



**CESR 9303 Supervised Reading  
Colloquium: Children and Youth**  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Church Ministry Division  
Fall 2022- Colloquium Meetings: Friday 9-11  
9/2, 9/30, 11/4, 12/2

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**Mission Statement**

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.

**Course Description**

Students will read critically and analyze significant works regarding the spiritual formation and Christian education of children and youth. Colloquium participants will both lead and participate in critical discussions of texts.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of the course, you will be able to demonstrate an understanding of:

- the information, claims, and arguments presented in selected significant texts regarding the spiritual formation and Christian education of children and youth;
- key ideas, observations, and criticisms of significant texts regarding the spiritual formation and Christian education of children and youth; and skill in
- facilitating a class discussion on a selected text regarding the spiritual formation and Christian education of children and youth; and
- effectively engaging in critical discussions of texts regarding the spiritual formation and Christian education of children and youth.

**Textbooks**

Read and reflect over the assigned texts related to the spiritual formation and Christian education of children and youth prior to each colloquium meeting. The following texts should be read in their entirety.

## Children

- Espinoza, Benjamin. *Story, Formation, and Culture: From Theory to Practice in Ministry with Children*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2018. ISBN 978-1532646850, Kindle edition - ASIN: B07NF879SL
- Harwood, Adam. *The Spiritual Condition of Infants: A Biblical-Historical Survey and Systematic Proposal*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-1-60899-844-9
- Larson, Mimi, and Robert Keeley, ed. *Bridging Theory and Practice in Childhood Spirituality: New Directions for Education, Ministry, and Discipleship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Reflective, 2020. Kindle edition – ASIN: B07TF3JFHK. ISBN-13: 978-0310104919
- McCrinkle, Mark, and Ashley Fell. *Generation Alpha*. London: Hachette Australia. Kindle edition – ASIN: B08V23L5F8. ISBN-13: 978-1472281487
- Nye, Rebecca. *Children's Spirituality and Why it Matters*. London: Church House Publishing, 2009. ISBN-13: 978-0715140277. Kindle edition - ASIN: B006JMPSJQ
- Stonehouse, Catherine. *Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey: Guidance for Those Who Teach and Nurture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Bakr Academic, 2010. ISBN: 978-0801032363, Kindle edition - ASIN: B00B853Z0S

## Youth

- Borgman, Dean. *Foundations for Youth Ministry: Theological Engagement with Teen Life and Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.
- Dean, Kenda Creasy. *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Kageler, Len. *Youth Ministry in a Multifaith Society: Forming Christian Identity Among Skeptics, Syncretists and Sincere Believers of Other Faiths*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.
- McKnight, Tim. *Navigating Student Ministry: Charting Your Course for the Journey*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2022.
- Powell, Kara, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2016.
- White, James. *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2017.

## **Foundational Texts** (Select two books from the following - one children, one youth)

### Children

- Allen, Holly Catterton, ed. *Nurturing Children's Spirituality: Christian Perspectives and Best Practices*. Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2008.
- Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should be Your Church's #1 Priority*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 2003.
- Berryman, J. W. *Godly play: An Imaginative Approach to Religious Education*. Minneapolis, MN: Augsburg, 1995.
- Bunge, Marcia, ed. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2001.
- Cavalletti, Sophia. *The Religious Potential of the Child* (P. M. Coulter & J. M. Coulter, Trans.), 1983. Ramsey, NJ: Paulist Press. (Original work published in 1979)

- Chapman, Kathleen. *Teaching Kids Authentic Worship: How to Keep Them Close to God for Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003
- Coles, Robert. *The Spiritual Life of Children*. Boston, MA: Houghton-Mifflin, 1991.
- Hay, D., with Nye, Rebecca. *The Spirit of the Child* (Rev. ed.). Philadelphia, PA: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2006
- Holmen, Mark. *Building Faith at Home: Why Faith at Home Must be Your Church's #1 Priority*. Ventura, CA: Regal. 2007.
- Keeley, Robert J. *Helping Our Children Grow in Faith: How the Church Can Nurture the Spiritual Development of Kids*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2008.
- Parr, Steve, and Tom Crites. *Why They Stay: Helping Parents and Church Leaders Make Investments that Keep Children and Teens Connected to the Church for a Lifetime*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2015.
- Roehlkepartain, E. C., King, P. E., Wagener, L. M., & Benson, P. L., eds. *The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2006.
- Water, Mark. *What the Bible Has to Say About Children*. Nashville: Dimensions for Living, 2003.
- Westerhoff, J. H. *Will Our Children have Faith?* (Rev. ed.). Toronto: Morehouse, 2000.

### Youth

- Black, Wesley. *An Introduction to Youth Ministry*. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1998.
- Cannister, Mark. *Teenagers Matter: Making Student Ministry a Priority in the Church*. Edited by Chap Clark. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.
- Clark, Chap, ed. *Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the family of Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2016.
- DeVries, Mark. *Family-Based Youth Ministry*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.
- . *Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do About It*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.
- Dunn, Richard. *Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students: A Guide for Youth Workers, Pastors, Teachers and Campus Ministers*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.
- Erwin, Pamela. *A Critical Approach to Youth Culture: Its Influence and Implications for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.
- Fields, Doug. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Youth Specialties, 1998.
- Lawrence, Rick. *Jesus Centered Youth Ministry: Moving from Jesus-Plus to Jesus-Only*. Loveland, CO: Group/Simply Youth Ministry, 2014.
- McKnight, Tim. *Engaging Generation Z: Raising the Bar for Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publishing, 2021.
- Patty, Steven and Steve Keels, eds. *Impact: Student Ministry that Will Transform a Generation*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2005.
- Senter, Mark. *When God Shows Up: A History of Protestant Youth Ministry in America*. Edited by Chap Clark. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2010.
- Smith, Christian and Melinda Lundquist Denton. *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.
- Wright, Steve with Chris Graves. *reThink*. InQuest Ministries, 2007.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

### Methodology

This course will consist of independent reading and on-campus discussion led by students and facilitated by the professor(s).

### Format

This course meets monthly on the main campus.

## **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

### **Pre-Colloquium Assignments**

1. Text Reading Due: See Course Schedule  
Read the assigned texts prior to the colloquium meeting. You will be assigned texts for which you will facilitate the discussion on the assigned dates.

2. Required Texts Summaries (50%) Due: See Course Schedule  
For each text (12):
  - Write an annotated bibliography (one paragraph), including a complete bibliographic entry
  - Identify a minimum of ten talking points - key ideas, observations, insights, and criticisms.
  - Construct 2-3 study guide questions suitable for preparation for a doctoral program oral exam.

This assignment is to be submitted to the Discussion Board and Assignments on Canvas.

3. Foundational Text Summaries (10%) Due: See Course Schedule  
Select two books from the Foundational Texts list (one children, one youth) and submit your requests to Dr. Peavey via email by August 2. Texts will be assigned on a first come first served basis. Summaries will be submitted to Canvas and the Discussion Board prior to the colloquium meeting in which it will be presented.

For each of the two foundational texts, write a one-page summary which includes the following:

- A header including your name, date, colloquium title;
- Bibliographic information at the top of the page;
- Biographical information of the author;
- Key ideas and principles, and significant quotes. Details of the book should be communicated in such a way that all students will have a familiarity with the text;
- Applications relevant to developing a personal philosophy of ministry to children and youth should be incorporated. Use of bulleted lists, diagrams, pictures and other mnemonic devices is permitted.

## Colloquium Assignments

4. Facilitation of Discussion (20%) Due: See Course Schedule  
Lead a 15-minute discussion on the book assigned. The discussion schedule is included in this syllabus.

Formulate several questions pertaining to the book on which you will lead discussion. Questions should challenge the class to deepen their understanding of the issue the author is discussing, to clarify and complete their understanding of the author's central argument, to critically assess the adequacy of that argument, or to compare the author's position with that of another author we will have read. The questions should be clearly and concisely formulated. You should have a good reason for asking the question.

5. Participation in Discussion (10%)  
Participation in colloquium 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.
6. Foundational Text Book Talk/Presentation (10%) Due: See Course Schedule  
Conduct a 10-minute presentation of the selected foundational text at the assigned colloquium meeting. Include a visual presentation.

## Evaluation of Grade

Summary/Talking Points/Study Guide Questions	50%
Foundational Text Summaries	10%
Foundational Text Book Talk/Presentations	10%
Facilitation of Discussion	20%
Participation in Discussion	10%

## Course Policies

**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 Canvas by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated. 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

**Late Assignments:** Late assignments are not accepted in the reading colloquium.

**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 on Written Assignments:** NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

**Recording Policy:** Student recordings of class, including any audio and/or video recordings, regardless of the media or format, and regardless of the intended or actual use, are not permitted without prior written permission of the professor. The class will be notified in advance should any such recording be approved. This policy is intended to protect the privacy of the students.

**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.

### **Additional Information**

**Canvas and CNS Information:** You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Campus and Campus Nexus. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Assignment grades will be posted to Canvas.

**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”:** NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at: [https://www.nobts.edu/\\_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf](https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf)

**Hurricane/Severe Weather Evacuation:** In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: [www.nobts.edu](http://www.nobts.edu). See Canvas for any announcements that may be posted. You should ensure your email address is updated on Canvas. For up-to-date weather information stay tuned to:

- WBSN FM-89.1
- WWL Channel 4
- WWL AM-870
- [www.nobts.edu](http://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 CNS 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.

**Schedule/Assignments**

<b>September 2</b>	<b>The Spiritual Formation of Children</b>	
9:00	Welcome and Introductions, Prayer	Peavey
9:15	Required Text: Espinoza, <i>Story, Formation and Culture</i>	
9:30	Required Text: Harwood, <i>The Spiritual Condition of Infants</i>	
	Break	
10:00	Required Text: Larson, <i>Bridging Theory and Practice in Childhood Spirituality</i>	
10:15	Required Text: Stonehouse, <i>Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey</i>	
10:30	Required Text: McCrindle, <i>Generation Alpha</i>	
10:45	Required Text: Nye, <i>Children’s Spirituality and Why it Matters</i>	
11:00	Wrap up and Dismiss	
<b>September 30</b>	<b>The Spiritual Formation of Children</b>	
9:00	Welcome and Prayer	Peavey
9:15	Foundational Text	
9:30	Foundational Text	
9:45	Break	
10:00	Foundational Text	

10:15	Foundational Text	
10:30	Foundational Text	
10:45		
11:00	Wrap-up and Dismiss	
<b>November 4</b>	<b>The Spiritual Formation of Youth</b>	
9:00	Welcome and Prayer	Odom
9:15	Required Text: Borgman, <i>Foundations for Youth Ministry</i>	
9:30	Required Text: Dean, <i>Almost Christian</i>	
9:45	Break	
10:00	Required Text: McKnight, <i>Navigating Student Ministry</i>	
10:15	Required Text: Kageler, <i>Youth Ministry in a Multifaith Society</i>	
10:30	Required Text: Powell, <i>Growing Young</i>	
10:45	Required Text: White, <i>Meet Generation Z</i>	
11:00	Wrap-up and Dismiss	
<b>December 2</b>	<b>The Spiritual Formation of Youth</b>	
9:00	Welcome and Prayer	Odom
9:15	Foundational Text	
9:30	Foundational Text	
9:45	Break	
10:00	Foundational Text	
10:15	Foundational Text	
10:30	Foundational Text	
10:45		
11:00	Wrap-up and Dismiss	