



# The Work of the Minister of Youth CEYH5344

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
Christian Education Division

**Dr. Jim Graham**

Online Adjunct Instructor

Jim.Graham.247@gmail.com      Office: (214) 912-7784

---

*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.*

---

## **Purpose of the Course**

The purpose of the course is to equip the seminary student to be an effective youth minister in the local church, creating environments which partner with families in discipleship of students.

## **Core Value Focus**

*Doctrinal Integrity* – Knowing that the Bible is the Word of God, we believe it, teach it, proclaim it, and submit to it. The doctrinal statements used in our evaluations are our Articles of Religious Belief and the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

*Spiritual Vitality* – We are a worshiping community, with both personal spirituality and gathering together as a Seminary for the praise and adoration of God and instruction in His Word.

*Mission Focus* – We are not here merely to get an education or to give one. We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

*Characteristic Excellence* – What we do, we do to the utmost of our abilities and resources as a testimony to the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

*Servant Leadership* – We follow the model of Jesus and exert leadership and influence through the nurture and encouragement of those around us.

Annually, the President will designate a core value that will become the focus of pedagogy for the year. The seminary core value emphasis for 2013-2014 is *Doctrinal Integrity*.

## Curriculum Competencies Addressed

This course will address the following curriculum competencies: (Include only those competencies address in your course.)

1. *Biblical exposition*: Students will explore biblical foundations and rationale for youth ministry.
2. *Effective servant leadership*: Students will consider the nature of servant leadership and explore practical application within the work of youth ministry.
3. *Interpersonal relationships*: Students will develop or improve the skills necessary for relating to and communicating well with teenagers, parents, youth volunteers, church staff, and the church body as a whole.
4. *Disciple making*: Students will examine developmental and educational issues that play a significant role in the development of adolescent faith.
5. *Spiritual and character formation*: Devotional content will help students address their own spiritual and developmental needs in areas related to the topic of each session.

## Course Description

The primary focus is to assist the student in leading and developing a sound philosophy of youth ministry and how to program youth ministry in the church. Additional study is on the various roles of the youth minister as a staff member, family member, and community leader.

## Learning Objectives

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following:

The student involved in this course should be able to accomplish the following objectives, stated in terms of learning domains:

Cognitive	Formulate and articulate a biblical philosophy and purpose statement for ministry to youth. Identify resources for youth ministry and youth ministers.
Affective:	Understand and distinguish between the roles of the minister of youth and other youth workers.
Psychomotor:	Demonstrate an understanding of personnel issues in youth ministry for both paid staff and volunteer workers. Demonstrate understanding and ability to implement the essential components of youth ministry programming for the local church setting. Demonstrate competency regarding the administrative functions of youth ministry.

## **Required Readings**

The following texts and resources are required reading for class discussions and are to be read in their entirety unless otherwise specified.

### **Required Texts**

Olsen, Elliot, and Work. *Youth Ministry Management Tools*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.

Robbins, Duffy. *This Way to Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2004.

Habermas, Ronald T. "How Should We Teach Biblical Truth?" in Dunn, Richard R. and Mark H Senter, eds. *Reaching A Generation for Christ*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997. (provided)

### **Book Review Text** (choose one)

Geiger, Eric & Jeff Borton. *Simple Student Ministry: A Clear Process for Strategic Youth Discipleship*. Nashville: B&H Books, 2009.

McKee, Jonathan & David R. Smith. *Ministry by Teenagers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2011.

Ross, Richard. *Youth Ministry and the Supremacy of Christ*. Nashville: CrossBooks, 2009.

## **Course Teaching Methodology**

### **Units of Study**

Unit 1: Philosophy and Programming for Youth Ministry

Unit 2: Personnel Issues in Youth Ministry

Unit 3: Core Competencies for Youth Ministers and Volunteers

Unit 4: Administrative Functions of Youth Ministry

**Teaching Method.** Lecture, research and writing, and discussion in an online delivery.

## **Assignments and Evaluation Criteria**

**Discussion Board Interaction** (10 @ 20 pts = 200 total; 20% of semester grade)

- The Discussion Board is a central component of an online learning community. As such, the initial post is due by Day 5 of the session. Discussion centers on the assigned reading, course content, and viewpoints of others. Each student is expected to reflect on other class member's posts by the final day of the session.
- Discussion is also a measure of class attendance. In some sessions, major assignments will take the place of discussion. Failure to submit a post/assignment before the next session opens will constitute an absence for the week. Students whose absences exceed 25% of the course may be assigned a grade of F.
- In the event of an emergency or unavoidable circumstances, contact the instructor before an absence is incurred.

**Post to the Discussion Board by Day 5, reflect on other posts by final day of session**

**Theological Essay** (50 points; 5% of semester grade)

- Post a 750 to 1000-word essay, titled “Why I Believe Student Ministry is Biblical” to the Discussion Board. Cite references and use short phrases or verses, but avoid long quotations of Bible verses. Assignment must be posted by Thursday night at midnight.

**Due: Session 2**

**Article Reflection Reports** (4 @ 50 points = 200 total; 20% of semester grade)

- Select and read an article from a youth ministry-related journal. At least two (2) of the four articles reviewed during the course must be from scholarly peer-reviewed journals in the course bibliography.
- Write a 250 to 350-word critical reflection report on the article and post to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 PM. Topics are:

“Evangelism among Teenagers”

**Due: Session 3**

“Personal Challenges in Youth Ministry”

**Due: Session 6**

“Leading Volunteers”

**Due: Session 7**

“Family Ministry”

**Due: Session 10**

- The report should include:
  1. A full bibliographic reference
  2. The author’s primary point(s)
  3. At least one identified strength
  4. At least one identified weakness

Note: Strengths and weaknesses are not likes or dislikes, but an academic evaluation that should be supported by the course texts or content.

**Book Review** (100 points; 10% of semester grade)

- Write a review of one of the three optional texts listed on the syllabus. The review is to be five pages in length (double-spaced) that includes the following:
  1. Identify the author’s purpose for writing. Was he able to communicate his purpose?
  2. Provide a brief overview of the key ideas from the text (about 2 pages).
  3. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Note: Strengths and weaknesses are not likes or dislikes, but an academic evaluation that should be supported by the course texts or content (about 2 pages).
  4. Answer the question, “Did the book help your overall view of Youth Ministry? If so, how did it help? If not, why not?”

- Submit to the professor as a Word document through SafeAssign

**Due: Session 4**

**Philosophy of Youth Ministry** (50 points; 5% of semester grade)

- Develop a personal philosophy of student ministry, to include:
  1. Mission – what you want to accomplish
  2. Core values – the values that will guide the process
  3. Vision – the specific way you will engage in ministry
  4. Strategy – how you will accomplish your vision (programs and events)
  5. Measures of success – tangible evidence that the ministry is effective
- Post to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 PM.

**Due: Session 5**

**Youth Minister Interview** (100 points; 10% of semester grade)

- Interview an experienced youth minister in person, by phone, or video conference.
- The questions to cover include:
  1. What is your youth ministry philosophy/strategy?
  2. What is your program design for implementing the philosophy?
  3. What is your process for developing leaders?
  4. How do you maintain personal balance?
  5. What advice would you give to a first-time youth minister?
- In addition, obtain a copy of the youth ministry budget and calendar, as well as some publicity pieces that can be included in the Operation Manual assignment.
- Write up a 3-4 page summary of the interview that includes some background on the person interviewed as well as the response to the questions asked.
- Post the summary to the Discussion Board by Thursday at 11:59 PM.

**Due: Session 11**

**Operations Manual** (200 points; 20% of semester grade)

- Create an operations manual for youth ministry. Find material and resources for your manual by contacting other youth ministers, going back through your files, or keeping handouts from class. *Minimally*, your manual should include:
  1. Theology of youth ministry
  2. Philosophy of youth ministry
  3. A basic strategy for doing youth ministry
  4. Job descriptions of volunteer and paid positions
  5. Name and description of each component of the youth program
  6. Sample calendar
  7. Annual youth ministry budget
  8. Disciplinary policies
  9. Parent ministry strategy
  10. Copies of publicity for youth ministry

- Previously submitted sections must be revised to reflect further learning.
- Submit to the instructor via e-mail. Suggested format is a PDF document.

**Due: Session 13**

**Final Exam** (50 points; 5% of semester grade)

- The exam will be objective in nature (multiple choice, matching, listing, and true-false) and cover material from the class lectures and class reading assignments.
- Except for emergencies (death in immediate family, serious illness), a make-up exam will not be given. Make-up exams will be given only by permission, must be scheduled in advance with the professor, and must be taken within one week of the scheduled exam.

**Course Policies**

<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Class Participation (Discussion Board)	200	
Theology of Youth Ministry	50	Session 2
Article 1: “Evangelism among Teenagers”	50	Session 3
Book Review	150	Session 4
Philosophy of Youth Ministry	50	Session 5
Article 2: “Personal Challenges in Ministry”	50	Session 6
Article 3: “Leading Volunteers”	50	Session 7
Article 4: “Family Ministry”	50	Session 10
Youth Minister Interview	100	Session 11
Operations Manual	200	Session 13
Final exam	<u>50</u>	Session 14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	

**Grading Scale:**

The grading scale for the master’s program is as follows:

- A - 93-100 (930 – 1000 points)
- B - 85-92 (850 – 929 points)
- C - 77-84 (770 – 849 points)
- D - 70-76 (700 – 769 points)
- E - Course in progress
- F - Below 70

Except as noted, late assignments will be assessed a 10% per week penalty. As other classmates' grades depend on being able to respond to submissions on the Discussion Board, every effort should be made to be timely with posted assignments.

## Course Schedule

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
<b>PHILOSOPHY AND PROGRAMMING FOR YOUTH MINISTRY</b>			
Session 1	Youth Ministry Defined	Robbins 1 & 2	<i>Discussion Board 1</i>
Session 2	Theology and Models	Robbins 13	<i>Theology of Youth Ministry Discussion Board 2</i>
Session 3	Ministry Functions: Evangelism & Discipleship	Robbins 11	<i>Article Review 1 Discussion Board 3</i>
Session 4	Ministry Functions: Fellowship, Ministry & Worship	Selected Text	<i>Book Review</i>
Session 5	Philosophy of Youth Ministry	Robbins 12	<i>Philosophy of Youth Ministry</i>
<b>PERSONNEL ISSUES IN YOUTH MINISTRY</b>			
Session 6	Life of the Minister: Leading Self	Robbins 10	<i>Article Review 2 Discussion Board 4</i>
Session 7	Life of the Minister: Leading Others	Robbins 14 Olsen 17-20	<i>Article Review 3 Discussion Board 5</i>
<b>CORE COMPETENCIES FOR YOUTH MINISTERS AND VOLUNTEERS</b>			
Session 8	Developmental Overview	Robbins 5-7	<i>Discussion Board 6</i>
Session 9	Principles for Teaching Teens	Habermas Article	<i>Discussion Board 7</i>
Session 10	Ministry with Parents and Family		<i>Article Review 4 Discussion Board 8</i>

<b>ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS OF YOUTH MINISTRY</b>			
Session 11	Legal Issues in Youth Ministry	Olsen 21-22	<i>Youth Minister Interview Discussion Board 9</i>
Session 12	Budgets, Calendars, and Administration	Olsen 8-16	<i>Discussion Board 10</i>
Session 13	Ministry as a Career	Olsen 23-26	<i>Operations Manual</i>
Session 14	Fun and the Final		<i>Final Exam</i>

### **Selected Bibliography**

#### **Peer-reviewed journals:**

*Adolescence* – available online at ebsco

*Journal of Adolescence* – published by the Association in Professional Services for Adolescents

*Journal of Adolescent Research* – available online at ebsco

*Journal of Research on Adolescence* – published by Society for Research on Adolescence

*Journal of Youth and Adolescence* – published by Springer

*Journal of Youth Ministry* – published by the Association of Youth Ministry Educators

*Journal of Youth and Theology* – published by the International Association for the Study of Youth Ministry

Note: Any journal accessed through the Christian Periodical Index (CPI), accessible through the John T Christian Library online (EBSCO Host) will meet the course requirements.

## Books:

Bertoli, Dewey. *Back to the Heart of Youth Work*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1989.

Black, Wesley. *An Introduction to Youth Ministry*. B&H, 1998.

DeVries, Mark. *Family-Based Youth Ministry*. InterVarsity Press, 2004.

Dunn, Richard and Mark Senter. *Reaching a Generation for Christ*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1997.

Fields, Doug. *Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Youth Specialties, 1998.

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

Grassel, Rich. *Help! I'm a Small Church Youth Worker!*. Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2002.

Kageler, Len. *The Youth Minister's Survival Guide*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/YouthSpecialties, 1992.

Patty, Steven and Steve Keels, eds. *Impact: Student Ministry That Will Transform A Generation*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2005. ‘

Reid, Alvin. *Raising the Bar: Ministry to Youth in the New Millennium*. Kregel Publications, 2004.

Wright, Steve with Chris Graves. *reThink*. InQuest Ministries, 2007.

Yaconelli, Mike. *The Core Realities of Youth Ministry: Nine Biblical Principles that Mark Healthy Youth Ministries*. Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2004.

For a more extensive list, see <http://youthministryinstitute.org/bibliography.pdf>