

CL447: MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

January 2008

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DESCRIPTION

This course explores the theology and practice of ministry with youth, drawing upon the larger culture, the local congregation, and the work of the course members. By completion of the course, students will have a grasp of their theology of ministry with youth, the impact of the larger culture upon youth, and the church's possible ministries with youth.

TEXTBOOKS

Dean, Kenda Creasy, Chap Clark and Dave Rahn, eds. *Starting Right: Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Fields, Doug. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Holderness, Ginny Ward. *Teaming Up: Shared Leadership in Youth Ministry*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1997.

Lytch, Carol E. *Choosing Church: What Makes a Difference for Teens*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004.

Parker, Evelyn L. *Trouble Don't Last Always: Emancipatory Hope Among African American Adolescents*. Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2003.

Smith, Christian, with Melinda Lundquist Denton. *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*. New York: Oxford Press, 2005.

Walsh, David. *Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You and Your Teen*. New York: Free Press, 2004.

Yaconelli, Mark. *Contemplative Youth Ministry: Practicing the Presence of Jesus*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

REQUIREMENTS

- Assigned readings will be discussed on date assigned; expect to be involved in discussions of readings and course material
- All written assignments must be completed to pass course. Papers must be double-spaced, typed, and properly footnoted, following Student Handbook guidelines; in addition, note the definition of "plagiarism." I will not read or grade material that has not been properly prepared and edited. I will not accept late papers unless arrangements are made in advance or if the lateness is due to a clear emergency.
- Evaluation will be based on attendance and class participation, engagement in discussions, and completion of assignments. More than 5 hours absent will affect your course evaluation. Extensions beyond the end of the semester will be approved only under extraordinary circumstances (e.g., family or personal death or severe illness: policy at end of syllabus).

ASSIGNMENTS

- **Immersion in "youth culture,"** by watching, listening, reading material that youth engage (TV, radio, internet, print; in addition to watching *The X-Men*). You are to intentionally engage 5 "events" before *Thursday, January 17th*. For each immersion, write three paragraphs (a one paragraph description and a two paragraph synopsis of what it may be "teaching" youth, and your response as a pastor/youth director). This is more than just your personal response, but how you respond professionally and theologically.
- **Reading discussion preparations:** each student will prepare reading discussion notes, including a list of the reading's main points and two questions you will bring to the class for discussion that come out of the readings. You will sign up in class for the class discussion you will prepare the first day of the course. (This material must be sent to me *by noon* of the day we will be discussing the material.)
- **A 6-to7-page statement of "my theology of, and approach to ministry with youth."** The purpose of this initial statement is to show understanding of the course material, as well as a clear, personal framework for ministry. Proper footnoting of ideas and sources required. This should show a clear grasp of the course material *through January 17*. **Due: beginning of class, Tuesday, January 22**
- **Final project on specific topic of "ministry with youth"**
A two-hour event, geared toward a specific youth group, focusing on their spiritual formation. Please (1) write a one page contextual setting for the plan, and (2) use the lesson plan format from CL440. At least one outside resource must be used.
NOTE: This must be a new piece developed for the course, not something you have already developed or used. *The plan will be presented and discussed with the class members on Friday, January 25. The final written project is due by noon Monday, January 28*

COURSE OUTLINE

- Monday, January 7: **Identifying issues in ministry with youth**
Introductions, syllabus and assignments.
- Tuesday, January 8: **Who Are Youth?**
Reading: Dean, *Starting Right*, pp. 41-61
Walsh, *Why Do They Act That Way?*
- Thursday, January 10 **Sexuality as a gift of God**
Guest teacher: Lori Heutmaker
- Friday, January 11: **Theology of Youth Ministry**
Reading: *Starting Right*, pp. 223-280
Parker, *Trouble Don't Last Always*
Discussion leader: _____
- Monday, January 14: **Spiritual life of youth**
Reading: Smith, *Soul Searching*
Discussion leader: _____

Tuesday, January 15: **Nurturing the Spiritual Life**
Reading: Yaconelli, *Contemplative Youth Ministry*
Discussion leader: _____

Thursday, January 17: **Culture and Media: *The X-Men***
Before this class, watch *The X-Men*, *The X-Men 2*, and *The X-Men 3*.
Guest teacher: Emily Meyer

Friday, January 18: (no class, to make up for time spent watching the three movies)

Monday, January 21: (no class; MLK holiday)

Tuesday, January 22: **Youth, Family and the Church**
Reading: Lytch, *Choosing Church*
Discussion leader: _____

Wednesday January 23: **Being a Leader of Youth Ministry**
Reading: Fields, *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*.
Discussion leader: _____

Thursday, January 24: **Leadership training of adults**
Reading: Holderness, *Teaming Up*
Discussion leader: _____

Friday, January 25: Presentation and discussion of final projects

Monday, January 28: **Projects due by noon**

