P271: Introduction to Youth Ministries

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Fall 2013 Term A & B
3 Credit Hours
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Course Description
This course is designed for those students anticipating a career ministry to youth, and for those who see themselves volunteering in various student ministries. Students will develop their own philosophy of youth ministry, various programming and counseling strategies, and begin to understand today’s youth culture. Key themes will include developing effective relationships with students, parents, and youth staff and then pinpointing a biblically based framework of essential elements for a meaningful youth ministry.

Learning Outcomes/Goals
Upon completion of this course the successful student will have taken the opportunity to:

A. Character Formation
   1. Examine his/her life at a deeper level, evaluating their level of spiritual readiness and identify some specific areas for personal growth and development.
   2. Sense a stronger vision and passion for youth ministry as evidenced by a growing desire to spend time with adolescents.
   3. Consider the “call” to student ministry and pursuing it as a vocational ministry career.

B. Knowledge & Understanding
   1. Identify the key cultural trends shaping the mind set and values of students today.
   2. Develop a theological and biblical framework for youth ministry in the local church and parachurch organizations.
   3. Develop the beginning of a personal philosophy of youth ministry as demonstrated in the major project.
   4. Explore a variety of youth ministry resources and articulate a means of evaluating such resources.

C. Skill Development
   1. Develop an effective bridge and ministry to the parents of students involved in the program. Students will provide evidence of an understanding that student ministry is a family based relational ministry.
2. Know the benefits and costs of team ministry and how to recruit, train, motivate and lead volunteer leaders of all ages.
3. Plan and carry out a calendar of effective programming strategies.

Course Textbooks

Oestreicher, Mark. Youth Ministry 3.0: A Manifesto Of Where We’ve Been, Where We Are, And Where We Need To Go. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2008.


Course Outline
September 16 & 18—Introduction To Student Ministry
Introductions – These first classes will be an opportunity for us to get to know each other, to explore the syllabus and the direction that we will be taking in this course and to talk about expectations with respect to assignments. Please come prepared to share where you have been or would like to go with respect to ministry to and with adolescents.

Time will also be given to exploring the “call” to student ministry.

September 23 & 25—Philosophy of Youth and Family Ministry
During these classes we will look at the key factors in doing Student Ministry. We will look at how to develop a purpose and vision statement. This session will include:
- Philosophy of youth ministry
- Theology of youth ministry
- Core Values of youth ministry

September 30 & October 2—Understanding Today’s Youth Culture
In these classes we will address the need to understand today’s rapidly changing world of children and teens as a prerequisite for effective youth ministry. Students will develop an understanding of today’s youth culture along with the skill necessary for continued assessment of youth culture as it changes.

October 7 & 9—Programming Strategies
These classes center on the practical realities of DOING day to day, week to week youth ministry. We will identify the essential elements of a balanced youth ministry and then explore the implementation of those elements. The classes will allow plenty of opportunity for discussion, sharing of ideas and experiences as well as creative exercises in program development. Although the emphasis will be on the local church setting, the majority of material will be transferable into various parachurch ministry contexts as well.
October 14 & 16—Counseling Youth and Adolescent Psychology
These classes will be an overview of the relational, emotional, and behavioral issues faced by adolescents. We will address biblically the issues faced by teenagers. Be able to offer pastoral counseling in a moment of crisis e.g... suicide, pregnancy, eating disorders, etc. We will begin to understand how a student’s emotional, mental, and physical development will affect their spiritual development.

October 21 & 23—Leadership Development
In these classes we will look at several possibilities for developing a team of leaders to help you as a student pastor to accomplish your vision and purpose. We will also look at this from the youth leader’s perspective to see how a youth leader can be most helpful in assisting the youth pastor.

November 13 & 18—Developing an Effective Youth Talk
During these sessions we will look at the key ingredients to developing an effective “youth talk” that connects with students.

November 20 & 25—Junior High Ministry: The Make it or Break it Age!
These classes are an overview of the importance and great value of Junior High Ministry! These sessions will demonstrate how to run a successful and purposeful Junior High Ministry so your students are still around for Senior High. During our time together we will try to make sense of the Junior High mind!

November 27—Parachurch Ministries: (Guest Speaker: Gil Klassen YFC)
This class will introduce students to youth work in parachurch organizations. It will provide a basis for understanding the importance and relevance of parachurch ministry and how youth workers can work together.

December 2 & 4—Small Group Ministry, Time Management, Family Ministry, Effective Relationships, Crowd Breakers That Work
In these classes we will look at the importance of and how to structure small groups in your youth ministry. We will look at time management, how to effectively minister to the families of the students, how to have effective relations with everyone, and how to use and lead crowd breakers that work.

December 9 & 11—Class Presentations

December 16 & 18—Where The Rubber Meets The Road (candidating, budgets, resumes, boards, your first year on staff, etc.)
In these sessions we will focus on some of the tough realities of youth ministry.
Course Requirements and Time Assessments

1. Class Instruction
Students are expected to be in attendance and on time for each class—lateness and absenteeism will be reflected in your final grade.
Value: 10%

2. Read the textbook “Youth Culture 101” and do the following:
Starting September 23rd each Monday class will begin with a discussion on a chapter from this text.
You will be expected to:
  - Submit a reading slip indicating you have done the reading. Give yourself a grade out of 10.
  - Write a brief summary (1 page max) of that chapter, also share what you learned about today’s youth culture and how you will be a more effective youth worker as a result.
  - Participate in the discussion that will ensue each week.
Value: 15% Due: At the start of each Monday class

3. Read the textbook “Purpose Driven Youth Ministry” and do the following:
Read the text “Purpose Driven Youth Ministry” by October 9th, 2013 and using a highlighter and pen identify thoughts, quotes and phrases that stand out to you. Hand in your marked up textbook on October 9th.
Value: 15% Due: October 9th

4. Read the textbook “Youth Ministry 3.0” and do the following:
Read the text “Youth Ministry 3.0” by October 23rd, 2013 and using a highlighter and pen identify thoughts, quotes and phrases that stand out to you. Hand in your marked up textbook on October 23rd.
Value: 15% Due: October 23rd

5. Prepare and Present
ONE of the following two Options:
  A) Ethnographic Report:
  Visit three (3) youth programs that you haven’t been involved with to observe how they operate. Respond to the observational questions on the sheets provided. On December 9th discuss your findings in class for approximately 10 minutes.
  Due: December 9th

  Or

  B) Youth Talk
  Present a short devotional aimed at either a Jr. or Sr. High audience. Presentations will take place during the scheduled December 9th class time. Prior to the presentation
each student will be required to submit in writing a one page summary on their devotional which must include the following information:

- Anticipated audience (Jr. or Sr. High)
- A one page summary of the main point of the devotional
- The scripture reference(s) upon which their devotional is built
- An outline of the main points of the devotional

Value: 20% Due: December 9th

6. Plan a month of student ministry.
It should reflect your understanding of the key components of an effective youth ministry. I want to see what you would do and how you would do it. You will be required to provide practical aspects for each of the following:

i. A one month calendar for either Jr. or Sr. High with key events and schedules identified and clearly visible.

ii. A one month budget based on your month program plan and your group’s size.

iii. Select either your “fall kick off” event or the “spring wrap up” and provide detailed plans including promotional ideas, theme, schedule, cost, etc.

iv. One youth talk different from 4. B. above.

v. Prepare the agenda for one volunteer staff meeting (both students and adult leaders). Describe what you will say to your staff in order to carry out your plans for one of the meetings.

vi. Two crowd breakers – these should be in a ready to go form (so you can hand it to any of my youth leaders and they could lead it).

vii. One worship set with songs and dramas, maybe related Bible verses.

viii. A one page philosophy explaining why your month looks the way it does. Make sure and look at your notes on Purpose Driven Youth Ministry.

Value: 25% Due: November 20th
Horizon College Assessment of Student Work
(based on University of Saskatchewan guidelines)

90-100% [Exceptional] – a superior performance with consistent strong evidence of:
- a comprehensive, incisive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make insightful critical evaluation of the material given;
- an exceptional capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

80-89% [Excellent] – an excellent performance with strong evidence of:
- a comprehensive grasp of the subject matter;
- an ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given;
- a very good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- an excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts fluently.

70-79% [Good] – a good performance with evidence of:
- a substantial knowledge of the subject matter;
- a good understanding of relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- a capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking;
- a good ability to organize, to analyze and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner.

60-69% [Satisfactory] – a generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:
- an acceptable basic grasp of the subject material;
- a fair understanding of the relevant issues;
- a general familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- an ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material;
- a moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner.

50-59% [Minimal Pass] – a barely acceptable performance with evidence of:
- a familiarity with the subject material;
- some evidence that analytical skills have been developed;
- some understanding of relevant issues;
- some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques;
- attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, which are only partially successful.

Under 50% [Failure] – an unacceptable performance
Select Bibliography


**PERIODICALS**

*Campus Life*

*CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) Magazine*

*Children’s Ministry – Group*

*Church Educator – Creative Resources for Church Educators*

*Expose (Music)*

*Insights*

*Group*

*IDEA BANK*

*Journal of Christian Camping*

*MCA Newsletter* (Mennonite Camping Association)

*Media Update* (Al Menconie Ministries)

*The Popcorn Review* (Film and Video)

*Preview – Family and TV review*

*Release – Christian Music*

*Youthworker*

*Discipleship Journal*

**WEBSITES**


[www.bigstuff.org](http://www.bigstuff.org). Youth ministry resources.

[www.cpyu.org](http://www.cpyu.org) Center For Parent/Youth Understanding