

CEYH8302
Issues in Youth Culture
Dr. Rick Morton
rmorton@tblife.net
601-450-3050

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 issues that face teenagers and families of teenagers in the context of contemporary culture. Personal and social problems of youth in America are studied in their cultural context. The world of adolescents is studied in detail with attention given to school, media, friendships, family, community and church, and other relevant social issues. Ministry implications and current trends will also be discussed. Students will analyze various components of the youth culture 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 culture that impact both directly and indirectly the practice of youth ministry.
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 parents and youth workers in understanding, evaluating, and acting in light of current youth culture trends.
3. Propose ministry strategies for equipping students as active, wise cultural participants in light of a biblical worldview.
4. Evaluate youth ministry trends in responding to youth culture in light of their biblical and theological soundness and cultural appropriateness.

Seminar Requirements:

Pre-Seminar Work (to be submitted at the first class session)

1. Students will read:
 - Youth Culture 101 by Walt Mueller (2007)
 - Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews And Christian Truth by Walt Mueller (2006)
 - The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager by Thomas Hine (2000)
 - Soul Searching by Christian Smith (2005)
 - Hurt: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers (2004)

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 seminar to request the assignment of a text for review. **These reviews and presentations are to be presented during the 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. (please submit your executive summary via email 1 week prior to the seminar to allow distribution to other class members in other cities)

Presentations should be well conceived and executed. You are encouraged to use PowerPoint, video, audio, or other media as a part of the presentation to enhance, comment upon, or illustrate concepts from the book. Oral presentations should be a minimum of 30 minutes in length.

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.
4. Prepare a 12-15 page paper according to the guidelines of step 6 above.

Course Bibliography

For a complete course bibliography, please see the youth ministry bibliography at www.youthministryinstitute.org.