



**COURSE SYLLABUS FOR
YO 460 TOPICS IN YOUTH MINISTRY
Edition 1, Published 2019**

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3 credit hours

I. Course Description:

This course is designed to cover a variety of topics that a person going into full-time ministry will encounter. Some examples are leadership development, staff dynamics, being a team player, and leading and training others. Students will also complete a research project of their choosing.

II. Course Rationale:

This course will prepare you to be an effective youth pastor in a local church or para-church organization. You will be able to identify your leadership style, learn what it takes to be a good youth pastor and team member, as well as the pitfalls of ministry to be aware of.

III. Course Objectives:

1. Realize the importance of leadership development
2. Identify the key aspects of leadership
3. Demonstrate what it means to lead from the “second chair”
4. Understand what it means to be a team player
5. Put together a youth budget that fits with the student’s personal philosophy of youth ministry
6. Identify several different ways in which a person can raise funds to help his or her youth ministry dreams come true
7. Realize what it takes to be in youth ministry both today and long term
8. Know how to handle discouragement and avoid burn-out

IV. Required Textbooks:

Bonem, Mike and Roger Patterson. *Leading from the Second Chair*. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco, CA., 2005.

Fields, Doug. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*. Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI., 2002.

V. Performance Evaluation:

Course Outcome	Requirement	Weight
1,2,3,4	<i>Leading from the Second Chair</i> book report	20%
1,2,4,7,8	<i>Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry</i> book report	20%
7	Major Research Paper	40%
2,4,5,6	Pastoral Interview	20%

VI. Course Requirements:

1. Textbook Review of *Leading from the Second Chair* – 20%

In this review, I want you to write a reflection of 400 words on each of the paradoxes, and 100 words at the end of each reflection on how you have seen this played out in a real-life setting, or how you could see this played-out in your own life. Therefore you should have a total of 1500 words for this assignment. State truthfully how much of the book you have read.

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

2. Textbook Review of *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry* – 20%

In this review, I want you to pick 5-7 topics that stood out to you and reflect on how you might use them in ministry. Next, select 2-3 things that you disagree with and explain why. The total word count for this assignment should be between 800-1000 words.

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

3. Major Research Paper – 40%

Select a topic of interest you have in youth ministry, and complete an in-depth study on it. Submit your findings in a 1200-1500 word document. Share your findings in the form of a research paper. Cite your resources, statistical sites, YouTube clips, books, and magazines or articles.

Some topics that may be of interest to you: Depression among teenagers, working with multiple staff at a large church, marriage and ministry, effects of parental divorce on teenagers, salaries in ministry, building a team. If you have any questions, please contact the course instructor.

This assignment is worth 40% of your final grade.

4. Pastoral Interview – 20%

Interview two pastors using the questions provided in the Appendix. State the question, and then summarize the pastor's response to each question in 75 words or less.

This assignment is worth 20% of your final grade.

VII. Academic Policies:

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is defined in Prairie’s Academic Guide as “Presenting or submitting another person’s work as the student’s own” and is treated very seriously. Please see the Academic Guide for more information about Prairie’s definition and response to plagiarism at <https://prairie.edu/current-students/registrars-office/>.

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.

Prairie College Grading Scale:

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	-----	Pass	
AU	-----	Audit	
I	-----	Incomplete	
W	-----	Withdrew	

Course grades are not rounded.

Assignment Format

1. Include a cover page with assignment name, course title and number, and date submitted.
2. Please place your name at the end of the assignment.
3. All assignments are to be typed in 12-point readable font (e.g. Times New Roman).
4. Paragraphs should be double-spaced and margins should be set to 1 inch on all sides.

VIII. Course Schedule:

Course Section	Reading and Viewing	Assignments
#1 Course Introduction	Watch the Course Introduction video	
#2 <i>Leading from the Second Chair</i>	Read chapters 1-4 of <i>Leading from the Second Chair</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters	Share your thoughtful response to the forum question
#3 Paradoxes	Read chapters 5-7 of <i>Leading from the Second Chair</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters Watch the Instructor's video on <i>Leading from the Second Chair</i>	Share your thoughtful response to the forum question
#4 Dreaming, Leaving the Second Chair	Read chapters 8-10 of <i>Leading from the Second Chair</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters Watch the Instructor's video about the Major Research Paper	Share your thoughtful response to the forum question Complete and submit your Textbook Review of <i>Leading from the Second Chair</i>
#5 The Five Levels of Leadership	Watch "The Five Levels of Leadership" by John C. Maxwell	Fill out the handout which accompanies John Maxwell's video
#6 Dead Leader Running	Read chapters 1-3 of <i>Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters	Share your thoughtful response to the forum question

	Watch Wayne Cordeiro's "Dead Leader Running" video	
#7 Parents, Conflict, Students	<p>Read chapters 4-6 of <i>Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters</p> <p>Watch the Instructor's video about Leadership</p>	Submit your Major Research Paper
#8 Volunteers and Recruitment	<p>Read chapters 7-9 of <i>Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters</p> <p>Watch the Instructor's video about Volunteers and Recruitment</p>	
#9 What Now?	<p>Read chapters 10-12 of <i>Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry</i> and review the PowerPoints for these chapters</p> <p>Watch the Instructor's video about the Pastoral Interviews Assignment</p>	Complete and submit your Book Report for <i>Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry</i>
#10 Budget, Recap, and Long-Term Ministry	<p>Watch the Instructor's video about Youth Budgeting Tips</p> <p>Watch the Instructor's video about Long-Term Youth Ministry</p> <p>Watch the Instructor's video delivering a recap of the course</p>	Complete and submit your Pastoral Interviews Assignment

Appendix

Interview Questions for Pastors Interview Assignment

Weddings:

1. How many weddings have you conducted?
2. How do you complete pre-marital counseling?
3. What materials do you use for pre-marital counseling?
4. What is the best wedding you have conducted? Why was it good?
5. What is the craziest wedding you have conducted? What made it crazy?
6. What is the book or website you use for preparing a wedding?

Funerals:

1. How do you prepare for a funeral?
2. What advice would you have for a person conducting their first funeral?
3. What is the most difficult aspect of conducting a funeral?
4. Do you work with one funeral home? Or several?
5. What is a useful response you have found in preparing a message for a funeral?

Pastoring:

1. What do you love about your job?
2. What frustrates you about ministry?
3. What advice do you have for someone starting out in ministry?
4. What was the most helpful thing you learned while studying to become a pastor?