

College of Emmanuel and St. Chad  
**PE 130 - Foundations of Youth Ministry**  
Course Syllabus – Fall 2012

Rev. Terry Wiebe  
Horizon - Classroom 4  
Monday Evenings - 6:30pm - 9:00pm

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

A youth ministry course attempts to balance one's passion for youth with the skills needed to engage the youth. The course will challenge your basic assumptions that revolve around youth ministry. We will include sound biblical and theological principals as well as integrating social sciences and our personal experience. We will be topical in content, random in our rhythm, and incomplete in our scope. However, this course will take note of the nature of adolescence, adolescent development, youth culture, postmodernism and youth ministry in the church. Different from most seminary courses, we will be more general, interactive, practical and subjective.

### **COURSE TEXTS**

Root, Andrew and Kenda Creasy Dean. The Theological Turn in Youth Ministry. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2011.

Senter, Mark H III. Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

### **COURSE GOALS**

Expected outcomes from this course include the following:

1. an excitement about meeting and relating to young people as shown in class discussions and in your journal.
2. an appreciation for the theological framework that will define your youth ministry.
2. an ability to develop a different understanding of how youth ministry is "done".
3. to understand various ages and stages of development in youth and apply them to youth ministry.
4. begin to see youth of our culture in a different light.
5. an ability to critique youth ministry of the past, present and future.

## **DENOMINATIONAL RESPECT**

This class is the first in extending the STU partnership to Horizon. It will mean that there is a possibility that four distinct denominations are represented in this class or in many other classes. Of vital importance is the respect we bring to the table for one another's denominational traditions, language, and polity. Let us begin by learning from one another.

## **COURSE FORMAT**

This course will consist of lectures, discussions, media presentations and group activities. The student's needs or interests will at times, determine the content and direction of our time. However, your participation is vital and your attendance is expected.

We will be answering many questions in this course but one important question can be summed up as, "Is youth ministry needed in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?"

## **ASSIGNMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

1. Write a 2-3 page paper on "Why I think Youth Ministry is Important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?" This is to be your opinion and in your own words. You do not need to use any outside source/sources. It will give you a chance to think about youth ministry and what it means to you. You can utilize your experience or lack of experience as a participant in youth ministry. If you go beyond three pages, I will kick it back to you. Due Sept. 17. (10%)
2. Keep a Personal Journal separated in three sections. First, describe yourself and your life these days, reflect on your family of origin: how it shaped who you are today, and then your adolescence. Second, reflect on the discussions that come forth from the class and your readings. Third, begin to reflect on the youth you see each and everyday. (20%) Due last class Dec. 3.
3. Attendance and participation (10%)
4. Presentation of Four Views of Ministry. Using Mark Senter's, Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church, you will divide yourselves into four groups, each choosing one view of youth ministry. You will critique each one and present your findings to the group. The group will be a panel of three who will act as your board. As the youth minister you are attempting to convince the board of this new proposal for youth ministry in the church. (20%) Due Nov. 5
5. Write a paper on a topic of your choice by starting with the recommended texts below after consulting with your prof. For those taking the M.Div track the paper

should be 15-20 pages and for those in undergraduate level the paper should be 10-15 pages. (40%).

**Recommended Texts:**

Barna, George. *Real Teens: A Contemporary Snapshot of Youth Culture*. Ventura, California: Gospel Light, 2001.

Borgman, Dean. *When Kumbaya Is Not Enough: A Practical Theology for Youth Ministry*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 1997.

Borgman, Dean. *Hear My Story: Understanding the Cries of Troubled Youth*. Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, Inc., 2003.

Burns, Jim & Mike DeVries. *Partnering With Parents In Youth Ministry: The Practical Guide to Today's Family-Based Ministry*. USA: Gospel Light, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Youth Builder: Today's Resource for Relational Youth Ministry*. USA: Gospel Light, 2001.

Caputo, John D. *What Would Jesus Deconstruct? The Good News of Post-modernism for the Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2007.

Carr, Nicholas. *The Shallow: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2010.

Clark, Chap. *Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2004.

Coupland, Douglas. *Life After God*. New York: Pocket Books, 1994.

Dean, Kenda Creasy. *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is Telling the American Church*. Oxford: University Press, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_, ed. *OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2010.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. , 2004.

Dean, Kenda Creasy, Chap Clark, & Dave Rahn, ed. *Starting Right: Thinking Theologically about Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

Dettoni, John M. *Introduction to Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993.

Egeler, Daniel Dr. *Mentoring Millennials: Shaping The Next Generation*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.

Elkind, David. *The Hurried Child: Growing Up Too Fast Too Soon, third edition*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Perseus Books, 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. *All Grown Up and No Place to Go: Teenagers in Crisis*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Perseus Books, 1998.

Fields, Doug. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry: 9 Essential Foundations for Healthy Growth*. Grand Rapids, Michigan. Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

Fields, Doug. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide To Starting Right*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2002.

Folmsbee, Chris. *A New Kind of Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007.

Grassel, Rich. *Help! I'm a Small Church Youth Worker! Achieving Big-Time Success in a Non-Mega Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2002.

Grenz, Stanley J. *A Primer on Postmodernism*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.

Hersch, Patricia. *A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1998.

Hicks, Stephen R. C. *Explaining Postmodernism: Skepticism and Socialism from Rousseau to Foucault*. Tempe, Arizona: Scholargy Publishing, 2004.

Jones, Tony. *Soul Shaper: Exploring Spirituality and Contemplative Practices in Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2003.

King, Mike. *Prescence-Centered Youth Ministry: Guiding Students into Spiritual Formation*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2006.

McLaren, Brian. *Finding Our Way Again: The Return of the Ancient Practices*. Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 2008.

Mueller, Walt. *Youth Culture 101*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007.

Mueller, Walt. *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews and Christian Truth*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2006.

Overholt, L. David and James Penner. *Soul Searching the Millennial Generation: Strategies for Youth Workers*. Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Co. Limited, 2002.

Parrott III, Dr. Les. *Helping the Struggling Adolescent: A Guide to Thirty-Six Common Problems for Counselors, Pastors, and Youth Workers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

Penner, Marv. *Help My Kids Are Hurting: A Survival Guide to Working with Students in Pain*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2005.

Penner, Marv. *Hope and Healing For Kids Who Cut: Learning to Understand and Help Those Who Self-Inflict*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2008.

Pipher, Mary, Ph.D. *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1994.

Prothero, Stephen. *Religious Literacy: What Every American Needs to Know – and Doesn't*. New York: HarpoCollinsPublishers, 2007.

Root, Andrew. *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry: From A Strategy of Influence to a Theology of Incarnation*. Downers Grove, Illinois: IVP Books, 2007.

Santrock, John W. *Adolescence, 9<sup>th</sup> edition*. New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 2003.

Smith, James K.A. *Who's Afraid of Postmodernism? Taking Derrida, Lyotard, and Foucault to Church*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Academic, 2006.

Smith, Timothy. *The Seven Cries of Today's Teens: Hear Their Hearts, Make the Connection*. Nashville: Integrity Publishers, 2003.

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

Smith, Christian with Patricia Snell. *Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults*. Oxford: University Press, 2009.

Strommen, Merton, Karen E. Jones, Dave Rahn. *Youth Ministry That Transforms: A Comprehensive Analysis of the Hopes, Frustrations, and Effectiveness of Today's Youth Workers*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

Taffel, Dr. Ron with Melinda Blau. *The Second Family: Dealing with Peer Power, Pop Culture, The Wall of Silence – And Other Challenges of Raising Today's Teens*. New York: St. Martin's Griffin, 2001.

Veith, Gene Edward, Jr. *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1994.

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

Yaconelli, Mark. *Growing Souls: Experiments in Contemplative Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 2007.