Papers – *Reflection/Evaluation/Conclusion

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- 1) Due to the size of the seminar, please be prepared for your presentations and be aware of the time constraints. Arrive early to have media equipment set up and ready. If media fails to function, please be prepared for an alternative presentation format for your seminar paper.
- 2) Blackboard will be utilized in this class. Please update your account information.

GUIDELINES FOR THE SEMINAR

- 1) The seminar will begin and end at the scheduled time.
- 2) Respect the viewpoint of others.
- 3) Maintain confidentiality of class information shared.
- 4) Participation should be relevant and concise.
- 5) Laptop computers and technological devices should be used for seminar material only.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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