



CEYH5344 Leading Youth Ministry

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Church Ministry Division

Fall 2022

Tuesday 6:00-8:50pm (NOLA2U Flex)

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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

The focus of this course is to help church leaders plan, coordinate, lead, and evaluate youth ministry in a local church. Students will learn to develop a biblical philosophy of youth ministry and how to organize youth ministry in the church. Emphasis will be given to ministry with students, parents, and adult volunteers. Additional study will include the various roles of the youth minister as a staff member, family member, and community leader. Special attention will also be given to relational discipleship in student ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Formulate and articulate a biblical philosophy and purpose statement for ministry to youth.
- Identify resources for youth ministry and youth ministers.
- Understand and distinguish between the roles of the minister of youth and other youth workers.
- Demonstrate an understanding of personnel issues in youth ministry for both paid staff and volunteer workers.
- Demonstrate understanding and ability to implement the essential components of youth ministry programming for the local church setting.
- Demonstrate competency regarding the administrative functions of youth ministry.

Required Textbooks

McKnight, Tim. *Navigating Student Ministry: Charting Your Course for the Journey*. Nashville, TN: B&H Academic, 2022.

Ross, Richard. *Youth Ministry that Last a Lifetime*. Ft. Worth, TX: Seminary Hill Press, 2016.

Kinnaman, David and Mark Matlock. *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 2019.

Optional Text

- Borgman, Dean. *Foundations for Youth Ministry: Theological Engagement with Teen Life and Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.
- Cannister, Mark. *Teenagers Matter: Making Student Ministry a Priority in the Church*. Edited by Chap Clark. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.
- Elmore, Tim. *Marching Off the Map: Inspire Students to Navigate a Brand New World*. Atlanta: Poet Gardener, 2017.
- 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.
- Keuss, Jeff. *Blur: A New Paradigm for Understanding Youth Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2014.
- Lawrence, Rick. *Jesus Centered Youth Ministry: Moving from Jesus-Plus to Jesus-Only*. Loveland, CO: Group/Simply Youth Ministry, 2014.
- McGarry, Mike. *A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry*. Nashville, TN: Randall House, 2019.
- 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.
- Powell, Kara, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2016.
- White, James Emery. *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2017.

Course Requirements

All assignments must be submitted electronically on Canvas. Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are due before midnight on the due date. See Course Schedule (last page) for due dates.

1. Class Attendance/Participation (10%)

Attendance/Participation is required for every course session due to the interactive learning format of the course. The professor will record attendance each class period. A positive attitude can only enhance the learning experience. Therefore, for the purposes of this class, a *positive attitude* and *participation* are defined as a productive and interactive engagement in class and dialogues throughout a full course session. You cannot participate effectively if you are not focused on the subject matter while in the classroom. Consequently, the student is expected:

- To come to class with a constructive point of view, prepared to interact with the readings and resources on the course topic in discussion groups and classroom dialogues.
- To turn cell phones on silent and do not accept any phone calls during class.
- Use laptops, iPads, and other electronic devices appropriately to enhance class participation and abstain from social media (i.e., Facebook, messaging, etc.) and ministry responsibilities (e-mails, website updates, etc.) during class sessions.

2. Journal Article Review (20%)

Select and read an article from a youth ministry-related academic journal. The article must be from a scholarly peer-reviewed journal in the course bibliography (See Peer-Reviewed Journals

on pages 5-6 below. For example: *The Journal of Youth Ministry* or *Christian Education Journal*). Write a **4-5 page critical review** on the article and submit to Canvas. Choose one of the following topics:

- “Evangelism among Teenagers”
- “Personal Challenges in Youth Ministry”
- “Leading Volunteers”
- “Family Ministry”

The review should include:

- a) A full bibliographic reference
- b) The author’s primary point(s)
- c) At least one identified strength
- d) At least one identified weakness

Note: Strengths and weaknesses are not likes or dislikes, but an academic evaluation that should be supported by the course texts or content.

3. Youth Minister Interview (15%)

Interview an experienced youth minister in person, by phone, or video conference. Write a summary of the interview (**3-4 page**) that includes some background on the person interviewed as well as the response to the questions asked. The questions to cover include:

- a) What is your youth ministry philosophy/strategy?
- b) What is your program design for implementing the philosophy?
- c) What is your process for developing leaders?
- d) How do you connect with parents?
- e) How do you maintain personal balance?
- f) What advice would you give to a first-time youth minister?

4. Ten Questions for Discussion (5%)

Each student will identify major life needs, challenges, opportunities, or issues related to youth ministry and generate a list of 10 questions based on the required reading. Proposed questions should reflect significant concepts addressed in the texts and the implications to various ministry contexts.

5. Philosophy of Youth Ministry Paper (35%)

Each student will write a **10-12 page** paper describing his/her personal philosophy of youth ministry. The paper should include the following five sections:

1. Mission – what you want to accomplish with teenagers and families
2. Core values – the values that will guide the process
3. Strategy – how you will accomplish your mission with teenagers and families (programs and events)
4. Calendar of events – descriptions of events and activities designed to accomplish your mission
5. Measures of success – tangible evidence that the ministry is effective

5. Final Exam (15%)

The exam will be objective in nature (multiple choice, matching, listing, and true-false) and cover material from the class lectures and class reading assignments.

Course Evaluation

Class Participation	10%
Journal Article Review	20%
Interview	15%
Ten Questions for Discussion	5%
Philosophy of Youth Ministry	35%
Final Exam	<u>15%</u>
	100%

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Any student missing more than nine hours (3 class sessions) may receive an automatic grade of “F” for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

NOLA2UFLEX

If you are taking this course as a NOLA2U Flex student, please note the following attendance policies:

1. You are required to be in class either through viewing the lectures live or viewing the recorded lectures on Canvas. When you view the recorded lecture, you will be considered present for that class. Regardless of if you watch the class live or recorded, you are only allowed to miss the amount of class time specified in the NOBTS attendance policy as stated in this syllabus.
2. You will be asked to certify that you have been present for the live session or have viewed the recorded session. This certification will be done through [assignment by professor] after having watched the class live or viewing the recorded session.
3. All video lectures are available for 7 days after the video is posted. If you are unable to view the video within that time frame, you will be considered absent for that class session.
4. Technical issues will not be considered a valid reason for missing a lecture.

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 site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas.NOBTS.com Click on the “Help” button for technical questions/support requests regarding the NOBTS Canvas System. You can also email questions to Canvas@nobts.edu.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Course Policies

Students are responsible for completing all reading assignments.

Please arrive on time.

Respect the professor and other members of the class.

Maintain confidentiality when someone shares personal information.
Participate in class and group discussions.

Professor's Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Assignments are due before midnight on the day they are due. Late assignments will be penalized an initial 5 points penalty and one percent for each day after the due date. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original due date. Submit all assignments electronically on Canvas. Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor.

Style and Formatting

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>

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>

In addition, the website Grammarly (www.grammarly.com) will help you become a better writer. Eazypaper (www.eazypaper.com) will help you automatically format your sources.

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.

Grading Scale

Each student's 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 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Policy for Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors are responsible for alerting the professor of their intention to graduate. All of your assignments must be completed by noon (12:00pm) on the Wednesday prior to commencement exercises.

Peer-reviewed journals:

Adolescence – available online at ebsco

Journal of Adolescence – published by the Association in Professional Services for Adolescents

Journal of Adolescent Research – available online at ebsco

Journal of Research on Adolescence – published by Society for Research on Adolescence
Journal of Youth and Adolescence – published by Springer
Journal of Youth Ministry – published by the Association of Youth Ministry Educators
Journal of Youth and Theology – published by the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry

Note: Any journal accessed through the Christian Periodical Index (CPI), accessible through the John T Christian Library online (EBSCO Host) will meet the course requirements.

Selected Bibliography

Bertoli, Dewey. *Back to the Heart of Youth Work*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1989.
Black, Wesley. *An Introduction to Youth Ministry*. Nashville, TN: B&H, 1998.
DeVries, Mark. *Family-Based Youth Ministry*. InterVarsity Press, 2004.
Dunn, Richard and Mark Senter. *Reaching a Generation for Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1997.
Fields, Doug. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Youth Specialties, 1998.
Fields, Doug. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2002.
Grassel, Rich. *Help! I'm a Small Church Youth Worker!* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2002.
Kageler, Len. *The Youth Minister's Survival Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/YouthSpecialties, 1992.
Patty, Steven and Steve Keels, eds. *Impact: Student Ministry that Will Transform a Generation*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2005.
Reid, Alvin. *Raising the Bar: Ministry to Youth in the New Millennium*. Kregel Publications, 2004.
Wright, Steve with Chris Graves. *reThink*. InQuest Ministries, 2007.
Yaconelli, Mike. *The Core Realities of Youth Ministry: Nine Biblical Principles that Mark Healthy Youth Ministries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2004.

CEYH5344 Leading Youth Ministry Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Introduction			
Aug. 16	Syllabus Review The State of Youth Ministry Theology of Youth Ministry	McKnight, ch. 1 & 2; Ross, ch. 1	
Unit One: Renovate Your Youth Ministry Approach			
Aug. 23	Assessing Youth Ministry Ministry Essentials Developing an Action Plan	McKnight, ch. 3 Ross, ch. 2-4	
Aug. 30	Philosophy of Youth Ministry	McKnight, 13; Ross, 5	
Sept. 6	Understanding Today's Teenagers	Kinnaman & Matlock, <i>Start Here</i>	Journal Article Review Due
Unit Two: Makeover Your Discipleship Environments			
Sept. 13	Developing a Discipleship Process Creating Optimal Environments	McKnight, ch. 6; Ross, ch. 12-13	
Sept. 20	Adolescent Development Moral & Identity Development	McKnight, ch. 4; Ross, ch. 14-15	
Sept. 27	Youth Culture The Leader is the Lesson	McKnight, ch. 7; Ross, ch. 16-17	Interview Paper Due
Oct. 4	Fall Break (no class)		
Unit Three: Transform Your People			
Oct. 11	Leading Volunteers Serving in Ministry Teams	McKnight, ch. 5	
Oct. 18	Parent Ministry	McKnight, ch. 8; Ross, ch. 6-8	
Oct. 25	Emotionally Healthy Youth Workers 10 Questions for Discussion	Kinnaman & Matlock, Practice 1 & 2	10 Questions Due
Nov. 1	Leading Youth to Value the Church Intergenerational Connections	McKnight, ch. 9-10; Ross, ch. 9-10	
Nov. 8	Library Day (no class)	McKnight, ch. 11; Ross, ch. 11	
Nov. 15	Budgets, Calendars, and Administration	McKnight, ch. 12; Kinnaman & Matlock, Practice 3 & 4	
Nov. 22	Thanksgiving Break (no class)		
Nov. 29	Ministry for the Long Haul Final Exam Review	Ross, 18; Kinnaman & Matlock, Practice 5	Philosophy Paper Due
Dec. 6	Exam Day		Final Exam