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YM 510 Foundations of Youth Ministry

Helen Musick

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Foundations of Youth Ministry
YM 510
Fall 2001

Instructor:

Helen Musick

Office location FM 106

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Office Hours – Tuesday and Thursday 9-11 a.m.

Welcome! I'm excited you have registered for YM510. We will be gathering together for the purpose of developing a foundation for effective ministry to a unique group of people, teenagers. While our purpose is to develop as youth ministers, my main goal is that the Holy Spirit meets us and changes us from the inside out, making us more the men and women He's dreamed us to be.

Course Location:

SH 408 Wednesday's 8:00-10:45 a.m.

Course Description:

Foundations of Youth Ministry explores the roles and responsibilities of the youth minister. This role is grounded in a theology of youth ministry aided by studies in the formative needs of youth, developmentally and spiritually. Special attention will be given to ministry through facilitating and empowering staff and coordinating a multidimensional youth ministry, program and resource development and selection.

Course Objectives:

Students who complete this course with competence will be able to:

1. Provide a framework for youth ministry that is grounded in biblical theology and ecclesiology.
2. Understand developmentally the "critical years" of adolescent from existing theoretical models with a view toward how these years shape one's identity and faith commitments:
 - A. Identify the crucial issues confronting youth in our culture
 - B. Distinguish one's own identity issues as distinct from those of the target population and establish anchor points for one's own spiritual formation.
3. Identify and critique models and styles of youth ministry:
 - A. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of each approach
 - B. Develop a capacity to holistically evaluate an existing youth program.
 - C. Seek designs that integrate youth students into the intergenerational community of faith

4. Acquire the skills necessary to be effective in youth ministry through developing strategies for recruiting, training and motivating lay volunteers.
5. Create habits of reflecting on one's own journey, call, and spiritual formation with places of accountability and with attentiveness to the Spirit of Christ.
6. Gain an acquaintance with resources available for equipping ministry enhancement.

Required Reading:

The Godbearing Life, Dean and Foster

Starting Right, Dean, Clark, Rahn

Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church, Senter, Black, Clark, Nel

The Return of the Prodigal, Nouwen

Course Requirements:

Attendance – Class attendance is required. Absence from class is to excused and should be done so through written notice.

Participation – Each week 20-30 minutes of each class will be given to discussion of reading material. Different groups will be given the opportunity to lead the discussion. If you are absent you will be required to turn in a 2 pages summary of the reading.

Guidelines:

- At the beginning of class you will turn in 3 questions that you have created as a result of the assigned readings for that day. I will choose from those questions the small group questions that will be discussed, debated, and/or presented.
 - These questions will be graded as follows:
 - ✓ - A rehashing of facts - *worth 75 points*
 - ✓ An understanding of issues - *worth 85 points*
 - ✓ + An integration of information and life experience
Pushes your understanding of the material - *worth 95 points*
 - Participation in the small group will also be graded. A grade will be given by your group at midterm and at the end of term. The same "check" grading system will apply.
- (100 points)

The Return of the Prodigal – Write a 2-3 page reflection on this book.

- Report personal life experiences that the material recalled for you. On your life journey when have you identified with the younger son, the older brother and the Father?
- What are the implications of this book and the reflections it provoked in you for your personal relationships, your spiritual journey, your ministry?
- Evaluation will consist primarily of how well the material was allowed to impact you and inform ministry projections.

(100 points)

Audio/Video Assignment – Select four tapes, audio and/or video tapes. Prepare an outline of the contents of the tapes and a one paragraph critique. A large selection of

audio tapes is available through the professors office and can be checked out at her faculty secretary's desk.
(50 points)

Integrative Paper – “Practical Applications of a Theology of Youth Ministry”

- Biblical and Theological Foundation – *What is the Biblical basis and theological grounding from which you do you ministry?* Include:
 - Mission statement for your ministry
 - Passage of Scripture that captures for you “what it’s all about”
 - Theological rationale that defines the purposes that drive your youth ministry
- Model and Philosophy of Youth Ministry
 - Define the philosophy of youth ministry
 - Describe the model of youth ministry
 - Things to consider and respond to:
 - *Why you believe this model would be effective in this locale?*
 - *How does your model reflect the God Bearing practices?*
 - *How does this model reflect sensitivity to the developmental issues pertinent to your targeted age group?*
 - *What will be your strategy or reaching the unchurched in a postmodern world?*
 - *What are the programmatic levels that encourage deepening discipleship, leadership, and missional opportunities?*
 - *Describe your plan for utilizing volunteers.*
 - *What are your particular gifts and graces for ministry? Why are you qualified for this position?*

(150 points)

Midterm Exam – The mid term exam will be a responsive essay exam to the Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church. Details to be announced.

(100 points)

Grading –

500-465	A	384-365	C
464-450	A-	364-350	C-
449-435	B+	349-335	D+
434-415	B	334-315	D
414-400	B-	314-300	D-
399-385	C+	299-	F

Please note the following definition of grades as specified in the ATS catalogue:

A = Exceptional work: outstanding or surpassing achievement of course objectives

B = Good work: substantial achievement of course objectives

C = Acceptable work: essential achievement of course objectives

D = Marginal work: minimal or inadequate achievement of course objectives

F = Unacceptable work: failure of course objectives

Late papers should be turned into the faculty secretary and will result in a lowered grade. (10 points per day.)

Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment
September 5	Introduction, Why We Do This: A Heart for Teenagers		
September 12	Developing a Theology of YM	<u>Starting Right</u> , pages 15-40 <u>Godbearing</u> , Intro and Section 1	Reading questions
September 19	Developmental Perspectives on the Adolescent Years	<u>The Return of the Prodigal</u> (entire book) <u>Starting Right</u> , pp. 41-62	Paper: The Prodigal
September 26	Models of Youth Ministry, Philosophy of Youth Ministry	<u>Starting Right</u> , pp. 105-166 <u>Godbearing</u> , Section 2	Reading questions
October 3		<u>Four Views of Youth Ministry</u> , sections 1 and 2	Reading questions
October 10		<u>Four Views of Youth Ministry</u> , sections 3 and 4	Reading questions
October 17	Youth Ministry in a Postmodern World	<u>Starting Right</u> , pp.63-76	Mid Term Exam
October 24			Reading questions
October 30			Reading questions
November 7			Audio Tapes
November 14			Reading questions
November 21			Reading questions
December 5			Integrative Paper