



ED623 Family Ministry

CTS Spring Module – April 30-May 4, 2007
Instructor: Rita Lihaven r_lihaven@hotmail.com

Class Schedules:

Monday: 8:30 am – 10:00 am -- Registration (register and pay for classes)
10:00 am – 12:00 pm -- Class in session
1:00 pm – 4:30 pm -- Class in session
Tuesday - Friday -- 8:30 am – 12:00 pm -- Class in session
-- 1:00 pm – 4.30 pm -- Class in session

Registration and Financial Policies:

- Registration and payment in full is due for all modular classes by 10am on the first day of class.
- Students may withdraw from modular classes and receive a full refund only prior to the second class session (i.e., before 1:00 pm on Monday, on the first day of class). No tuition refund will be issued after this deadline.
- Students may voluntarily withdraw or change their registration from credit to audit, without academic penalty, only prior to completing 70% of the course (i.e., before 1pm on Thursday, or the fourth day of class). Students who withdraw from a course after this deadline will receive a grade of "F."
- All Registration changes must be made through the Registrar's Office by completing a Registration Revision Form. Forms are available in the Registrar's Office or can be downloaded from www.auc-nuc.ca.

Academic policies:

AUC-NUC and CTS academic policies are published in the 2006-2007 Academic Calendar, which is available online at www.auc-nuc.ca. Students are responsible to become familiar with and adhere to these policies.

Books:

Required textbooks are available for purchase from Christian Publications. Book lists are available on their website at www.christian-pub.com or call 1-800-386-7256 or e-mail textbooks@christianpublications.ca for more information.

Internet/computer access:

Course registration fees at AUC-NUC and CTS include computer and Internet access. Please contact the IT department for further details. Student computer stations are available on the 6th floor Computer Commons, the 7th floor Student Lounge area and in the library on 8th floor.

Library hours (tentative):

Monday –Thursday 8am – 7 p.m.
Friday 8am – 6pm
Saturday 11am - 3 pm

Sunday Closed

A student ID card is required to borrow materials from the AUC-NUC library. Please see Reception on 6th floor.

Return of Course Work/Papers

Students who wish to have their papers returned **must** provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope (*large enough to mail all assignments submitted*) with sufficient postage, together with their coursework assignments.

Please note: Unreturned assignments will be retained in the relevant Dean’s Office for one year, and then destroyed.

Coursework due dates:

All coursework requirements and due dates are clearly stated in course syllabi. Coursework submitted after the due date, without prior approval by the Registrar and Academic Dean of a formal Request for Time Extension, will receive a grade of “F.” Requests for a Time Extension will be considered only in the following circumstances:

- the quality of prior coursework has been satisfactory;
- circumstances beyond the student’s control, such as an extended illness or death of a family member, make it impossible for the student to complete the coursework on time; and
- the student submits a Time Extension application to the Registrar on or before two weeks prior to the due date, as indicated in the course syllabus.

Parking, Directions, Accommodations

For hotel registrations contact Velma Warnock at vwarnock@auc-nuc.ca or 403-410-2938.

For Alliance Living Centre accommodations contact Daryn Wall, Campus Services at campusservices@auc-nuc.ca or 403-410-2920

If you have further questions or need more information please contact:

Registrar’s Office
6th floor, 833 – 4th Ave SW
Phone: 403-410-2905 Fax: 403-571-2556
Email: registrar@auc-nuc.ca

Course Objectives

- 1) To explore the theological basis for ministering to the family
- 2) To develop a personal philosophy of family ministry that can be applied to ministry
- 3) To identify the stages of the Family Life Cycle and determine how church ministry can be facilitated to meet the specific needs of each

- 4) To study various kinds of families in today's society and explore ways in which the church can minister to the special needs of each
- 5) To explore the social trends in society that affect families and identify practical ways to accept and adapt so that ministry is inclusive and would effectively reach people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- 6) To explore the impact of the challenges that face families today and identify ways in which the church can do better at ministering to families who are struggling

Required Textbooks

Balswick, Jack and Balswick, Judith. *Family A Christian Perspective on the Contemporary Home*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1999.

Friedman, Edwin. *Generation to Generation Family Process in Church and Synagogue*. New York: The Guildford Press, 1985.

May, Scottie, Posterski, Beth, Stonehouse, Catherine, Cannell, Linda *Children Matter – Celebrating Their Place in the Church, Family and Community*
Grand Rapids, Michigan: W.B. Eerdmans's Publishing, 2005

Course Requirements

- 1) *Class Attendance and Participation* (10%)
This class is designed to include lectures, class discussion, brainstorming, informal presentations, and student interaction. To prepare for the first class, research the internet to find churches that promote "Family Ministries." Have three-five examples of churches and be prepared to share their philosophy of ministry, ministry objectives, and the sorts of programs and ministries that those churches offer.

Part of this grade will be to come to the first class with a report of

- 2) *Reading Report and Commentary* (30%)
In the last class, students will be asked to submit a report of their reading of the required texts, a total of about 1000 pages. From the texts, you will choose three chapters from each book on which you will submit a commentary. For each chapter you will include the author's theses on that topic and your personal comments on the issue. Then, for each chapter, you will explain how the information you have read has helped you understand and/or deal with a real life situation. You are invited to engage the material in positive or negative ways. Your critical thinking should enhance the way you practically use the material. The commentary on each chapter should be about 350 words.
- 3) *Study of the Single Parent Family* (15%)

Single parent families are prevalent in contemporary society and in the church. In this study, students are expected to write a three-four page (double-spaced) paper exploring how the church has adapted its ministries to care for this large demographic. To get closer to the issues that face people in this situation, students are to interview a single parent in their church. Describe his/her circumstances. Specifically report how the church has and has not served this family well. Then present your own evaluation of how the church has handled this family and the challenges that the church faces in dealing with single parent families. Include in this explanation how attitudes toward this non-traditional family affect our actions. Finally, give some ideas/suggestions for how the church could better serve the single parent family.

4) *Study of the Blended Family* (15%)

With high divorce rates in contemporary culture both inside and outside of the church, blended families are another reality in the church. These families face a barrage of challenges much different than that of the single parent family. Do the same assignment (three-four pages; double-spaced) as for the single parent family, interviewing this time, a blended family. You can include both parents, childrens, and even grandparents for a thorough picture. Again, explore how churches have responded, your evaluation, and ideas.

5) *Study of Social Issues Facing Families* (15%)

Rising social issues challenge the church to be compassionate and caring, often in situations that are awkward and where judgmental and standoffish attitudes can surface. The most common problem is our lack of information regarding the situations. These would include pornography addiction, homosexuality, depression, and drug addiction. Other challenges include physical or learning disabilities like autism or dyslexia. Though they are not controversial, they require the church to be adaptable and act in responsible ways. Your assignment is to research through periodicals, texts, internet, and/or personal interviews, ONE issue that affects families and ultimately the way we minister to them. Though you may not be able to present conclusive answers, demonstrate that you have grappled with the topic. Explore the church's response as "the body of Christ" to this particular challenge to the family. The assignment should be three-four pages, double-spaced.

6) *Philosophy of Family Ministries – the Before and After* (15%)

Before you attend the first class, take some time to write up one or two paragraphs reflecting on your philosophy of family ministry. This can be based on your own experience, perceptions, and study of the Bible. After each weekend of classes, add a few more paragraphs of reflection. You will hopefully be formulating a more extensive philosophy of family ministry, which in turn should lead to more effective outcomes of church ministry. Do the same as you complete each of the above assignments. The grading of this two-three page report (double-spaced) will take into account, not just your actual philosophy of family ministry but also your movement and development from one point of view to another.

Remember, creativity in all the assignments is greatly rewarded.

Note: Please inform your interviewees that all will be kept confidential. However, the ideas they share may be presented in general to others as solutions to our questions and desire to make the church a more user-friendly entity.

Due date: All assignments are due **July 13, 2007**

Submission of Assignments:

Assignments can be emailed to: r_lihaven@hotmail.com
The assignments will be printed, graded and sent back to CTS.

Course Outline

Day 1: Please bring a picture of your own family for discussion purposes.

Topics to be covered during the week classes:

- Introduction to the course
- Theology of Family Ministries
- Discussion of Philosophies of Family Ministries
- Stages of the Family Life Cycle and How to do Ministry Within This Framework

- Ministering to Single Parent Families
- Challenges of the Blended Family
- Integration of the Disabled – a Biblical and Practical Response
- The Impact of Social Change on the Family
- Families in Conflict

IMPORTANT NOTE

Protection of Personal Information:

Personal information, that is, information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@auc-nuc.ca.