



PRAIRIE COLLEGE

ONLINE EDUCATION SYLLABUS FOR YO 151 INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH MINISTRY

Edition 1, Published 2018

3 Credit Hours

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to contemporary youth ministry. Students will examine youth culture, various models of youth ministry, the biblical and theological foundations for reaching and disciplining today's youth as well as a short study on the history of youth ministry. The areas of programming, teaching, recruiting, volunteers, administration, developing relationships with students, and personal care in youth ministry will also be covered.

No prerequisites required.

II. COURSE RATIONALE

Youth ministry is as diversified and complex as the youth culture it seeks to serve. The challenge of understanding today's teens and providing responsive, relational ministry in urban, rural, church and para-church contexts is a formidable one. This course will help the future youth worker have a better understanding of today's youth and the local church. It will also help you develop a biblical and a philosophical foundation for relevant and relational youth ministry.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

After completing this course you should be able to do the following:

1. Develop a biblical/theological and philosophical basis for youth ministry
2. Explore several different philosophies of youth ministries and be able to articulate the strengths and weaknesses of each
3. Develop an understanding of the needs of this generation of teenagers
4. Recognize what God is doing in other countries in the area of youth ministry
5. Realize the importance of volunteers and develop resources for recruiting and training volunteers
6. Identify the steps of how to start a youth ministry
7. Be challenged to consider full time youth ministry
8. Analyze the importance of ministering to teenagers

IV. COURSE CONTENT

1. Visionary Repercussions: Communicating the Big Picture of Youth Ministry
*Developing and Articulating Your Vision
2. To Understand or to Underestimate: Unleashing Your Generation X Ministry

- *Understanding Generation X and Millennial Kids
- 3. Ministry Manifest: Why You Do What You Do
 - *Developing a youth ministry philosophy
- 4. Did It, Done It, Doing it Again, Done It Before: The How's of Youth Ministry
 - *Developing your youth ministry strategy
- 5. Develop an Understanding of What God is Doing Through Youth Around the World
- 6. Artificial Respiration for Dead Volunteers: Recruiting, Training and Motivating a Youth Volunteer Staff
- 7. Relational Boundaries: Where to Draw the Line in Staff and Ministry Relationships
- 8. Look at the Importance of Staff Relationships; especially between Senior Pastor and Youth Pastor
- 9. Balancing Marriage and Ministry: How to Keep from Either Divorcing Your Wife or Deserting the Church
- 10. It's What is Inside That Counts: Pastoral Integrity
- 11. Spiritual Self-Perpetuation: How to Keep the Fire Alive
- 12. Other Current Hot Topics as they Surface

V. REQUIRED TEXTS

Johnston, Kurt & Tim LeVert. *The 9: Best Practices for Youth Ministry*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 2010.

Oestreicher, Mark. *Youth Ministry 3.0*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2008.

Yaconelli, Mike. *The Core Realities of Youth Ministry: Nine Biblical Principles that Mark Healthy Youth Ministries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Textbook Reading Assignments (20%)

Completing the assigned readings from the textbooks—*Youth Ministry 3.0*, *The Core*, *The 9: Best Practices*—is essential for each session. For each book, you will be required to write three highlights and one question you have about something the author said. You will also be required to state truthfully how much of each book you read. (Remember, God knows the truth).

Length: 750-1,000 words each

Due in Sessions 3, 9, and 16.

2. Imagining Youth Ministry 4.0 Paper (10%)

The book *Youth Ministry 3.0* was written about 10 years ago and I would like you to reflect on what you have read and design what you think youth ministry today should look like and feel like. In essence, design Youth Ministry 4.0. What could or should it look like?

Length: 400-500 words

Due in Session 3.

3. Out of Country Interview Assignment (10%)

Interview by phone or by email a youth pastor working in a country outside of North America. Use the ethnographic questions provided on page 5 of this syllabus. What I want you to do with

this assignment is discover how this pastor does youth ministry in their country and setting. Reflect on how that is similar or different from your experience. Simply write the question and then write their response (you can cut and paste this part and it can be in point form). Then write a 200-word response to what you discovered. See the video in Session 2 for more explanation.

Length: 500

Due in the last session.

4. Online Discussion Forums, and Text Box

There are four Discussion Forums in this course. For each of these, I want you to post your response to the questions asked. There is a fifth post you will make privately, just to me, in a text box. These posts are not graded but are necessary in order for you to pass this course.

Due in Sessions 1, 6, 7, 10, and 11 (Session 11 is the private post).

5. Youth Culture in Your Country of Origin (25%)

Select a specific youth-related topic and research the adolescent scene in your country thoroughly to help us create a current “snapshot” of those youth and the issues they live with.

Some topics you might consider include:

adolescents and religion, aboriginal youth issues, self-injury, suicide, video games, adolescent sexuality, education, young offenders, crime and violence, drug use/abuse/attitudes, fads and fashions, smoking, drinking, adolescent consumerism, sexual abuse, family issues, adolescents and the media (or some aspect of the media), etc.

Use books, journals, the Internet, (for example Stats Canada

http://www.statcan.gc.ca/eng/subjects/children_and_youth, or U.S. Youth

<https://youth.gov/youth-topics>) or other reliable sources.

You should include at least 10 significant and current statistics related to your topic that will help us understand the life of teens in your country. If using the Internet do NOT simply print the web page; instead find the important statistics and present them in a simple, straightforward, and readable fashion.

Write a 2,500-word paper reflecting on what you have discovered about your topic, and a 500-word summary of how you would apply it as a youth worker to help solve the issues you have researched.

Length: 3,000 words total

Due in Session 14.

6. Ethnographic Report (15%)

Attend and evaluate two youth Bible study nights that you have not previously been involved in. Take note of how the evening is run and comment on the effectiveness of the programming. At the end of the evening, interview the Youth Pastor and record their responses to the Ethnographic Questions on page 5 of this syllabus. Write a 3-page reflection on your findings.

Important: One evaluation should be from a larger city church (a youth group with at least 50 members), and the other should be a more rural location (a youth group of 15-20 members). Contact the professor if you are not able to travel to an appropriate location, and he will work out an alternative assignment with you.

Length: 750 words
Due in Session 7.

7. Final Exam (20%)

The exam is based on the textbook readings. It will be one hour and will consist of 46 true and false and multiple choice questions.

The exam must be written under the supervision of a proctor, i.e. an exam supervisor. The proctor must be a responsible adult with a position such as a pastor, chaplain, church leader, administrator, school teacher, or college professor. The proctor cannot be another student, your spouse, or related to you. Send the name, position, and email address of your proposed proctor to the Online Education office (online.ed@prairie.edu) **one week** before you wish to write your exam. After your proctor is approved, he or she will be sent instructions and the exam password.

Graded exams are not available for review; only exam grades will be available to students. If you have specific questions about your grade you are welcome to contact your instructor or the Online Education office.

VII. COURSE EVALUATION

Textbook Reading Assignments	20%
Imagining Youth Ministry 4.0 Paper	10%
Out of Country Interview Assignment	10%
Online Discussion Forums & Text Box	Required
Youth Culture in Your Country of Origin	25%
Ethnographic Report	15%
Final Exam	<u>20%</u>
	=100%

VIII. COURSE PROTOCOLS

1. Assignment Format

- Include a cover page with assignment name, course title and number, assignment due date and date submitted.
- Please **place your name at the end** of the assignment.
- All assignments are to be typed in 12-point readable font (e.g. Times New Roman or its equivalent). Please do not use script or artistic fonts.
- Margins should be set to 1 inch on all sides and paragraphs should be double-spaced.
- Use correct spelling and grammar.
- Pages should be numbered, beginning with the first page of text.
- Proper quotation of sources must be utilized where appropriate. (I prefer footnotes over

endnotes.)

- Please adhere to the recommended length of assignments; marks will be deducted if assignments are exceedingly longer or shorter than the suggested length.
- My timeline for grading and assignment feedback is 7-10 days. I will endeavour to respond to student communications within 2 days, excluding weekends, holidays, and vacation time.

2. Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. In college courses, we are continually engaging with other people's ideas: we read them in texts, hear them in lecture, discuss them in class, and incorporate them into our own writing. As a result, it is very important that we give credit where it is due. Plagiarism includes turning in as your own work any drafts, papers, or homework that incorporates any ideas or actual writing done by others (or from the Internet) without acknowledging the source you used. A student found guilty of academic misconduct may lose part or all of the term marks for the course. Please see the current College Academic Guide for more details (<https://prairie.edu/current-students/registrars-office/>).

3. Grading and Response Time

My timeline for grading and assignment feedback is 7-10 days. I will endeavour to respond to student communications within 2 days, excluding weekends, holidays, and vacation time. The following Prairie College grading scale applies to all written assignments.

Letter Grade	Number Grade	Rating	Point Value
A+	90-100		4.0
A	85-89	Excellent	4.0
A-	80-84		3.7
B+	77-79		3.3
B	73-76	Good	3.0
B-	70-72		2.7
C+	67-69		2.3
C	63-66	Satisfactory	2.0
C-	60-62		1.7
D+	55-59		1.3
D	50-54	Poor	1.0
F	0-49	Failure	0.0
P	50 or above	Pass	
AU	-----	Audit	
I	-----	Incomplete	
W	-----	Withdrew	

Numerical course grades are not rounded.

IX. ETHNOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

1. What is your Mission?
(Why are you in ministry? What drives you?)
2. What is your Vision?
(What do you want to accomplish in your youth ministry?)
3. What is your Strategy for reaching students? (How do you want to do it?)
 - A. How do you evangelize them?
 - B. How do you disciple them?
 - C. How do you lead them in worship?
 - D. How do you integrate them into the church?
 - E. Other
4. What is your Philosophy?
(I.e., you have a sports ministry. Why? What is your thinking behind it?)
5. Church budget
(What amount do you need to function? How much does your church value this ministry?)
6. How do you interface with families?
7. How do you interface with your community?
(in-grown or outreach oriented?)
8. What does your ministry week (schedule) look like?
9. How do you handle tough situations?
(I.e. divorce, suicide, and disruptive influences)
Counseling?
10. How do you find your resources?
 - A. Materials
 - B. Lesson plans
 - C. Leadership
 - D. Volunteers (regular, event)
 - E. Other

X. Course Outline

Session	Reading and Viewing	Assignments Due
Course Intro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Course Introduction video ▪ RV Movie Trailer video 	
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Youth Ministry 3.0</i>, Chapters 1 & 2 ▪ “Don’t Leave Home Without Your Map” Article (PDF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Article Response” Forum Post
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Youth Ministry 3.0</i>, Chapters 3 & 4 ▪ Out of Country Interview video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find someone to interview for Out of Country Interview Assignment
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Youth Ministry 3.0</i>, Chapters 5 & 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook Assignment: <i>Youth Ministry 3.0</i> ▪ Imagining Youth Ministry 4.0 Paper
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Core</i>, Chapters 1 & 2 ▪ “What is this Book?” videos 	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Core</i>, Chapters 3, 4 & 5 ▪ “Dangerous Wonders” video 	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Core</i>, Chapter 6 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Youth Ministry Diversity” Forum Post
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Core</i>, Chapters 7 & 8 ▪ “Sacred Pathways” video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Sanctuary” Forum Post ▪ Ethnographic Report
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Core</i>, Chapter 9 ▪ “Cooking with AI” video 	
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Core</i>, Chapter 10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Textbook Assignment: <i>The Core</i>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Wonder Years” video ▪ “Marshmallow Guns” video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “The Wonder Years” handout (don’t need to hand in) ▪ “Wonder Years” Forum Post
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Dead Leader Running” video ▪ Summary video ▪ <i>9 Best Practices</i>, Chapter 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Dead Leader Running” handout (don’t need to hand in) ▪ “7 Deadly Soul Killers” Private Text Box Post
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>9 Best Practices</i>, Chapters 2 & 3 ▪ “Cooking with AI” video 	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>9 Best Practices</i>, Chapter 4 	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>9 Best Practices</i>, Chapters 5 & 6 ▪ “Prayer” video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Culture in Your Country of Origin

15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>9 Best Practices</i>, Chapters 7 & 8 ▪ “The Three R’s” video ▪ “DISC Survey” video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DISC Survey
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>9 Best Practices</i>, Chapter 9 ▪ “Building Community” video 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Building Community” handout (don’t need to hand in) ▪ Review all course materials to prepare for exam ▪ Textbook Assignment: <i>9 Best Practices</i>
Interview & Final		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Out of Country Interview ▪ Final Exam ▪ Course Evaluation

XI. COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Youth Worker Journal*. Nashville, TN: Salem Publishing, published bi-monthly.