

**BIRMINGHAM THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**2200 BRAIRWOOD WAY**  
**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35243**  
**205-776-5650**

**PT 5626 Ministry to Children, Youth & Families**  
**Prof: Rev. John M. Evans M Div.**  
**Class Hours: 2**

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**COURSE PURPOSE**

This course is a study of the principles, methods, and materials especially appropriate for the Christian education of children and youth. It will also address the role of the children and youth worker as pastor to the parents and whole families with children and youth.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

1. The student will discover the need for a dynamic youth and family ministry.
2. The student will discover and determine methods, models, and purposes for youth ministry.
3. The student will discover direction for programming, planning and implementing youth/children's ministry in the local church.
4. The student will discover how to develop a leadership team and staff for ministry.
5. The student will deepen their understanding of their worldview and that of today's youth/children.

**COURSE TEXTS**

Barna, George. **Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions.** California: Regal Books, 2003.  
ISBN 0830732934  
Fields, Doug. **Purpose Driven Youth Ministry.** Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.  
ISBN 0310212537

**COLLATERAL TEXTS**

Castleman, Robbie. **Parenting in the Pew.** Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1993. ISBN 0830823409  
Dawn, Marva. **Is It A Lost Cause?** Michigan: Eerdman's Publishing Company, 1997. ISBN 802843735  
DeVries, Mark. **Family-Based Youth Ministry.** Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1994. ISBN 0830813969  
DeVries, Mark **Sustainable Youth Ministry.** Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 2008. ISBN 9780830833610  
Farrar, Steve. **King Me.** Illinois: Moody Publishers, 2005. ISBN 0802433197  
Hubach, Stephanie O. **Same Lake Different Boat.** New Jersey: P & R, 2006. ISBN 101596380519  
Johnson, Barrett **The Talks.** An INFO for Families Resource, 2014. ISBN 13:9780615913711  
Kimmel, Tim. **Grace Based Parenting.** Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004. ISBN 100849918030  
Priolo, Lou, **Teach Them Diligently.** New Jersey: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000. ISBN 889032204  
Tripp, Paul. **Age of Opportunity.** New Jersey: Presbyterian & Reformed Publishing Company, 2001.  
ISBN 0875526055  
Tripp, Ted. **Shepherding a Child's Heart.** Colorado: Shepherding Press. ISBN 0966378601

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

1. Class attendance and participation: in the absence of professor permission, more than two unexcused absences drops final grade one letter grade.
2. Book Critiques (2): write a critical paper of **1000-1500 words** on each book. As you read ask yourself these questions:
  - a. What is the book about as a whole? What is the main theme and any other major secondary themes of the author?
  - b. Include your analysis of the arguments the author sets forth. Is the book true, in whole or on part, is it applicable to your situation? Your analysis should be focused primarily upon how faithfully you think the author has interpreted and applied the Scripture.
  - c. Do you agree/disagree with the author's conclusions? Use Scripture to support any differing views you may hold.
  - d. Conclude with a paragraph that states what you have gained personally and professionally from reading this book.

\*You may choose one book from the following list on Youth Ministry:

  - Family Based Youth Ministry or Sustainable Youth Ministry

\*You may choose one book from the following list on Children's Ministry/Parenting:

  - Age of Opportunity, Grace Based Parenting, Shepherding a Child's Heart, The Talks, or King Me.
3. Interview Project: Interview youth pastors or children's pastors/directors from at least four (4) different denominations and report your findings by denomination (see questions below). Submit documentation in a 2-3 page paper that includes all retrieved data from the questions below.
4. Oral Report #1: Present a 5-7 minute summary of insights learned from interviews and more importantly, how it influenced your views of ministry and the current state of our children/youth.
5. Final paper: This will be in place of a final exam. You will need to state & support your philosophy for either youth/children's ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Include how your philosophy would be carried out practically. Be sure to support your 4-5 page paper with topics that were included from our class.
6. Oral Report #2: Present a 5-7 minute summary of your concluded Philosophy of Ministry. Please include Scriptural support and how you would practically carry out your ministry philosophy.
7. Certificate students will be required to do all the above assignments except the following differences:
  - You may choose one of the two book critiques
  - You may lower your interviews to two instead of four
  - You may give a 3-5 minute oral report on your interview findings

## **BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS**

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

## **COURSE GRADING**

1. Class Participation - 10%
2. Book critiques #1 - 20%
3. Book critique #2 - 20%
4. Interview Project- 5%
5. Oral Report #1 - 15%
6. Final Paper POM - 15%
7. Oral Report #2 - 15%

## **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

1. What is the philosophy of youth/children's ministry?
2. What is the strategy for ministering to the church members (in-reach)?
3. What is the strategy for ministering to the non-church members (outreach)?
4. What youth/children's programs do they offer?
5. What is the plan for Sunday School? How is it structured? Do they use a set curriculum?
6. What is the discipleship or small group study plan? Do they have one for children? What curriculum do they use?
7. Is the Jr. High and Sr. High ministry combined or separate? What is their view on this? What does the children's classes look like?
8. What is the total youth/children's ministry budget minus salaries?
9. To whom does this position of youth/children minister report? How much freedom is there in planning and administering to the youth/children ministry?
10. What is the working relationship to the Senior Pastor? How often does he meet with you? How much direction does he give in the area of ministry?
11. How many staff works with the Jr. and Sr. High ministry (or nursery, preschool, vbs, etc.)? How many are full-time? Part-time? How much and what type of training for them is offered?
12. How many volunteers are involved in the ministry? Is there ongoing training provided? Explain.
13. What role do parents play in their ministry?
14. What are the main difficulties and challenges they experience in the ministry?
15. State the direct conclusions drawn from the interviews.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENTS</u>
September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Orientation	Course syllabus
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Deuteronomy 6	Parenting
September 17 <sup>th</sup>	Pgs. 15-23; 43-83; 194-206; 233-248	Purpose Driven Youth Ministry
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pgs. 83-136; 209-229	Purpose Driven Youth Ministry Book Critique #1 Due
October 1 <sup>st</sup>	Pgs. 271-310; 327-343	Purpose Driven Youth Ministry
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Colossians 1	Maturity/Coaching
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Break	
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Interview Project Due Oral Interview Report Given
October 29 <sup>th</sup>	Pgs. 10-42	Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions
November 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pgs. 43-76	Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions Book Critique #2 Due
November 12 <sup>th</sup>	Pgs. 77-120	Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions
November 19 <sup>th</sup>	Pgs. 145-200	Is it a Lost Cause
November 26		Children's Ministry Panel
December 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Final Paper Due Oral Philosophy of Ministry Report

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Bertolini, Dewey. *[Back to the Heart of Youth Work](#)*. USA: Victor, 1994.
- Benson, Warren. *[The Complete Book of Youth Ministry](#)*. Chicago: Moody, 1987.
- Black, Wesley. *[An Introduction to Youth Ministry](#)*. Tennessee: Broadman, 1991.
- Borgman, Dean. *[When Kumbaya Is Not Enough: A Practical Theology for Youth Ministry](#)*.
- Boshers, Bo. *[Student Ministry for the 21st Century](#)*. Michigan: Zondervan, 1997.
- Budziszewski, J. *[How to Stay Christian in College](#)*, Colorado: Think Books, 2004.
- Burns, Jim. *[The Youth Builder: Today's Resource for Relational Youth Ministry](#)*. Oregon: Harvest House, 1988.
- Burns, Ridge, and Campbell, Pam. *[Create in me a Youth Ministry](#)*. Illinois: Victor Books, 1994.
- Cark, Chap. *[The Youth Worker's Handbook to Family Ministry](#)*.
- Castleman, Robbie. *[Parenting in the Pew](#)*. Illinois: Intervarsity Press, 1993.
- Campolo, Tony. *[The Church and the American Teenager](#)*.
- Christie, Les. *[How to Recruit and Train Volunteer Youth Workers](#)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992
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- Hybels, Lynne & Bill. *[Rediscovering Church](#)*, Michigan: Zondervan, 1995.
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- Meade, Starr. *[Training Hearts Teaching Minds](#)*, New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 2000.
- Mercadante, Frank. *[Growing Teen Disciples](#)*, Indiana, Ave Maria Press, 1998.
- Mickels, Cathy and Audrey McKeever. *[Spiritual Junkfood](#)*, Washington, Winepress Publishing, 2003.
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- Rydberg, Denny. *[Building Community in Youth Groups](#)*. Colorado: Group, 1985.
- Schaller, Lyle. *[Building an Effective Youth Ministry](#)*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1979.
- Schaller, Lyle. *[Keys to Building Youth Ministry](#)*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1988.
- Trimmer, Edward. *[Youth Ministry Handbook](#)*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1994.
- Ward, Pete. *[Relational Youthwork](#)*. England: Lynx, 1995.
- Ward, Pete. *[The Church and Youth Ministry](#)*. England: Lynx, 1995.