



Youth Leadership Conference
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Church Ministry Division
Spring 2026
Southeast Youth Ministry Conclave
January 29-30, 2026

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The objective of the Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) is to offer youth ministry training, using a concentrated delivery system. YMI is an educational delivery system to provide a different type of youth ministry dialogue. The delivery system is especially beneficial for extension center students and others residing in locations other than New Orleans. In addition, alumni and veteran youth ministers who wish to return for continuing education may register for a conference fee.

YMI is not a replication of classes which are offered during the regular academic semester, but a different type of exposure to youth ministry altogether. Professors and guest speakers who are experts in the field of youth ministry will address topics within the discipline of youth ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, the student will be able to:

- Identify current issues in youth ministry in the areas of youth culture, adolescent development, discipleship with youth and families, and the basic work of the minister of youth. Additionally, students will process information regarding the fundamentals of youth ministry.
- Value the need to create environments to facilitate community among families, student friendships, and other adults in the church.

- Develop skills and strategies to encourage relationships within the church to create environments where families, youth ministry, and friendships may synergize to facilitate discipleship and faith maturity among the youth in a community of faith.

Required Textbooks

Haidt, Jonathan. *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*. New York: Penguin Press, 2024

Odom, David. *Youth Ministry Deconstructed: Rethinking Your Ministry to Build Lasting Faith in Students*. Nashville: B&H Academic, 2026.

Powell, Kara, Jen Bradbury, and Brad Griffin. *Faith Beyond Youth Group: 5 Ways to Form Character and Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2023.

Prior to the conference, students must read the first book on the list, *The Anxious Generation*.
Students will meet for dinner to discuss the text.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, written book reviews, Youth Ministry Conclave session summaries, and a research paper. The primary methodology will be conference session attendance and discussion, supplemented by individual research and writing, guided by the professor.

Course Requirements

Pre-Conference Assignments

1. Reading Report (10%)

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt. Write a 1-page (double-spaced) summary of the basic themes of the book and one application to youth ministry. Students will refer to this summary at the dinner meeting on the first day of the conference.

Email the professor before midnight on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

During the Conference

2. Attend Conference Sessions (20%)

Students are required to attend all conference sessions. Attendance at conference sessions serves as class time for the course.

After the Conference

3. Session Summaries (20%)

Students will write one-page, double-spaced summaries of all sessions (main stage and breakouts) from the Youth Ministry Conclave. Submit one document with all session summaries on Canvas. **Due before midnight on Sunday, February 8, 2026.**

4. Critical Book Reviews (20%)

Write a review (5-6 pages each) of all three of the required reading textbooks.

Each review should include the following:

- a) Identify the author's purpose for writing. Was he able to communicate his purpose?
- b) Provide a brief overview of the key ideas from the text (about 3 pages).
- c) 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).
- d) Answer the question, "Did the book help your understanding of youth culture or youth ministry?" If so, how did it help? If not, why not?

Students should refer to the Canvas document, "How to Prepare a Critical Book Review."

Submit all three reviews as one document to Canvas before midnight on Sunday, March 1, 2026.

5. Synthesis Paper (30%)

Based on the textbook readings and what you learned at the conference, write a 10-12 page paper describing your youth ministry strategy/philosophy and a one-year ministry plan for a local church. The document should include youth cultural information, bible study topics, ministry to parents, and your plan for training adult volunteers. The one-year plan should include weekly meetings and special events, as well as a summary of teaching content. **Submit the document on Canvas before midnight on Sunday, March 29, 2026.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Reading Report	10%
Attend Conference Sessions	20%
Session Summaries	20%
Critical Book Review	20%
Synthesis Paper	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions according to the formats offered. Any student missing more than nine hours, unless amended by a non-traditional class format, may receive an automatic grade of "F" for the course. Three tardies will count as one absence.

Because this is an Event course, please note the following attendance policies:

1. Students are required to engage regularly with course content through the learning management system and attend all in-person class sessions.
2. Because of the nature of weekend or hybrid classes, students who miss any portion of the in-person class may receive a grade of "F" for the course.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with

the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)

2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff)

Canvas.NOBTS.edu.

3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](http://VideoConferencingHelpDesk@nobts.edu) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)

4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.

5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!

6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)

7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately

at chinton@nobts.edu or 504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

https://www.nobts.edu/_resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the Assignments and Evaluation Criteria section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2013-2014 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized five points for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks past the due date.

Selected Bibliography

Borgman, Dean. *Foundations for Youth Ministry: Theological Engagement with Teen Life and Culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.

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

Cannister, Mark. *Teenagers Matter: Making Student Ministry a Priority in the Church*. Edited by Chap Clark. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2013.

Candy, Jim, Brad M. Griffin, and Kara Powell. *Can I Ask That?* Pasadena, CA: Fuller Youth Institute, 2014.

Clark, Chap, ed. *Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the family of Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2016.

Crouch, Andy. *The Tech-Wise Family: Everyday Steps for Putting Technology in Its Proper Place*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2017.

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DeVries, Mark. *Family-Based Youth Ministry*. 2nd ed. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004.

———. *Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn't Last and What Your Church Can Do About It*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2008.

DeVries, Mark and Jeff Dunn-Rankin. *The Indispensable Youth Pastor: Land, Love, and Lock in Your Youth Ministry Dream Job*. Loveland, CO: Group/Simply Youth Ministry, 2011.

Dunn, Richard. *Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students: A Guide for Youth Workers, Pastors, Teachers and Campus Ministers*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2001.

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

Erwin, Pamela. *A Critical Approach to Youth Culture: Its Influence and Implications for Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010.

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

———. *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan/Youth Specialties, 2002.

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

Hull, Brian C., and Patrick Mays. *Youth Ministry as Mission: A Conversation About Theology and Culture*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Ministry, 2022.

Kageler, Len. *Youth Ministry in a Multifaith Society: Forming Christian Identity Among Skeptics, Syncretists and Sincere Believers of Other Faiths*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2014.

Kinnaman, David, and Mark Matlock. *Faith for Exiles: 5 Ways for a New Generation to Follow Jesus in Digital Babylon*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2019.

Lawrence, Rick. *Jesus Centered Youth Ministry: Moving from Jesus-Plus to Jesus-Only*. Loveland, CO: Group/Simply Youth Ministry, 2014.

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Robbins, Duffy. *Building a Youth Ministry that Builds Disciples*. Grand Rapids, MI: Youth Specialties/Zondervan Publishing, 2011.

Root, Andrew. *The End of Youth Ministry?: Why Parents Don't Really Care about Youth Groups and What Youth Workers Should Do about It*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2020.

Ross, Richard. *Youth Ministry that Lasts a Lifetime*. Fort Worth, TX: Seminary Hill Press, 2017.

Senter, Mark. *When God Shows Up: A History of Protestant Youth Ministry in America*. Edited by Chap Clark. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2010.

Smith, Christian and Melinda Lundquist Denton. *Soul Searching: The Religious and Spiritual Lives of American Teenagers*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2005.

White, James. *Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing, 2017.

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

Youth Ministry Conclave Conference Schedule

Thursday, January 29	
1:00 – 3:00pm	Check-in and Registration
3:00 – 4:15pm	Breakout Block 1
4:15 – 5:45pm	Dinner Break – Meet with Dr. Odom at the Registration Tables (Main Lobby next to the Exhibit Hall Entrance. We will walk to dinner at Urban Stack (12 W 13th Street)
5:45 – 7:30pm	Exhibit Hall Grand Opening
7:30 – 9:00pm	Main Session 1
9:00 – 10:15pm	State Fellowship
Friday, January 30	
9:00 – 10:15am	Breakouts
9:00 – 10:15am	Exhibit Hall Open
10:30 – 12:00am	Main Session 2
12:00 – 1:30pm	Lunch Break
1:00 – 4:30pm	Exhibit Hall Open
1:45 – 3:00pm	Breakout Session 2
3:15 – 4:30pm	Exhibit Hall Party
4:30 – 6:30pm	Dinner
6:30 – 7:30pm	Exhibit Hall Open
7:30 – 9:00pm	Main Session 3
Saturday, January 31	
9:00 – 10:15am	Breakouts
9:00 – 10:45am	Exhibit Hall Open
10:45am – 12:00pm	Main Session 4
12:00pm	Dismiss