



CEYH6343

Youth Culture

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Christian Education Division
Spring 2016

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The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Purpose of the Course

The purpose of this course is to examine the youth subculture, primarily in North America. Personal and social issues are addressed with a view to ministry.

Core Value Focus

Doctrinal Integrity – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

Spiritual Vitality – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

Mission Focus – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

Characteristic Excellence – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Servant Leadership – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. For 2015-2016 academic year that Core Value is *Mission Focus*.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies:

1. *Biblical exposition*: Biblical basis for youth ministry is explored.
2. *Theological and historical perspective*: Historical youth ministry movements and relationships between teenagers and the surrounding culture are examined.
3. *Servant leadership*: Enlistment, training, equipping and encouragement of volunteers are facilitated. Relationship building is a key component.
4. *Disciple making*: The basic model of student ministry involves replication of discipleship.
5. *Characteristic Excellence*: Excellence as a minister is explored.

Course Description

Personal and social problems of adolescents in the United States are studied. The resources for guiding youth are examined with special emphasis on the home and the church.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the completion of the course, you will be able to:

1. Differentiate between normative adolescent challenges and extremes in the youth culture (juvenile delinquency). (cognitive)
2. Identify typical youth concerns through research and discussion. (cognitive)
3. Develop an empathetic understanding of adolescents within the youth culture. (affective)
4. Describe current youth culture throughout personal contact with teenagers. (affective)
5. Suggest implications for youth ministry within and without the local church. (psychomotor)

Required Readings

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

Required Texts

Clark, Chap. *Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker House, 2011.

Detweiler, Craig. *Halos and Avatars: Playing Video Games with God*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2010.

Mueller, Walt. *Youth Culture 101*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2007.

Text will be supplemented with articles and newsletters which will also be required reading.

Required Website

www.cpyu.org

Optional Texts

Erwin, Pamela. *A Critical Approach to Youth Culture: Its Influence and Implications for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

Mueller, Walt. *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews and Christian Faith*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2006.

A complete youth ministry bibliography is available online at www.youthministryinstitute.org.

Additional Resources

“The Lost Children of Rockdale County,” Frontline. PBS Online. Available at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/georgia/>

“The Merchants of Cool,” Frontline. PBS Online. Available at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/cool/>

Course Teaching Methodology

Units of Study

- Unit 1: Introduction
- Unit 2: Cross-Cultural Missionaries
- Unit 3: Concentric Circles of Culture
- Unit 4: Consumerism and Culture
- Unit 5: Theology in Culture
- Unit 6: The Outliers in Culture
- Unit 7: The Future of Youth Culture

Teaching Method

This class will be conducted by using in-class lecture, research projects, class discussion, video presentation, powerpoint visual, demonstration, video documentary preparation, and blog writing.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

1. Reading of Required Texts and Resources.
 - a. Go to the website www.digitalkidsinitiative.com. Click on “Downloads.” Read both documents found in “A Parents’ Guide to Cyberbullying” and “Primer on Electronic Addiction.” Read both articles in their entirety. Find at least 5 related and recent statistics pertaining to each article (total of 10 statistics). Write a description of these statistics in paragraph form, and cite the location of your statistics in bibliographic form. Describe each statistic as it relates to teenagers. **Due: Tues, Feb 2**
 - b. *Hurt 2.0* is foundational for many of the discussions throughout the semester. You will complete a two-page outline (complete sentences are not necessary) of the following:
 - i. A brief description of each section of the book
 - ii. Strengths
 - iii. Weaknesses

- iv. 5 principles regarding youth culture you were able to glean from your reading (do not use 2nd person in your outline) **Due: Tues, Apr 12**
 - c. Content from both the Mueller and Detweiler texts will appear on the midterm exam.
- 2. Cool Hunting **Due: Tues, Mar 8**
Write a newspaper type article that contains a list of “What’s Hot/What’s Not” based upon reading, surfing, and talking to teenagers. Your list should have 10 trends in each category (a total of 20). Include pictures, statistics, and quotes from experts and teenagers concerning these trends. Include a bibliography of used sources (do not footnote).
- 3. Big Time Project (Subject Folder + Video Presentation) **Due: Tues, May 3**
 - a. You will (in groups) choose an aspect of youth culture from CPYU’s website. Additional information will be compiled on the subject.
 - b. With a minimum of 10 separate items, information will be gathered in a file folder to be presented in class. A copy of the folder will be given to the professor prior to the presentation (and will not be returned). Gather information from textbooks, journal articles, newspapers, magazines, videos, television, interviews with teenagers or leaders in the field.
 - c. Photocopies, summaries, or reviews are acceptable as long as you include:
 - i. Documentation of source
 - ii. Caption or brief explanation of its relevance to the topic
 - d. Your group will then take the information and prepare a 10-15 minute documentary which “presents” the topic. Information will not be read, but presented. Your video might contain movie clips, interviews with students, advertising, powerpoint slides, interviews with experts, etc.
 - e. A handout would be a great help to your classmates since they will not receive the folder that you will give to the professor. If you have handouts to guide discussion/presentation, get them to the professor a class period ahead of your presentation and he/she will have them duplicated for the class. Last minute copies are \$25.00 per page, payable to Youth Ministry Institute.
 - f. Evaluation of the projects will be as follows:
 - i. Is it *creative*?
 - ii. Is it *presented well*?
 - iii. Does it *adequately cover the subject*?
 - iv. Is it *current*?
 - v. Did the group utilize *a variety of sources and resources* for the folder and presentation?
 - vi. Did the group identify *ministry practice* which reflects or teaches on the issue they studied?
- 4. Examinations
 - a. Midterm Examination - vocabulary and listing information, primarily taken from class notes and textbooks.
 - b. Final Examination - a blog-type writing assignment. Be ready to interact with 10 youth culture topics we discussed in class or that you personally researched. Your response with the 10 topics will be in essay form.

Course Evaluation

Digital Kids Initiative Statistics Assignment	10%
<i>Hurt 2.0</i> Outline	10%
Cool Hunting	15%
Subject Folders	15%
Subject Presentations	30%
Examinations (2 at 10% each)	20%

Course Policies

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Assignment Formatting: Unless otherwise noted, all assignments are to be created in Turabian format. All written assignments must be submitted as physical documents (not electronic documents), written in third person unless otherwise instructed, and created in 12 pt. Times New Roman font.

Assignment Submission: Assignments are due by the beginning of class on the day they are due. If you are absent from class on the day of an assignment, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment on time. Late assignments will be penalized one letter grade for each class period the assignment is late. Assignments may only be turned in during a class period (unless otherwise specified by the professor). Do not send files as attachments via email to the professor. For technical reasons, this mode of file transmission is extremely inefficient.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus and according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2015-2016 catalog:

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

Late Assignments: Only under extreme circumstances, and with prior approval, will a late assignment be accepted. Late assignments will be assessed one letter grade for each class period the assignment is late. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks after the original deadline. Missed presentations may not be made up.

Netiquette: Appropriate Online Behavior: Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online. The student is expected to interact with other students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material

without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

Revision of the Syllabus: The course syllabus is not a legal contract. Any syllabus revision will be preceded by a reasonable notice to students. The standards and requirements set forth in this syllabus may be modified at any time by the professor. Notice of such changes will be by announcement in class or by email notice.

Withdrawal from the Course: The administration has set deadlines for withdrawal. These dates and times are published in the academic calendar. Administration procedures must be followed. You are responsible to handle withdrawal requirements. A professor cannot issue a withdrawal. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in the course if you choose not to attend once you are enrolled.

Additional Information

Blackboard and SelfServe: You are responsible for maintaining current information regarding contact information on Blackboard and SelfServe. The professor will utilize both to communicate with the class. Blackboard and SelfServe do not share information, so you must update each. Assignment grades will be posted to Blackboard. You will be enrolled in the course on Blackboard by the NOBTS Blackboard Center before the first scheduled class meeting.

Correspondence with the Grader: There is no grader assigned to this course. The professor completes all the grading for required assignments. See "Correspondence with the Professor" section.

Correspondence with the Professor: Every effort is made to respond to emails and phone calls within 24-48 hours, excluding weekends. Please feel free to contact the professor(s) with any question you may have regarding this course.

NOBTS Emergency Text Messaging Service: Once you have established a SelfServe account you may sign up for the NOBTS emergency text messaging service by going to <http://nobts.edu/NOBTSEmergencyTextMessage.html> .

Special Needs: If you need an accommodation for any type of disability, please set up a time to meet with the professor(s) to discuss any modifications you may need that are able to be provided.

Technical Support: Need technical assistance? Contact the ITC today:

Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.

ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.

504.816.8180- Call for any technical questions/support requests.

www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website. If you experience any problems with your Blackboard account you may email BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu or call the ITC at 504-282-4455, ext. 8180.

Spring 2016 Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Tues, Jan 19	Syllabus Day		acquire textbooks
Unit One: Introduction			
	What is Culture?		
Tues, Jan 26	Was Youth Culture Created or Discovered?	<i>Hurt 2.0</i> , Part 1 <i>YC 101</i> , chapt 1-2	
	What Makes Culture?		
Tues, Feb 2	Signs, Symbols, Rites of Passage		<i>Digital Kids Initiative</i> with stats assignment
Unit Two: Cross-Cultural Missionaries			
	The Role of the Youth Minister	<i>YC 101</i> , chapt 7-8	
Tues, Feb 9	<i>No Class – Mardi Gras</i>		
Tues, Feb 16	Ethics and Youth Culture		
	Roles and Responsibilities		
Unit Three: Concentric Circles of Culture			
Tues, Feb 23	Families	Detweiler text	
	The Lost Children of Rockdale County		
	Friends	<i>Hurt 2.0</i> , Part 2	
Unit Four: Consumerism and Culture			
Tues, Mar 1	Merchants of Cool	<i>YC 101</i> , chapt 3-6, 9	
	Media Literacy	CPYU.org	
Tues, Mar 8	Nothing but the Net		
	Materialism/Consumerism	<i>YC 101</i> , chapt 9	Cool Hunting
Tues, Mar 15	<i>No Class – Spring Break</i>		
Tues, Mar 22	Midterm Exam		Midterm Exam
Unit Five: Theology in Culture			
Tues, Mar 29	Religion, Spirituality, and Culture		
	Christ in Culture		

Tues, Apr 5	Bearing Witness to Culture		
	Postmodernism		

Unit Six: The Outliers in Culture			
Tues, Apr 12	ADD/ADHD	<i>Hurt 2.0</i> , chapt 12	<i>Hurt 2.0</i> outline
	Eating Disorders/Body Image		
Tues, Apr 19	Juvenile Delinquency/Juvenile Crime	<i>YC 101</i> , ch 10-11	
Unit Seven: The Future of Youth Culture			
	The Future of Youth Culture	<i>Hurt 2.0</i> , Part 3	
Tues, Apr 26	Final Exam		
	Presentation Preparation (in class)		Handouts (to be duplicated)
Tues, May 3	Presentations		Subject Folders Presentations

Selected Bibliography

Atkinson, Harley. *Ministry with Youth in Crisis*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1997.

Gardner, Howard and Katie Davis. *The App Generation: How Today's Youth Navigate Identity, Intimacy, and Imagination in a Digital World*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2013.

Milner, Murray, Jr. *Freaks, Geeks, and Cool Kids: American Teenagers, Schools, and the Culture of Consumption*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Mueller, Walt. *Understanding Today's Youth Culture: For Parents, Teachers, and Youth Leaders*, 2nd ed. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1999.

Jones, Tony. *Postmodern Youth Ministry: Exploring Cultural Shift, Cultivating Authentic Community, Creating Holistic Connections*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2001.

Kageler, Len. *Youth Ministry in a Multifaith Society: Forming Christian Identity Among Skeptics, Syncretists, & Sincere Believers of Other Faiths*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2014.

Keuss, Jeff F. *Blur: A New Paradigm for Understanding Youth Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2014.

Kimball, Dan. *They Like Jesus but not the Church: Insights from Emerging Generations*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007.

Neal, Connie. *Walking Tall in Babylon: Raising Children to be Godly and Wise in a Perilous World*. Colorado Springs, CO: WaterBrook Press, 2003.

Pearcey, Nancy. *Saving Leonardo: A Call to Resist the Secular Assault on Mind, Morals, & Meaning*. Nashville, TN: B & H Publishing, 2010.

Rochester, Rene. *Models, Mentors, and Messages: Blueprints of Urban Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2009.

Savage, Jon. *Teenage: The Prehistory of Youth Culture: 1875-1945*. New York: Penguin Books, 2008.

Turner, Steve. *Popcultured: Thinking Christianly About Style, Media and Entertainment*. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Books, 2013.

Wells, Tina. *Chasing Youth Culture and Getting It Right: How Your Business Can Profit by Tapping Today's Most Powerful Trendsetters and Tastemakers*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2011.

Wimberly, Anne E. Streaty, Sandra L. Barnes, Karma D. Johnson. *Youth Ministry in the Black Church: Centered in Hope*. Valley Forge, PA: Judson Press, 2013.

*a complete youth ministry bibliography is available at www.youthministryinstitute.org