



CCSW8301

Life Issues and Ministry Practice

A Professional Doctoral Seminar
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Spring Semester, 2023-2024
February 26-28, 2024

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Mission Statement

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

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to provide quality theological education for students in the area of life and ministry issues in the context of the local church.

Course Description

This seminar will address critical age group, family, and life needs and issues. Ministry models will be developed to meet particular needs and issues of each age group and family lifestyle.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of this seminar students will be able to...

1. Identify current needs and issues related to each age group across the lifespan as they relate to ministry in a local church.
2. Evaluate responses to selected life issues within varied ministry contexts and the ministry of a local church.
3. Develop appropriate ministry models applicable to the student's church or ministry for addressing current life issues related to Christian social ministries, preschool/children's ministry, youth ministry, adult ministry, and family ministry.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: Individual and group presentations, discussions, Socratic questioning, lecture, case studies, organizational analysis and technical writing.

Required Textbooks

Clinton, Tim and Archibald Hart, George Ohlschlager. *Caring for People God's Way: Personal and Emotional Issues, Addictions, Grief, and Trauma*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2009. (Students will read Part 1: Chapters 1-5. Selected other chapters may be used for reports and presentations.)

Kim, Matthew D. *Preaching to People in Pain: How Suffering Can Shape Your Sermons and Connect with Your Congregation*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.

Sbanotto, Elizabeth A. Nesbit, and Craig L. Blomberg. *Effective Generational Ministry: Biblical and Practical Insights for Transforming Church Communities*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2016.

Stetzer, Ed. *Christians in the Age of Outrage: How to Bring Our Best When the World Is at Its Worst*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale, 2018.

Pre-Seminar Assignments

1. **Life Issues Inventory:** Students should take the *Life Issues Inventory* posted on Canvas. A completed copy of the inventory will be submitted through Canvas as an attachment to Assignment 2. The data obtained from the inventory will be used in Assignment 2. Students are encouraged to complete the inventory by **February 1, 2024**, because the results of the survey significantly impact preparation for other assignments.
2. **Ministry Context:** Based on the inventory results, write a brief description of your ministry context. Then, identify the top 3-5 *normative life issues* impacting your church or ministry. Additionally, identify the top 3-5 *non-normative life issues* impacting your church or ministry. For each of these critical issues you have identified (a total of six to ten issues) relate in two paragraphs for each how you are currently managing or addressing them in your church or ministry. Single spacing is appropriate for this assignment. Also, attach the survey data as indicated in Assignment 1. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Canvas. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**
3. **Textbook Readings:** Each student is expected to read all four required texts.
 - a. **Critical Review:** For *Christians in the Age of Outrage* students will prepare a three to four-page *Critical Review* of the textbook (double-spaced, typewritten, and in Turabian form). The review should include the following: (1) complete bibliographic data; (2) a statement of the author's purpose; (3) a brief synopsis of the message of the book; (4) a critical analysis of the strengths and

weaknesses of the text; (5) an evaluative assessment of the degree of success the author had in achieving the purpose, and (6) a discussion of potential application to the student's ministry context. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Canvas. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**

- b. **Ten Talking Points:** Each student will read and prepare ten talking points (annotated observations, insights, criticisms, etc.) for each of these two required textbooks: *Preaching to People in Pain* and *Effective Generational Ministry*. Identify your paper with a header including your name, assignment, date, course title. Be prepared to discuss talking points in class. Single spacing is appropriate for this assignment. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Canvas. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**
 - c. **Ministry Application of Foundations Resource:** Read the first five chapters of *Caring for People God's Way*. Prepare a five-page paper identifying foundational resource concepts gleaned from this book. At a minimum identify and discuss the following: (1) Critical life issues facing church leaders as they minister in their church and community, (2) Biblical and theological foundations for pastoral care, and (3) Foundational principles, effective practices, and cautions of pastoral care giving. This assignment is to be submitted under the Assignments tab in Canvas. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**
4. **Normative Life Issue.** Select, research, and prepare to present a *Normative Life Issue* during the seminar. You may choose from the items identified in the *Life Issues Inventory*, or you may request a different one that is a critical concern for your ministry setting. Choose a topic about which you have specific concern or a topic that is influencing your ministry in a significant way. Submit your selected topic for approval before you begin work.

***** Submit your topic for approval by Dr. Sherrer so we can avoid multiple presentations of the same topic. First come, first approved. *****

This assignment is in preparation for the presentation in Assignment 6. Use the *Life Issues and Ministry Model Template* provided to summarize your research. Submit your completed template through Canvas and provide a copy for other seminar participants by posting your research through a Discussion Board post. **Assignment Due Date: February 25, 2024.** (NOTE: You will use your research in the seminar presentation identified in Assignment 6.)

5. **Non-Normative Life Issue:** Select, research, and prepare to present a *Non-Normative Life Issue* during the seminar. You may choose a non-normative life issue from the items identified in the *Life Issues Inventory*, or you may request a different topic that is a critical concern for your ministry setting. Choose a topic about which you are

passionate or a topic that is influencing your ministry in a significant way. Submit your topic for approval before you begin work.

***** Submit your topic for approval by Dr. Sherrer so we can avoid multiple presentations of the same topic. First come, first approved. *****

This assignment is in preparation for the presentation in Assignment 7. There is no submission for Assignment 5 through Canvas. You will submit your presentation in Assignment 7. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**

During the Seminar

- 6. Normative Life Issue Presentation:** Each student will present a normative life issue during the seminar (See assignment 4). The student should make the presentation interactive and involve participants in a discussion of the assigned material. Presentations should be approximately 10 minutes in length. It is anticipated that most students will have a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation as well as a handout of the template (provided to participants through a Discussion Board post).

Use the *Life Issue & Ministry Model Template* (available on Canvas) to summarize and communicate the information of your normative life issue in a cogent format. Develop a new ministry model suitable for implementation in the local church or ministry. Utilizing the previous assignments, include components such as, but not limited to: identification of impacted age group or ministry area, identification of ministry issue, ministry goals and objectives, rationale based on current literature and ministry experience, ministry plan of action, evaluation of proposed model in light of current literature.

This assignment should be submitted to the professors through the Assignment tab of Canvas. Also, post the assignment under the Discussion Board of Canvas so all seminar participants will have access to the handout and presentation materials. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**

- 7. Non-Normative Life Issue Presentation:** Each student will present his/her findings of a non-normative life issue during the seminar (See Assignment 5). The recommended presentation approach is PowerPoint or similar. Alternative methodologies may be used. (Creativity is encouraged.) The presentation should include a handout with facts and talking points as well as implications for ministry. Provide an environment for students to engage in a discussion of the issue. Presentation should be approximately 20 minutes in length. It is anticipated that most students will have a PowerPoint (or similar) presentation as well as one or more student handouts. This assignment (PowerPoint, handouts, etc.) should be submitted through the Assignment tab of Canvas. Also, post the assignment under the Discussion Board of Canvas so all seminar participants will have access to the handout and presentation materials. There is no formal Turabian-type paper for this assignment. The formal paper will come later as a

post-seminar assignment. **Due Date: February 25, 2024.**

After the Seminar

8. **Life Issues Bibliography Contribution.** Students will be expected to copy discovered resources to a collective bibliography sorted by issue or topic. A Discussion Board post approach will be used to collect this bibliography and will be discussed during the seminar. **Due Date: March 31, 2024.**

9. **Book Chapter:** Each student will write a revised and expanded report on the *Non-Normative Life Issue* presented during the seminar. The report should be written as a chapter for a compellation book useful for a future Life Issues and Ministry Practice seminar. Each chapter is expected to be 3000-3500 words (approximately 12-15 pages). For this assignment use an “endnotes” style together with a complete bibliography. Details and appropriate citations are crucial. Use sub-headings as indicated below. More details will be presented during the seminar. This assignment should be submitted through the Assignment tab of Canvas. **Due Date: April 15, 2024.**

Use the following sub-headings, suggestions, questions, and guidelines for chapter content:

- **Introduction:** Briefly identify the issue and highlight how the issue has presented a need or problem to be resolved. Begin with a quote or challenging fact to grab the reader.

- **Scope and Impact:** Include essential characteristics, demographic data, current scope, and relevant resources. Charts/graphs maybe used. Consider the use of interviews or case studies.

- **Biblical/Theological Foundations:** Search biblical and theological sources to discover a position and determine principles on how to address the issue under consideration. Consider both direct and implied text and statements.

- **Approaches/Audiences:** Detail key information from your research regarding how the issue relates to various generations or life stages. Consider the issue from a variety of viewpoints. (Example: patient, client, doctor, family members, care giver, etc.)

- **Ministry Implications:** Consider the ramifications for personal spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical health. How has the “church” traditionally addressed this issue or concern? Has that approach been effective? Should new approaches be offered?

Evaluation

Assignment 1—Inventory (No submission for evaluation)	----
Assignment 2 -- Ministry Context Paper	15%
Assignment 3a—Critical Review of Textbook	10%
Assignment 3b--Ten Talking Points (2 @5%)	10%
Assignment 3c—Foundations Resource	10%
Assignment 4 & 6—Normative Life Issue Presentation	10%
Assignment 5 & 7—Non-Normative Issue Presentation	15%
Assignment 8—Issues Bibliography Contribution	5%
Assignment 9—Non-Normative Life Issue Book Chapter	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Assignment Formatting

Use Turabian 8 (current edition) for all writing assignments in this seminar. Papers will be graded based on 70% content and 30 % form, spelling and grammar. **All assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Late assignments will incur a late penalty for the grade.**

- Unless otherwise noted, type all assignments according to Turabian 8 format.
- All papers must be written in third person.
- Use 12-point Times New Roman font, left alignment (no flush alignment)
- At a minimum use the same number of references as assigned pages.
- Use correct spelling and grammar.
- Use proper pagination.
- Include your name on the *Cover Page*.
- Submit assignments through Blackboard as indicated on each assignment.
- Write the *full* assignment.

Directed Study:

Students who choose to take this course as a Directed Study are expected to complete all the class assignments as detailed as well as additional assignments to be determined by the seminar instructors.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

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>

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.

Selected Bibliography

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Adult Issues and Ministry Practice

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