



# **Childhood Education CECH 9401**

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Christian Education Division

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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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## **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 doctrinal integrity.

## **Curriculum Competencies Addressed**

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition*: Students will explore biblical references to children and families.
2. *Theological and historical perspective*: Students will discuss historical and contemporary salient theological issues related to children.
3. *Effective servant leadership*: Students will examine the biblical instruction to serve children and engage children in service.
4. *Interpersonal relationships*: Students will participate in collegial discourse with seminar participants.
5. *Disciple making*: Students will consider historical and contemporary approaches to the discipleship of children.
6. *Spiritual and character formation*: Students will become sensitive to the spiritual openness of children.

## **Course Description**

The purpose of this seminar is to engage students in a comprehensive examination of children's ministry. The direction of the seminar may involve an extensive study of nursery school and kindergarten education, the history and development of childhood education, a detailed study of the developmental stages from birth through eleven years, areas of educational supervision which relate to leaders of the preschool and children's age groups, curriculum materials used by

Southern Baptist organizations for children birth through sixth grade, or other fields of study related to children's ministry.

### **Learning Objectives**

Through this course you will:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, theological, and theoretical issues related to the spiritual development of children.
2. Explore and evaluate best practices for fostering spiritual growth among children.
3. Communicate your knowledge of childhood spiritual development through written and oral presentations.

### **Required Readings**

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

Anthony, Michael, ed. *Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation*. Broadman and Holman Academic, 2007. (Kindle edition available)

Bunge, Marcia, ed. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001.

Ingle, Cliff, ed. *Children and Conversion*. Broadman, 1970. (This book is currently out of print. You may purchase a pdf copy on cd at the LifeWay store on campus. You may also find a used copy online.)

Lawson, Kevin. *Understanding Children's Spirituality: Theology, Research, and Practice*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012. (Kindle edition available)

May, Scottie, Beth Posterski, and Catherine Stonehouse. *Children Matter: Celebrating Their Place in the Church, Family, and Community*. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2005. (Kindle edition available)

Nye, Rebecca. *Children's Spirituality: What It Is and Why It Matters*. London: Church House Publishing, 2009. (Kindle edition available)

Zuck, Roy. *Precious in His Sight: Childhood and Children in the Bible*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2012.

### **Course Teaching Methodology**

**Teaching Method.** This seminar meets on the main campus September 20-21, November 8-9, and December 6-7.

## Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

### ***1. Reflective Book Summaries***

**Due: See Seminar Schedule**

You will write a reflective summary (5-7 double-spaced pages) for each of the required textbooks, with the exception of the book you are presenting for discussion (see assignment #2).

A reflective book summary is a critical commentary, which involves more than simply summarizing the contents (i.e. don't scan the book and the back cover and look for good quotes to make it appear that you've read the book—read, underline, outline, take notes, and interact as you read).

Summaries should include the following:

- A clear statement of the author's thesis or central argument; Why was the book written? For whom was the book written?
- Citation of material (evidence) that supports the author's thesis/central argument; You do not have to use direct quotes. Cite whatever information you use parenthetically, i.e. (77-78);
- An assessment of whether the author succeeded in achieving the purpose of the book;
- The major strengths and weaknesses of the book;
- A summary of the viewpoints held by other persons who have evaluated the book;
- Your reaction to the book; how the book has/has not contributed to your insights concerning the subject of the book and your personal ministry. Were you prompted, influenced, impacted, outraged, ambivalent, and/or disinterested by the author's presentation? Did you experience change?

Summaries are to be submitted to Blackboard under *Assignments* on the assigned dates.

### ***2. Book Discussion***

**Due: See Course Schedule**

You will lead a 45-minute discussion of an assigned text on the date reflected in the syllabus. This discussion is to provide an opportunity for seminar participants to share responses to the text and to exchange ideas with colleagues. You should present your interpretations and responses to the text and prepare discussion questions relative to it. You can be creative. Discussions are meant to be lively and engaging.

***You should submit your choice of text by email to the professor for approval no later than August 23.*** The books will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis. *Lead A Book Discussion in Four Easy Steps* is posted under Course Documents on Blackboard. Please use this as a guide in preparation for the discussion.

### ***3. Papers and Presentations:***

You will write two papers and present each according to the course schedule. Details regarding this assignment are as follows:

### **(1) Historical Paper/Presentation**

You will write a 25-page research paper on a topic of your choosing from one of the following areas or one approved by the professor. Requested topics should be submitted at the first seminar meeting, September 20.

- Historical reflections regarding children
- Developmental Theory/ Spiritual Formation Theory
  - Theorists include, but are not limited to: David Elkind, Jean Piaget, James Fowler, Sopia Cavaletti, Ana-Maria Rizzuto, Jerome Berryman, Horace Bushnell
- Research in spiritual formation of children
- Theological concerns related to spiritual formation
  - Age of Accountability
  - Children and Baptist
  - Infant Baptism
  - Communion

Your research papers should be written in Times New Roman font and Turabian style. A minimum of 20 sources are required for each paper. Note: the page count does not include the cover page, table of contents, or bibliography. The paper is to be submitted via email to each seminar participant by Friday, November 1 at 5:00 p.m.

#### Presentation:

You will lead a 30-minute creative presentation on the subject of your research paper, accompanied by a handout and visual aids (such as PowerPoint®, video clips, etc.). You will guide a 15-minute discussion following the presentation and respond to questions from other members of the seminar.

A presentation schedule will be made by the professor and communicated to seminar participants prior to the seminar meeting. *All presentation materials must be submitted to Blackboard by end of day of presentation.*

**Paper Due: November 1**

**Presentation: November 8**

### **(2) Contemporary Practice in Children's Spiritual Formation Paper/Presentation**

You will write a 25-page research paper on one of the following topics or one approved by the professor. Topics will be selected at the first seminar meeting – only one paper per topic. Come willing to negotiate.

- Post-Modern Cultural Influences on Spiritual Development
- Media and Spiritual Formation
- Developing a Biblical Worldview in Children
- Evangelism of Children
- Practice of Spiritual Disciplines with Children
- Role of Parents in Spiritual Formation of Children

- Mentors (other than parents) in Spiritual Formation
- Children and Worship
- Godly Play (Jerome Berryman)
- Curriculum and Spiritual Formation
- Family Missions/Ministry
- Family Worship

Presentation:

You will lead a 30-minute creative presentation on the subject of your research paper, accompanied by a handout and visual aids (such as PowerPoint®, video clips, etc.). You will guide a 15-minute discussion following the presentation and respond to questions from other members of the seminar.

The following questions should be considered in the development of the presentation:

- How is this topic manifested in or relevant to the lives of 21<sup>st</sup> century children, families, or the church?
- What are current models for the church’s or families’ responses to your selected topic?
- What are suggested strategies for the church, families, or communities to respond to your topic?

A presentation schedule will be made by the professor and communicated to seminar participants by Friday, Nov. 29 at 5:00 p.m. *All presentation materials must be submitted to Blackboard by end of day of presentation.*

**Paper Due: November 29      Presentation: December 6**

A presentation rubric will be completed by each seminar participant for each presentation and given to the presenter. The *Presentation Rubric* is posted under Course Documents.

**Course Evaluation**

Reflective Book Summaries (6)	30%
Book Discussion	10%
Historical Paper	20%
Historical Presentation	10%
Contemporary Paper	20%
Contemporary Presentation	10%

## Course Policies

### **Classroom Decorum**

Your participation is required for every seminar session. You are expected to:

- Come to the seminar with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources related to the course topic.
- Dress appropriately and in accordance with the NOBTS Student Handbook.
- Turn off cell phones and not accept any calls and/or text messages during class.
- Use laptops appropriately during class.

### **Absences and Late Assignments**

Absences from a Ph.D. seminar are not permitted and late assignments will not be accepted. You must see the Associate Dean, Research Doctoral Programs, for any exception to this policy. Assignments must be submitted by the end of the day on the date due unless otherwise specified.

### **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 in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

### **Plagiarism**

A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the dean of students for further action.

### **Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2013-2014 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

## Additional Information

### **Special Needs**

If you need an accommodation for any type of physical or learning disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor to discuss any modifications that you may need.

### **Correspondence with the Professor**

I will make every effort to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact me with any question you may have regarding this seminar.

### **Blackboard and SelfServe**

You are responsible to check Blackboard for grades, assignments, course documents and announcements. The professor will communicate with you via Blackboard and SelfServe. Maintaining current contact information on those systems is vital for communication.

### **Assignment Formatting**

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All papers must be written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

### **Course Schedule**

Friday - 1:00 – 4:00, 6:00 – 9:00; Saturday - 8:00 – 11:00

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
August 23		Submit request for book discussion
September 20/21	3 Book Discussions	<b>Reflective Book Summaries and Book Discussions:</b> <i>The Child in Christian Thought, Childhood and Children in the Bible, Understanding Children's Spirituality</i>  Request topics for papers
November 1		Historical Paper is due to seminar participants by 5:00 p.m.
November 8/9	2 Book Discussion  7 Presentations	<b>Reflective Book Summaries and Book Discussion:</b> <i>Children Matter, Children and Conversion</i>  <b>Historical Papers and Presentations</b>
November 29		Contemporary Practice Paper is due to seminar participants by 5:00 p.m.
December 6/7	2 Book Discussions  7 Presentations	<b>Book Discussions:</b> <i>Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation, Children's Spirituality</i>  <b>Contemporary Practice Papers and Presentations</b>

## Selected Bibliography

- Allen, Holly Catterton, ed. *Nurturing Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008
- \_\_\_\_\_, and Christine Ross. *Intergenerational Christian Formation: Bringing the Whole Church Together in Ministry, Community and Worship*. IVP Academic, 2012.
- Barna, George. *Revolutionary Parenting: Raising Your Kids to Become Spiritual Champions*. Tyndale House Publishers, 2010.
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- Anthony, Michael, ed. Carlson, Greg, Tim Ellis, Trisha Graves, and Scottie May. *Perspectives on Children's Spiritual Formation: 4 Views*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 2006.
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- Coffey, Kathy. *Experiencing God with Your Children*. New York: Crossroad, 1997.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *The Legacy Path: Discover Intentional Spiritual Parenting*. Randall House, 2011.
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- Lester, Andrew D. *When Children Suffer*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1987.
- May, Scottie, Beth Posterski, and Catherine Stonehouse, and Linda Cannell. *Children Matter*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2005.
- McAllister, Dawson. *Saving the Millennial Generation*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999.
- McClure, Holly. *Death by Entertainment*. Little Rock: Lion's Head Publishing, 2001.
- McDowell, Josh. *The Disconnected Generation*. Nashville: Word Publishing, 2000.
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- Miller-McLemore, Bonnie J. *Let the Children Come: Reimagining Childhood from a Christian Perspective*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley and Sons, 2003.
- Perkins, Mitali. *Ambassador Families: Equipping Your Kids to Engage Popular Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2005.
- Rainer, Thom S. *The Bridger Generation*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman, 1997.
- Ratcliff, Donald, ed. *Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives, Research and Application*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2004.
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