



CEAL 9402 Contemporary Context of Educational Ministry

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division

Fall 2021- Colloquium Meetings: Thursday 1-9
Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

David Odom, BS, MACE, PhD

Associate Professor of Student Ministry

Director of Youth Ministry Institute

dodom@nobts.edu

(504) 816-8107

Mission

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College is to prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Purpose of Course

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.

Course Description

A survey is made of the changing context of Christian education including (but not exclusively) local church, church planting, missionary settings, and Christian schools. Special attention is given to emerging church organizational models and their impact on complementary Christian education. Emphases will include sociological, educational, and denominational influences on the design and delivery of Christian education. An effort is made to enhance the student's understanding of the world confronting Christian education and to equip the student to impact more effectively this world as a Christian educator.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Investigate current and future societal issues and trends in Christian Education.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the world which presently confronts the Christian educator.
- Identify opportunities for Christian Education and apply sound Christian Education principles to various cultural settings both within and outside of the church.
- Formulate a personal view of the relationship between the Christian Education in a changing culture and church contexts.
- Consider ways to become an effective change agent in confronting societal issues through Christian education.
- Articulate his/her personal values as related to contemporary Christian Education.

Textbooks

Required

Dreher, Rod. *The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation*. New York, New York: Sentinel, 2017.

Rainer, Thom S. *The Post-Quarantine Church: Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2020.

Assigned

Challies, Tim. *The Next Story: Faith, Friends, Family, and the Digital World*. Rev. and Updated. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2015.

Cominsky, Joel. *2000 Years of Small Groups: A History of Cell Ministry in the Church*. Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing, 2014.

Cormode, Scott. *The Innovative Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2020.

Hansen, Collin, ed. *Our Secular Age: Ten Years of Reading and Applying Charles Taylor*. Deerfield, Illinois: The Gospel Coalition, 2017.

Im, Daniel. *No Silver Bullets: Five Small Shifts that will Transform Your Ministry*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2017.

Iorg, Jeff. *The Case for Antioch*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2011.

Kim, Jay. *Analog Church: Why We Need Real People, Places, and Things in the Digital Age*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2020.

Mancini, Will. *Future Church: Seven Laws of Real Church Growth*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2020.

Moore, Russell. *Onward: Engaging the Culture Without Losing The Gospel*. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman Publishing Group, 2015.

McNeal, Reggie. *Missional Communities: The Rise of the Post-Congregational Church*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2011.

Packard, Josh and Ashleigh Hope. *Church Refugees: Sociologists Reveal Why People Are Done With Church But Not Their Faith*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2015.

Platt, David. *Counter Culture: A Compassionate Call to Counter Culture in a World of Poverty, Same-Sex Marriage, Racism, Sex Slavery, Immigration, Abortion, Persecution, Orphans and Pornography*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 2015.

Scazzero, Peter. *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship: Moving from Shallow Christianity to Deep Transformation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2021.

Selvaggio, Anthony T. *7 Toxic Ideas Polluting Your Mind*. Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Publishing, 2011.

Shaw, Haydn. *Generational IQ: Christianity Isn't Dying, Millennials Aren't the Problem, and the Future is Bright*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015.

Yarhouse, Mark A. *Understanding Gender Dysphoria: Navigating Transgender Issues in a Changing Culture*. Christian Association for Psychological Studies Books. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2015.

Recommended Reading

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

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne, 2009.

Carson, D. A. *The Gagging of God: Christianity Confronts Pluralism*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1996.

Dever, Mark. *What is a Healthy Church?* Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2007.

Hemphill, Ken. *Revitalizing the Sunday Morning Dinosaur*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishers, 1996.

Keller, Tim. *Center Church: Doing Balanced, Gospel-Centered Ministry in Your City*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2012.

Pazmino, Robert W. *Principles and Practices of Christian Education: An Evangelical Perspective*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1992.

Seymour, Jack L. *From Sunday School to Church School : Continuities in Protestant Church Education in the United States, 1860-1929*. Washington, D.C.: University Press of America, 1982.

Sider, Ronald J., Philip N. Olson & Heidi Rolland Unruh. *Churches that Make a Difference*. Grand Rapids, MI.: Baker Books, 2002.

Sproul, R.C. *The Consequences of Ideas: Understanding the Concepts that Shaped Our World*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2009.

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

Towns, Elmer, Ed Stetzer, and Warren Bird. *11 Innovations in the Local Church*. Ventura, CA.: Regal Books, 2007.

Wells, David F. *The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-Lovers, Marketers, and Emergents in the Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing, 2008.

Methodology

This course will consist of independent reading and discussion led by students and facilitated by the professor.

Format

This course meets monthly on the main campus.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Pre-Seminar Assignments

1. Text Reading
Each student will complete the **two required readings prior to the first seminar**.
2. Discussion Questions
Each student will write ten discussion questions from each book. Students will use questions to spark discussion during the first seminar.

Seminar Assignments

We are going to write an academic journal article together. Research and writings by students in the seminar will be compiled into a journal article for submission. The working title of the article will be: "Christian Education Innovations in Select Southern Baptist Churches"

3. Text Reading
Each student will read **two books** from the Assigned Readings section. Student should email the professor a list of the top four book choices as soon as possible. Books will be assigned on a first come-first served basis.
4. Seminar Discussion
Each student will lead a discussion of the **two assigned books during the second seminar** meeting. Student should focus on how the assigned text provides insights or contributions to the journal article.

5. Survey/Interview

Students will survey/interview of 10 people. A combination of church and non-churched adults should be interviewed using an interview guide developed by the seminar. Students will come to the **third seminar session** prepared to share highlights from the survey/interviews.

6. Research Paper

Each student will choose one contemporary issue from either the reading or seminar discussion. This will be the primary topic to follow throughout the semester and the contribution the student will make to the journal article. Students should collect articles concerning their chosen topic from various sources. Students should also examine books in the seminar for potential topics and supporting research. Scholarly journals/books are expected. At least 18 total sources.

Papers should include an in-depth analysis of the issue with recommendations for how Christian educators can address the issue. Papers should be 18-20 pages, typed, double-spaced and follow the Turabian style guide. Research for the paper should include

(1) background information (rationale for the topic, need, opportunity, brief literature review)

(2) survey/interview of 10 people (combination of church and non-churched) should be interviewed using an interview guide developed by the seminar

(3) using a grounded theory methodology, students will analyze the notes from the survey/interview and make observations about the knowledge, opinions, and suggestions revealed in the research.

7. Research Paper Presentation (10%)

Present the research paper as in an infomercial at the **final seminar meeting**. You will have 15 minutes to present.

8. Participation in Discussion (10%)

Participation in seminar discussion is paramount to the learning experience. You should engage in critical discussions of texts by cooperating with the discussion leader, listening to peer statements and thoughtfully analyzing and responding to those statements.

Course Evaluation

Text Reading/Discussion	30%
Survey/Interviews	10%
Research Paper	40%
Presentation	10%
Participation in Discussion	10%

Schedule/Assignments

August 19	Educational Ministry	Assignment
1:00	Welcome and Introductions, Prayer	
1:15	Seminar Overview – Let’s write a journal article	
2:30	Required Text Discussion: <i>The Benedict Option</i>	Required Text Due
	Break	
4:00	Required Text Discussion: <i>The Post-Quarantine Church</i>	
6:00	Journal Article Top Discussion	
8:00	Survey/Interview Guide Development	
9:00	Wrap up and Dismiss	
September 16	Innovation in Educational Ministry	
1:00	Welcome and Prayer	
1:15	Assigned Text Discussion	Assigned Text Due
2:30	Assigned Text Discussion	
	Break	
4:00	Assigned Text Discussion	
6:00	Innovations Discussion	
9:00	Wrap up and Dismiss	
Oct. 21	Contemporary Context	
1:00	Welcome and Prayer	
1:15	Interview Discussion	Survey/ Interview Due
2:30	Interview Discussion	
	Break	
4:00	Innovations Discussion & Resource Sharing	
6:00	Journal Article Outline	
9:00	Wrap-up and Dismiss	
November 18	Putting It All Together	
1:00	Welcome and Prayer	
1:15	Paper Presentations	Research Paper Due
2:30	Paper Presentations	
	Break	
4:00	Journal Article Development	
9:00	Wrap-up and Dismiss	

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Assignment Formatting

Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All written assignments must be Word documents, written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font. PDFs will not be accepted.

Assignment Submission

All assignments are to be submitted to Blackboard discussion board by 11:59 p.m. on the date prior to the session date. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

Grading Scale

This course is Pass/Fail. A passing grade is a final average that falls in the range of 85-100. 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

Late Assignments

Late assignments are not accepted in the seminar.

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.

Revision of the Syllabus

The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course

The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle

withdrawal requirements. A professor can't issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Blackboard and SelfServe Information

You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard.

Correspondence with the Professor

Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any question you may have regarding this course.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

This is the official NOBTS Writing Center online help site for writing academic papers and essays. <http://www.nobts.edu/writing/default.html> You will discover writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help you become a better writer. Go here for Turabian and APA style helps and guidelines. You will also find language fonts for Greek and Hebrew.

Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. See Blackboard for any announcements that may be posted. You should ensure your email address is updated on Blackboard.

For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1
- WWL Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- www.nobts.edu

Mandatory Evacuation: Hurricane season lasts from June 1 to November 30. If the Mayor or the President of NOBTS recommends that you leave the city, then do so. If a mandatory evacuation is called everyone except emergency personnel must leave. Staying on campus is not an option. See the *Student Handbook* for further information regarding hurricane preparedness, evacuation, and shelter.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service

Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

Office Hours: Please contact the professor via email.