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CD 691 Discipleship Development Through Residential Camping

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PROSPECTUS: CD 691 DISCIPLESHIP DEVELOPMENT THROUGH RESIDENTIAL CAMPING

Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390
Faculty Supervisor, Chris Kiesling

DESCRIPTION: *An experience/training course on site in a church-sponsored residential camp for families/children/youth in which the student has responsibilities for counseling and teaching tasks, under trained supervision. The course aims at approximately ten days of camping experience.*

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this course the student will:

1. Be able to design and implement effective camping experiences for church or agency-based ministries from the prospective position of camp director/seminar leader/counselor/ or youth minister.
2. Develop a deep appreciation for the revelation of God through creation and grow an initial understanding of self as co-revelator with God.
3. Faithfully exegete teenagers and their culture for the purpose of reaching them for Christ in their own context.
4. Deepen an awareness of the developmental processes at work in adolescents and how camp curriculums can create the context for faith building and transformational decision-making.
5. Develop skills in counseling and discipling teens in short-term contact settings.
6. Broaden their knowledge of resources available for conducting effective recreation ministries.

REQUIRED TEXTS

HOW TO USE CAMPING EXPERIENCES IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION by Stephen Venable and Donald Joy - a proposal for future use in recreating meaningful camping experiences

EMPOWER YOUR KIDS TO BE ADULTS by Donald Joy - a reflection on the need for and how to's of rites of passage

WINDOWS OF THE SOUL by Ken Gire - a personal reflection paper on this devotional book that really touches the heart

RECLAIMING OUR PRODIGAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS by Larson.

OTHER REQUIRED READING

There are four articles that Steve and Cindy Venable wrote as co-directors of a camp that have been a part of the CD695 curriculum in the past. I will attempt to mail these to you (please contact me if you haven't received them by mid-June 17 and make sure they got addressed to the right place). They are also available at the library reference desk along with a bibliography of related resources.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

Papers for this class consist of responses for each of the required texts, a summary paper integrating knowledge of the four selected articles, and an evaluative personal reflection paper after the camping experience. Following are guidelines for each of these assignments and their weight for the course grade.

1. (15 points) You have just been asked by your conference camping committee to serve as director for one of their youth camps for the next summer. Utilize your reading of HOW TO USE CAMPING EXPERIENCES IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION to conceptualize how you would proceed. Address such issues as the purpose of the camp, the format/schedule you would propose, what you hope the youth would experience and learn while at camp, what kind of leaders you would want to recruit and how you might train them, and how camping experiences fit in with the overall ministry of a church. If you can make it happen ask the camp director for a lunch time or an hour during break to talk you through the history of the camp and what they have learned since being directors. Report any insights in your paper.
2. (15 points) EMPOWER YOUR KIDS TO BE ADULTS is filled with important and far-reaching concepts that touch everything from unpacking your own family history, to mentoring youth, to creating communities of faith that give adult responsibility to youth rather than perpetuate adolescence. In this paper spend at least one page responding to the book on each of the following levels (i.e. the paper should be at least three pages in total):
 - Name specific ideas, concepts, or events that "leaped out" at you and articulate why you believe this impacted you as significant.
 - Report how this material connected with you personally, what life events came to focus for you in reading the material, and/or any emotional responses you had to the text.
 - Project how this material will be useful to you in the future. What decisions/commitments do you need to make personally or in ministry because of having read this material?(NOTE - If you have completed this reading/assignment for another class either select a different set of concepts to write on or see the professor regarding a substitute text)
3. (15 points) RECLAIMING OUR PRODIGAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS is a comprehensive look at connecting with unchurched youth. Write a three to four page paper describing whether camping ministry could and should be used for the purpose of reaching these youth. If you believe it can be an avenue for this, what would be key in making it happen and how could this best be facilitated ? Identify one or two youth who you have known and/or currently know who seem to fit the description of a "prodigal son or daughter" (although I prefer these to be personal acquaintances, you may use movie stars or television personalities if they better help you address this question). Discuss in your paper how this book might suggest that you reach them.

4. (15 points) WINDOWS OF THE SOUL is intended to be a text to nurture your spiritual life, enhance your appreciation of being in creation, and touch a different part of you than is often focused on in seminary education. I anticipate this text moving you in some way or another and am interested in having you respond freely to how the Holy Spirit may use it in your life. If you like to journal and it provokes a desire to write then do so; if it stimulates sermon ideas or illustrations, report on how you used the material in preaching or teaching; if it recalls certain memories or renews some dimension of your spiritual life, make a personal response; if it inspires you to share part of it with a significant person, write about that experience or copy the letters or e-mails you created; if there were just certain passages you loved, recount them and indicate why they meant something to you; or if you think it was a waste to cut down a tree for this drivel, then critique the author for his wastefulness.
5. (15 points) In a single two to three page paper integrate your reflections from the four articles you were mailed. What did you find instructive about these articles? Why do you think these represent BIG issues for these veteran camp directors? If you were to write a similar article what would be its thrust? What commitments did the articles call you to as a future leader of camping ministries?
6. (25 points) A good portion of your grade comes from your actual participation in the camp itself - directing the small groups, counseling at the altar, engaging in transformational conversations with the youth. For your final paper write several pages on what this experience meant to you and taught you about the significance of camping ministry. You may wish to focus on a particular event that occurred on the trip, a relationship that became important, a new direction in your sense of calling, or how this experience fits in the whole of your seminary experience. Evaluate your own participation throughout the course and suggest a final grade for yourself.

DUE DATES

If at all possible the first three written assignments and the paper integrating the articles should be completed and mailed to the professor prior to the beginning of the camp you are attending. The remainder of the written assignments are due by August 16th. If this presents a problem for you call me asap to work out an alternative. SPO these completed assignments to Chris or slide them under his office door.

Call me at 858-2382 or e-mail if you have questions or run into difficulties.