

Youth Ministry in Cultural Context
CEYH9401
Fall 2006
Dr. Rick Morton

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to engage students in a comprehensive examination of youth ministry. The direction of the seminary may involve studies in contemporary research related to adolescence, historical development in youth education/youth ministry, or an examination of the youth culture.

Objectives:

Upon completion of this seminar, students will be able to:

1. Present an overview of history of adolescence and the Church's ministry response to the phenomena of adolescence.
2. Identify and interact with salient research in the discipline of youth culture.
3. Forecast future trends in youth culture.
4. Identify various societal subgroups among American and international adolescents.
5. Discuss in detail one aspect of youth culture
6. Suggest ministry implications in light of the presented youth culture research.

Texts:

Hine, Thomas. *The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager*. New York: Harper Perennial, 2000.

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

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

_____. *Understanding Today's Youth Culture*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 1999.

Recommended Reading:

See the attached Youth Ministry Bibliography.

Requirements:

1. Each student must read *The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager* and lead the seminar in a discussion of the assigned sections of the text.
2. Each student must read *Freak, Geeks, and Cool Kids* and lead the seminar in a discussion of the assigned sections of the text.
3. Each student must read *Understanding Today's Youth Culture* and lead the seminar in a discussion of the assigned sections of the text. This assignment will involve weaving the ideas presented in the book together with contemporary examples of youth culture.
4. Each student will prepare a critical book review of *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture*. The review will be 10 pages and will include the following: a biographical sketch of the

- author, a detailed summary of the book's contents, and a critical evaluation of the author's ideas. The seminar will discuss the book later in the semester.
5. Article reviews: Using indexed journals, select four articles involving current research in the area of adolescent culture. These articles may be selected in anticipation of your major paper topic. A one-page summary of the article is sufficient (please be sure to include a bibliographic reference in the report). A video segment for viewing and discussion may replace an article and report.
 6. Seminar paper: A research paper must be prepared by the student and presented to the seminar. This paper should be a minimum of 30 pages in length. The work should reflect careful research and analysis and should include a balance of an appropriate review of the current state of research in the area with an analysis of **original research** (quantitative or qualitative) conducted by the student this semester as part of this assignment. This assignment must be prepared in accordance with the *NOBTS Manual for Doctoral Studies* and *Turabian*, 6th edition. Evaluation of the paper will be two-fold. The paper will be critiqued by the professor and fellow seminar participants based upon grammar, style, mechanics, critical thought, appropriate use of research methodology, and thoroughness of research. **One student will be chosen to lead the critique of the paper (both form and content) and a class participation grade will be given based upon the student's performance as an evaluator.** The presentation will be graded by the professor in terms of the student's creativity and evidenced preparation. Students will submit a 1-page research proposal for approval by the third seminar meeting. The proposal should include a plan for the original research including proposed methods for instrumentation development, data gathering, and data analysis.
 7. A final exam will be given on the last seminar meeting.

Possible Topics for Seminar Papers:

- Gangs as surrogate families
- Academic pressure
- Eating Disorders
- Adolescent alcohol and/or drug abuse
- Teen suicide
- Adolescent Employment
- Dating
- Teens online
- The effect of media consumption on teens
- Juvenile delinquency
- Peer mentoring
- Adolescent sexuality
- Teens and homosexuality
- Teen Violence
- Peer relationships/peer influence