



AMBROSE

ED641-1 Strategies for Youth Ministry (Fall 2012)

Course Description

This course is an intensive and comprehensive study of the principles and the day to day practices of youth ministry. All course work will focus on the distinct skills necessary to develop and implement an effective, intentional, sustainable and balanced ministry.

Class Schedules

Class Times: 1-2:15 (Tues/Thurs)

Class Location: A2133

*This course is taught together with the Undergrad class

Instructor Information

Office: L2063

Email Address: dbrotherton@ambrose.edu

Office Phone: 403-410-2000 x6911

Required Textbooks

Fields, Doug. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*. Zondervan 1998

Lamport/Senter. *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church*. Zondervan 2001

DeVries, Mark. *Sustainable Youth Ministry*. InterVarsity press 2008

Geiger/Borton. *Simple Youth Ministry*. B&H Publishing 2009

Rainer/Borton. *Simple Church*. B&H publishing 2008

And 1 from the list of recommended textbooks below.

Recommended Textbooks *definitely worth reading these books!!

Fields, Doug. *The First Two Years of Youth Ministry*. Zondervan 2002

Yaconelli, Mark. *Contemplative Youth Ministry*. Zondervan 2006

Stanley, Andy & Hall, Stuart. *The Seven Checkpoints for Youth Leaders*. Seven Principles Every Teenager Needs To Know. Howard Books, New York. 2001.

Rice, Wayne. *Reinventing Youth Ministry (Again)*. IVP. Downers Grove, IL. 2010.

Olson, Ginny & Elliot, Diane & Work, Mike. *Youth Ministry Management Tools*. Youth Specialties/Zondervan. 2001

Attendance

Make Special Note of ALL YOUTH MINISTRY CLASSES Attendance Policy

In order to benefit from this course, each student is expected to attend and participate in all classes. Since this course is preparation for actually tasting what ministry will be like in the field, you are not allowed to miss any of the scheduled classes. For each missed class you must have a substitute attend the class for you. A student missing more than 10% of scheduled classes will not be able to receive a passing grade for the course. In the cases of severe or prolonged illness, or other extenuating circumstances, the Academic Dean may grant exceptions. (This is like getting fired for not doing your work; there will be no union to defend you in ministry)

AND,

In regards to late assignments... because this course is designed to prepare you for professional youth ministry or work and deadlines must be met in the professional field....

No preaching pastor can call in Sunday morning and say “can I have an extension?

My sermon isn’t quite ready because I lost my backpack.” Therefore, all assignments must be turned in on time on the assigned date. Any assignment turned in after the deadline will receive a ‘F’. BUT IT MUST STILL BE HANDED IN OR THE FINAL GRADE WILL BE “INCOMPLETE”.

Of course there are extenuating circumstances from time to time, and these may be discussed with your instructor.

Course Objectives

Building on the pre-requisite *Foundations of Youth Ministry*, this course takes all of that content and puts feet onto it. This is where the “Michelins meet the hi-way”, or where the “bologna hits the bread”. It centers on the underlying principles of doing day-to-day, week-to-week youth ministry. The course of study, lectures, reading and discussion will identify essential elements of a balanced youth ministry and explore the **implementation** of those elements. Special attention of church youth ministry resulting in strategies / ministry models, leadership issues and personal management will be presented with the goal of encouraging growth and nurturance of youth during their faith pilgrimage.

This course is about the practical realities of **DOING** youth ministry in the real world. The primary, overruling objective is that when this course has been completed upon the foundation of the prerequisite courses the student will have the tools to be an affective youth practitioner. We are not attempting to produce students who can talk about ministry or write about adolescent and family issues or think about philosophical ministry presuppositions. Our desire is to equip students to be in ministry. Who you are (the *being* part) is critical as you develop your way of *doing* ministry. Interacting with existing models and strategies will help YOU *become*.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student should be equipped to ...

- To have the ability to reflect theologically on ministry and life.
- To grasp and articulate a personal, Biblical philosophy of ministry.
- To structurally frame a balanced program for church or para-church youth ministry and family ministry based on an understanding the student, the community, contemporary family issues and a commitment to the mission of the church or organization.
- To examine various youth ministry models and develop skills to design a “customized” model according to the local needs of the youth group/church/community involved. To be able to analyze congregations and communities and build appropriate ministry forms.
- To understand the importance of strategy and to gain ability to strategize yourself.
- To project ways and means for maintaining a spirit of creativity and freshness in ministry so it can be maintained over the long haul.
- To plan and execute a variety of meaningful experiences (retreats, biblical and topical studies, parent ministry, effective outreach, effective service/mission projects, stewardship, discipleship, fun or play and social interaction) meant to disciple, evangelize, train in leadership and service the students of your ministry.
- To develop an approach to Christian Education that is appropriate for a local church.
- To develop the ability to prepare, organize and deliver a biblically sound basic scheme of teaching and discipleship formation using age-appropriate techniques and skills in culturally appropriate ways.
- To develop the ability to create and use appropriate ministry forms & models.
- Ability to assess and implement emerging age appropriate ministry approaches to ministry in light of enduring theological (Bible, doctrine, philosophy) and contextual (history, psychology, sociological) perspectives.
- Ability to prepare, organize and deliver a biblically sound scheme of administrative oversight.
- To develop a plan, strategy, vision and mission for youth ministry in which you will find yourself engaged within the first six months of employment.

Course Requirements

1. Reading & Reflection. (Value 20%)

Each to be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

All the required reading texts must be read in their entirety by the due date. We will be discussing the books in class and you will need to demonstrate that you read the book by your participation in the classroom discussions.

You are required to write a 1 page *reflection* on each book. *In this reflection please interact with what you learned*, don't tell me about the writing ability of the author.

Tell me what you see about yourself as a result of using the book 'as a mirror'.

Hint: Read these as if you were going to have a conversation about the content....

Due Dates:

Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church - Sept 18

Clearly state YOUR position in this reflection

Simple Church & Simple Student Ministry - Sept 25

Purpose Driven Youth Ministry - Oct 16

Sustainable Youth Ministry - Oct 30

And 1 from the list of recommended textbooks below Nov15

2. Philosophy of Ministry (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. You should have begun to work on this in Foundations class last semester. This will be uniquely yours and will include your unique approaches to the foundational stones discussed in class. Defined as: *A set of principles that determines WHY & HOW you will function in ministry*

Due: Sept 13

4. Description of a Discipled Student (DDP) (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. A DDP is a point form detailed description of a graduating high school student that is tracking well with God. Make sure you are detailed! Include things like: character, knowledge, devotional life, service, ministry, leadership, etc.

Due: Oct 2

5. Multi-year teaching rotation/cycle (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. This is a repeatable cycle/schedule for teaching/experiences that will cover all the things needed to effectively guide students toward the DDP. This needs to include 2 CYCLES of 3 years each.

Due: Oct 9

6. Five Year Plan (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. This starts with a detailed description of what the ministry will look like 5 years from now - - when all is running as you dream, under your leadership. This will be broken down into stages of implementation; working backwards from year five to year one. This plan will include ALL aspects of your ministry (worship, leadership, teaching, priorities, volunteers, small groups, etc). It should be easy to follow and demonstrate a building, flowing ministry.

Due: Oct 23

7. Ministry Year Long Calendar (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. Take all the assignments so far and turn YEAR ONE of your 5 year plan into an actual, very detailed calendar for the whole year. Make sure *every event and activity* is on there with time, cost, details, etc. Leave no questions un-answered... parents would get this and they should not have to wait or look or ask for more details. This must include the teaching as laid out in the first year of your teaching cycles.

Due: Nov 6

8. Ministry Year Budget (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. Take that year calendar you just made and break EVERY DETAIL down into an actual, very detailed budget for the whole year. Make sure every event and activity is on there with projected detailed costs (bus, food, kleenex, tips...) and all projected income... This will be the TOTAL of every penny that goes *in or out* for a whole year of your ministry. (Even every milkshakes you have with kids).

It will be presented in 3 sections:

Whole year projected expenses according to your year long calendar

Projected income from all sources

Where will that income come from?

Due: Nov 13

9. Ministry Promotional Piece (value 5%)

To be emailed to the professor prior to class on the due date.

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. In utilizing the reading, class discussion and lecture; design a FINISHED AND READY TO USE Youth Ministry public relations promotional piece that is reflective of your previous assignments: It should include information appropriate to your purpose for the piece!!! Example: A brochure would include the most important stuff from: Your **vision statement** for your youth ministry, Your **mission statement** for your youth ministry, Your components or **non-negotiable(s)** for your youth ministry (values), Your description of **what you are producing** in your youth ministry, Your ministry **strategy or weekly schedule** for youth ministry, Your brief **biography** of you with picture, a **brief description** of your Junior High program and Senior High program.

This piece is a finished product for distribution to teens, parents, B.O.E., District Superintendent or perhaps a potential website

Due: Nov 20

10. The Whole Everything (value 30%)

We will define this assignment and work through this in class. Now, put it all together into a binder that describes your entire youth ministry. All the assignments so far, into a single, reproducible binder that could be given to parents, elders, volunteers, etc. Include: short bio and description of mission, vision, values with your philosophy of ministry. A description and expectations for volunteers with an application form and signable covenant between a volunteer and you. Include other relevant material (anything in your resource file that would be good for a volunteer to have???) for your ministry overview.

This can be a printed document in a booklet or a PDF.

Due: Dec 4

Grading:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Reading Total | 20% |
| Philosophy of Ministry | 5% |
| DDP | 5% |
| multi-year teaching plan | 5% |
| 5 year plan | 5% |
| year calendar | 5% |
| budget | 5% |
| promo piece | 5% |
| the whole everything | 30% |
| attendance and participation | 15% |

The available letters for course grades are as follows:

| <u>Letter Grade</u> | <u>%</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|---------------------|----------|---|
| A+ | 97-100 | |
| A | 93-97 | Excellent (make me say 'wow!') |
| A- | 90-93 | |
| B+ | 87-90 | |
| B | 83-87 | Good (better than I expect) |
| B- | 80-83 | |
| C+ | 77-80 | |
| C | 73-77 | Satisfactory (meets my basic expectations) |
| C- | 70-73 | |
| D+ | 67-70 | |
| D | 60-67 | Minimal Pass (you did the work; but it isn't good enough) |
| F | 0-59 | Failure (you didn't do the necessary work) |

Important Notes:

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. 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@ambrose.edu.

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean.

Students are advised to retain this syllabus for their records.

Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student's registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements in the current academic calendar and the student handbook that deal with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.