

CEYH8301  
The Emerging Landscape of Youth Ministry  
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**Seminary Mission Statement:**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

**Ministry Competencies Addressed:** Disciple Making and Servant Leadership

**Seminar Description:**

This professional doctoral seminar is designed to explore the influence of postmodern and post-Christian culture upon the contemporary practice of youth ministry. Emphasis will be placed upon theological and practical evaluation of contemporary trends in youth ministry. Students will analyze various contemporary approaches to local church youth ministry with the goal of developing biblically sound and theologically sound ministry strategies to be implemented in current youth and adult culture.

**Seminar Objectives:**

At the conclusion of the seminar, students should be able to:

1. Identify and analyze trends in youth ministry that relate directly to the influence of post-modern/post-Christian culture.
2. Present potential ministry strategies for supporting the development of a biblical worldview in teenagers who are a part of a local church youth ministry.
3. Propose ministry strategies for retaining students as an active, vital part of a local church through and beyond their high school years.
4. Evaluate youth ministry trends in light of their biblical and theological soundness and cultural appropriateness.

**Seminar Requirements:**

Pre-Seminar Work

1. Students will read:
  - Postmodern Youth Ministry by Tony Jones (2002)
  - Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews And Christian Truth by Walt Mueller (2006)
  - Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church by Mark Senter, ed. (2001)
  - Soul Searching by Christian Smith (2005)
  - Becoming Conversant with the Emerging Church : Understanding a Movement and Its Implications by D.A. Carson (2005)
  - Listening to the Beliefs of Emerging Churches by Robert Webber ed. (2007)

Students should prepare a 3-4 page critical review of each book.

**Reviews of these books are due at the class meeting.**

2. Students will prepare a review presentation of a selected book (from the attached book list) that will be presented to the class. Students will contact Dr. Morton well in advance of the first week of the seminar to request the assignment of a text for review. **These reviews and presentations are seminar meeting.** Presentations should include:
  - a. Presenting a summary of the significant elements of the book to the seminar
  - b. Leading a discussion of the ministry insights/implications of the book with the seminar.
  - c. Leading the seminar to propose how the insights/implications of the book might be used to impact their ministries.
  - d. Preparing a 2-3 page, single-spaced executive summary of the book to be presented to each participant at the beginning of the discussion.
3. Students will evaluate their local church student ministry using the Basic Student Ministry Model that will be presented to the students prior to the seminar. Students will prepare to present the result of their evaluation and insights gained from the evaluation in day two of the seminar.

#### In-Seminar Work

1. Faculty Presentations
2. Faculty led discussions of the foundational readings
3. Students will present their review of the additional book and lead the seminar in a discussion of their findings.
4. Students will engage in a dialogue regarding the insights they have discovered about youth ministry in present culture as a result of the readings, seminar presentations, and seminar discussions.
5. Students will present the result of their evaluations of their church's youth ministry in light of the Basic Student Ministry Model evaluation. Other students will be expected to respond constructively to the information about each others' ministries.

#### Post-seminar Work

6. Students will seek out, study, and prepare a critical review paper about an innovative youth ministry that is responding well to the issues of emerging youth culture. Ideally, these papers will include information from interviews of those involved in the ministries and relevant materials from the ministry. Students will prepare a formal paper in which he/she will present a detailed presentation and assessment of the ministry's strategy for addressing postmodern/post-Christian cultural influences in the current congregation's youth ministry. The evaluation should be based from the Basic Youth Ministry Strategy and should be informed by seminar readings, presentations, and discussions. Students must evaluate a youth ministry other than his/her own ministry **The papers will be submitted 3 weeks following the seminar meeting. Papers should be submitted electronically in PDF format.** Copies of all papers will be shared with the seminar via email and posted to the research section of the YMI website.
  - a. It is expected that the paper will be correct according to matters of form and style. (Turabian)

- b. The paper (body) should be 12-15 typed pages plus (New Times Roman font)
- c. The paper is due into the professor's office three weeks after the final class session and must be submitted in PDF format. **NO WORD PROCESSING FILES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

#### Directed Study Option

Students may elect to take this seminar as a directed study. To accomplish the directed study option, the student will complete the following:

- 1. Prepare and submit all book reviews required in steps 1 & 2 above.
- 2. Engage in a Blackboard based chat session with the professor to "discuss" the books. The schedule will be determined between the professor and students using this option.
- 3. Prepare a 12-15 page paper evaluating the student's current local church ministry in light of the Basic Student Ministry Model. Appropriate materials detailing the Basic Student Ministry Model will be forwarded to the student. This evaluation is due **April 28, 2008.**
- 4. Prepare a 12-15 page paper according to the guidelines of step 6 above. This paper is due **May 25, 2008.**

## Course Bibliography

Barna, George. *Revolution*. Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House, 2005.

Bell, Rob. *Velvet Elvis*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005.

Burke, Spencer and Colleen Pepper. *Making Sense of the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Erickson, Millard, Paul Kjoss, and Justin Taylor. *Reclaiming the Center*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2004.

Gibbs, Eddie and Ryan K. Bolger. *Emerging Churches*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.

Jones, Tony. *Soul Shaper*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Kimball, Dan. *The Emerging Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Emerging Worship*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.

McLaren, Brian and Tony Campolo. *Adventures in Missing the Point*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

McLaren, Brian. *A Generous Orthodoxy*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2004.

McNeal, Reggie. *The Present Future*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003

Miller, Donald. *Blue Like Jazz*. Nashville: Nelson Books, 2003

Moynagh, Michael. *Emerging Church Intro*. Oxford: Monarch Books, 2005.

Mueller, Walt. *Opie Doesn't Live Here Anymore*. Cincinnati: Standard Publishing, 2007.

Smith, R. Scott, *Truth and the New Kind of Christian*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005

Sweet, Leonard, ed. *The Church in Emerging Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003.

Wright, Steve and Chris Graves. *ReThink: Decide for Yourself, Is Student Ministry Working?* Wake Forest, NC: InQuest Ministries, 2007

Also, see the General Youth Ministry Bibliography at <http://youthministryinstitute.org/bibliography.pdf>