



Introduction to Youth Ministry
 MIN 124
 Southwestern College Professional Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. Course Catalog Description

In this course, learners will explore foundational concepts and skills related to youth ministry. The course engages the learner in constructing a basic philosophy of youth ministry, and observation in local church and/or para-church youth ministry settings.

II. Required and Supplementary Instructional Materials

Cole, Cameron and Nielson, Jon. (2016). *Gospel centered youth ministry: A practical guide*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway. 978-1433546952

DeVries, Mark. (2008). *Sustainable youth ministry: Why most youth ministry doesn't last and what your church can do about it*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press. 978-0830833610

Powell, Kara, Mulder, Jake, and Griffin, Brad. (2016). *Growing young: Six essential strategies to help young people discover and love your church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 978-0801019258

III. Course Learning Outcomes

Course learning outcomes describe the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes that learners gain as the result of a particular learning experience. Southwestern College Professional Studies has learning outcomes specific to each program of study that are in line with the institutional outcomes of critical thinking, ethical reasoning, leadership, communication, and career preparation. Course outcomes support program outcomes and are listed below.

Upon successfully completing this course, the learner will be able to:

1. Analyze key elements of youth culture and their impact on youth ministry practices.
2. Assess the inherent connection between personal spirituality and effectiveness in ministry.
3. Explain theory and practice in youth ministry.
4. Describe the roles and responsibilities of the youth minister.
5. Develop a comprehensive philosophy of youth ministry.

Unit	Objectives	Topics Covered	Course Outcomes Supported
1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline a base theology of youth ministry. 2. Distinguish between common approaches to youth ministry. 3. Identify a set of values for youth ministers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theological Foundations • Introduction to Systems • Ministry Values 	1: 2, 4 2: 1, 3, 4 3: 4, 5

2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain the intersection of relationship building and organizational structures. 2. Identify the fallacies of Moralistic Therapeutic Deism. 3. Articulate the significance of empathy in youth ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Spiritual Relationships • Structures that Shape Ministry • Empathy and Misinformed Theology 	1: 1, 3, 4 2: 1, 2 3: 1, 4, 5
3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate a theology of relationship development. 2. Manage expectations placed upon youth ministers. 3. Identify steps toward establishing a warm ministry climate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Community • Establishing Climate • Managing Expectations 	1: 1, 2 2: 4, 5 3: 1, 3, 4
4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relate the dynamics of ministry in the midst of overall church structure. 2. Summarize key values and components in an overview of youth ministry. 3. Explain the relational role of youth ministers in sustainable ministries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Spiritual Supports • Establishing Priorities 	1: 4, 5 2: 3, 4, 5 3: 1, 3, 5
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine real-world youth ministry in action. 2. Evaluate ministry programs for effectiveness. 3. Point out the elements of spiritual vitality necessary for healthy ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ends and Means • Spiritual Boundaries • Healthy Spiritual Practices 	1: 1, 3, 4, 5 2: 1, 3, 4 3: 2
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage distractions and obstacles in youth ministry. 2. Assess logistical priorities in common ministry activities. 3. Construct a comprehensive philosophy of youth ministry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical Activity Considerations • Managing Barriers and Distractions • Establishing Strategies 	1: 3, 4 2: 3, 4 3: 5

At the end of the course, learners may vary in their ability to achieve these outcomes and unit objectives. You are more likely to achieve these only if you attend class and/or online activities as required by the syllabus, complete the requirements for all assignments to the best of your ability, participate actively in class activities and group work as directed, and study diligently for exams.

IV. Course Policies

Students are expected to read and abide by the course policies located in the instructor-specific syllabus in the blackboard course.

V. Course Requirements

Requirements	Number of Assignments	Points Possible	Percent of Grade
Discussions	6	180	18%
Writing Assignments (Units 1-5)	5	350	35%
Presentation (Unit 4)	1	150	15%
Mastery Assignment: Philosophy of Youth Ministry (Unit 6)	1	320	32%
Total Points		1000	100%

VI. Course at a Glance

Unit	Graded Work Due	Reading/Viewing	Unit Learning Objectives Supported
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion (see course site for posting deadlines) Writing Assignment: Resource Assessment, due Sunday by 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cole, Forward, Intro, Chapters 1-2 DeVries, Intro, Chapters 1-4 Powell, Chapters 1-2 Trueblood article, "3 Elements of a Healthy Student Ministry" (2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2, 3 1
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Writing Assignment: Cultural Values and Their Influence, due Sunday by 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cole, Chapters 3-4 DeVries, Chapter 5 Powell, Chapters 3-4 Strickland presentation, "Empathy and Millennials" (2017) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2, 3 1
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Writing Assignment: Managing Expectations, due Sunday by 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cole, Chapters 5-6 DeVries, Chapters 6-7, 12 Powell, Chapter 5 Video, "Helping Parents Become Spiritual Leaders: Doug Fields" (2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 3 2
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Writing Assignment: Understanding Discipleship, due Sunday by 11:59 pm CT Presentation: Critical Elements of Youth Ministry, due by Sunday at 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cole, Chapters 7-8 DeVries, Chapter 10, Epilogue Powell, Chapter 6 Video, "Integrating Youth into the Full Body of Christ - Rev. Mark DeVries" (2014) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 2 3 2
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Writing Assignment: Expanding Experiences, due Sunday by 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cole, Chapter 9 DeVries, Chapters 8-9, 11 Powell, Chapter 7 McCann article, "3 Ways to Stay Spiritually Healthy in Youth Ministry" (2013) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 1, 2
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion Mastery Writing Assignment: Philosophy of Youth Ministry, due Sunday by 11:59 pm CT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cole, Chapters 10-14 DeVries, Chapter 13 Powell, Chapter 8 Video, "Caring for All and Connecting with A Few by Doug Fields" (2015) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1, 2 3

VII. Other Policies and Requirements

Follow this link to the Southwestern College Professional Studies [Standard Syllabus](#) in Blackboard. You may be required to log in.