



School of Theology and Christian Ministry

CMI 210

Introduction to Youth Ministry

Fall 2014

Meeting days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Meeting times: 2:55 P.M. – 3:50 P.M.

Meeting location: Taylor 314

Final Exam: Friday, December 19th, 1:30 - 4:30 P.M.

Instructor: Professor Wilson Ryland

Phone: (619) 849-2413 **Office Location:** Smee 212

E-mail: WilRyland@pointloma.edu

Office hours: Wed. 4-5 P.M. Fri. 1:45-2:45 P.M. (or by appointment)

PLNU Mission: To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of the characteristics and spiritual needs of youth, practical factors involved with youth ministry, including resources for programming and discipleship.

Prerequisites: Christian Ministry 150 and Bible 101 or 102.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course, students will ...

1. Detect and classify the many subcultures at work in the lives of teens; evaluate their significance for the ways we approach the Christian formation of teens and their families.
2. Identify the place of the whole church in youth ministry, and articulate the place of youth ministry in the larger church.
3. Articulate a pastoral theology of youth work.
4. Design goals, strategies, and practices for the relational and practical aspects of youth ministry that are rooted in Scripture and Christian theology.
5. Develop rhythms and practices that will source the youth pastor's health and Christian formation during ministry.

REQUIRED TEXT

1. *The Bible.* Any standard translation - NIV, NRSV, NKJV, NASB, etc. - is fine.
2. Powell, Kara E. *Sticky Faith: Youth Worker Edition.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2011
3. DeVries, Mark. *Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do About It.* Downers Grove: IVP, 2008.
4. Dean, Kenda Creasy. *The Godbearing Life.* Nashville: Upper Room, 2005.
5. Smith, Christian. *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
6. Dean, Kenda Creasy. *Almost Christian: What the Faith of our Teenagers is Telling the American Church.* Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE

The School of Theology and Christian Ministry is committed to the equality of women and men. Recognizing that people have often used the English language in ways that imply the exclusion or inferiority of women, the school urges students, faculty, and staff to avoid sexist language in public discourse, in classroom discussion, and in their writings. Thus, terms like “man” or “mankind” or the pronoun “he,” should not be used to refer to all humans. Instead “humanity,” “humans,” and “he or she” better acknowledge women as full persons.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

While all students are expected to meet the minimum academic standards for completion of this course as established by the instructor, students with disabilities may require academic accommodations. Once the student has filed with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC), and has spoken to the professor, the instructor will follow the accommodations that the DRC recommends for the student. For more information, see [Academic Policies](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

The PLNU Tutorial Center is available free of charge for all current, undergraduate PLNU students. It offers tutoring for most subjects, as well as for general help with paper editing, study skills, etc. The Tutorial Center is located on the south end of Bond Academic Center. The Tutorial Center (TC) is open Monday-Thursday from 8 A.M. until 9 P.M. and Friday from 8 A.M. to 3 P.M. (*Note: TC is closed during chapel and 5-6 P.M. every evening.) Tutoring is available by appointment only, which must be made at least one day in advance. Appointments may be arranged in person at the Tutorial Center, over the phone at [\(619\) 849 2593](tel:6198492593), or via email at TutorialServices@pointloma.edu.

FERPA POLICY

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by distributing all grades and papers individually. Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the “Information Release” section of the student portal. See [Policy Statements](#) in the undergrad student catalog.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & REQUIREMENTS

Attendance & Participation:

At the beginning of each class, you will hand in 3 questions regarding that day’s reading. This is how attendance will be tracked. Good questions will give you full credit for participation. “Bad” questions are defined as ones obviously not drawn from critical reflection on the reading.

We will also take 2 on-site trips to visit a youth pastor and tour their facilities. I will work with the class as best I can regarding schedules and transportation, but you are expected to make necessary arrangements on your end to attend.

Any absences, approved or otherwise, will be subject to the policies established by PLNU catalog ([Academic Policies](#)): “Whenever the number of accumulated absences in a class, for any cause, exceeds ten percent of the total number of class meetings, the faculty member has the option of filing a written report to the Vice Provost for Academic Administration which may result in de-enrollment, pending any resolution of the excessive absences between the faculty member and the student. If more than 20 percent of the total number of class meetings is reported as missed (three weeks or longer in a semester-long course), the faculty member or Vice Provost for Academic Administration may initiate the student’s de-enrollment from the course without advance notice to the student.”

Written Responses:

I will present 2 or 3 case studies twice during the semester. We will read the case study together well before the assignment is due and discuss the practical and theological issues at work in the scenarios. You will pick 1 case study and say, in 300-500 words, what you would do in that ministry situation and why. I will be looking for you to include scripture, class discussions, and the readings in your responses. Due October 1, November 14.

Midterm: (example

A 1 page initial theology of ministry. This is the kind of document you will continue to develop throughout your academic career and eventually use when interviewing for a position in a local church. Examples will be presented and discussed before you start writing your own. Due October 22nd.

Final Project:

This will consist of 5 interrelated parts: 1) Expand and revise your theology of ministry (Midterm) to 1-1/2 pages, showing understanding and critical engagement with all class discussions and materials. 2) Describe in 1/2 page a ministry context you are currently working in, or could see yourself working in. 3) Grounded in your understanding of the purpose of ministry, present a 1/2 page vision for an event, program, or ministry initiative you would like to lead in that context. 4) Draw up a projected budget for said event, program, or initiative.

Parts 1 - 4 will be due at the beginning of class on Friday, December 12th.

Part 5: On the day of the final, we will hold a mock church board meeting. There, you will present your vision and rationale, then ask for the needed funds. Also, you will have a great time (if you come prepared).

An initial idea for this project will be due November 21, so I can give feedback and point you to further resources.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

This class is designed to help you develop a passion and vision for pastoral work in the diverse and often dizzying context of our families, churches, and larger culture. Two minutes on Google or playing with apps and you will have more resources claiming to help you with this work than you can handle. You don't need to know how to find material for ministry in our world; you need to know how to evaluate the worth of a resource and the skills to apply it to your actual ministry. Therefore, the main factors I look for in grading are geared toward helping you sharpen these skills. They are: (1) ability to demonstrate an understanding of the material we engage in class and the readings; (2) some critical reflection - you don't just tell me "so-and-so said 'this' and 'that'" - but that you engage in assessing the value of what was said; (3) ability to think about how the material would work in the larger contexts of the whole church and our culture.

If you do these things inconsistently, you should expect a "C" - which means average, or satisfactory work. If you do these things with consistency, you can expect a "B". If you demonstrate you have put time and effort into doing these things with excellence, you can expect an "A".

Assessment Item	% of Total GRADE
Attendance & Participation	30% (equivalent to 300 points)
Written Responses	20% = 200 points
Midterm Examination	20% = 200 points
Final Examination	30% = 300 points

Letter grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

Points	Grade
93-100%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+

Points	Grade
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
59% and below	F

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due. If a student misses a class session for a school-approved reason, s/he must notify the professor in advance and take the responsibility of initiating the make-up work.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (i.e., cheating or plagiarism)

The university catalog states exactly what constitutes a breach of [Academic Honesty](#). These include cheating, plagiarism, falsification, aiding academic dishonesty, and malicious intent. The PLNU catalog includes lengthy descriptions of each, which each student should read for greater understanding because the stated response policy of the university is the policy of this professor. An incident of academic dishonesty will result in failure of the assignment (at minimum) and possibly failure of the course.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week	Date and Topic	Reading/Topic	Assignments
1	Sept. 3 Sept. 5	Introductions Colossians	
2	Sept. 8 Sept. 10 Sept. 12	The Godbearing Life: Preface and Introduction The Godbearing Life: Chapter 1 The Godbearing Life: Chapter 2	
3	Sept. 15 Sept. 17 Sept. 19	The Godbearing Life: Chapter 3 The Godbearing Life: Chapter 4 The Godbearing Life: Chapter 6	
4	Sept. 22 Sept. 24 Sept. 26	The Godbearing Life: Chapter 7 Soul Searching: Chapter 1 Soul Searching: pages 127 - 156	
5	Sept. 29 Oct. 1 Oct. 3	Soul Searching: pages 156 - 171 Soul Searching: pages 172 - 192, 259 - 264 Sticky Faith: Chapter 1	Written Response 1 Due

Week	Date and Topic	Reading/Topic	Assignments
6	Oct. 6 Oct. 8 Oct. 10	Dealing with Family Crisis and Gov. agencies Rule of Life and Healthy Rhythms	
7	Oct. 13 Oct. 15 Oct. 17	Mid-Term Prep Sticky Faith: Chapter 2 Sticky Faith: Chapter 3	
8	Oct. 20 Oct. 22 Oct. 24	Sticky Faith: Chapter 4 Sticky Faith: Chapter 5 Fall Break - No Class :(Midterm Due
9	Oct. 27 Oct. 29 Oct. 31	Sticky Faith: Chapter 6 Sticky Faith: Chapter 7 Sticky Faith: Chapter 8	
10	Nov. 3 Nov. 5 Nov. 7	Sticky Faith: Chapter 9 Almost Christian: Chapter 3 Almost Christian: Chapter 4	
11	Nov. 10 Nov. 12 Nov. 14	Almost Christian: Chapter 5 Almost Christian: Chapter 7 Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapters 1 & 2	Written Response 2 Due
12	Nov. 17 Nov. 19 Nov. 21	Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapter 4 Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapter 5 - Vision & Goals Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapter 6	Final Project Initial Vision Due
13	Nov. 24 Nov. 26 Nov. 28	Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapter 9 - Sample Budgets No Class: Thanksgiving No Class: Thanksgiving	
14	Dec. 1 Dec. 3 Dec. 5	Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapter 10 Sustainable Youth Ministry: Chapter 12 The Godbearing Life: Chapter 8	
15	Dec. 8 Dec. 10 Dec. 12	The Godbearing Life: Chapter 9 The Godbearing Life: Chapter 12 The Godbearing Life: Chapter 13	Written Portion of Final Due
Finals Week	Final Exam	Friday, December 19, 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.	