

EMMANUEL BIBLE COLLEGE

DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

CM286AA Critical Issues in Youth Ministry 2, Winter 2010

Course Instructor: Dr. Brett Andrews

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PREREQUISITE: Introduction to Youth Ministry, Critical Issues I, (possibly Adolescent Psychology & Culture), best taken concurrently with a youth ministry coop.

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course students will consider how to effectively develop adult volunteers and student leaders and examine the current crises facing youth workers in Canada. The second major emphasis in this course will be exploring the critical issues influencing teenagers in Canada and exploring effective helping strategies.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. Students will understand the importance of strategic planning in youth ministry and practice the skills necessary to communicate their plans to others.
- B. Students will develop their ability to support and resource parents in the challenges of parenting teens.
- C. Students will begin to define boundaries between pastoral care responsibilities and personal care priorities.
- D. Students will learn how to assess a job opportunity and work through the issues of entering and exiting a position, how to relate to board members, parents and other key players, and explore common traps that derail the professional youth minister.
- E. Students will become familiar with tools and resources for managing the details of youth ministry including time management.
- F. Students will develop the skills necessary for actively listening to the issues in teenagers' lives and implementing helping strategies for adolescents in pain.
- G. Students will consider how to communicate the gospel effectively in today's youth culture.

3. COURSE CONTENT

Including, but not limited to:

January 15—Class # 1: Turning Vision into Reality—Strategic Planning

January 22—Class # 2: Recruitment, training, and retention of volunteers

January 29—Class # 3: Parents, boards and the challenge of working with adults in youth ministry

February 5—Class # 4: Teaching Strategies in Youth Ministry

February 12—Class # 5: Developing leadership competencies and character in students with Carl Nash from Toronto Youth Unlimited

Note: no class on Friday February 19

February 20—Class #6: Today's Teens Conference www.todaysteens.ca

February 26—*Reading Week!*

March 5—Class # 7: Critical Issues in the Lives of Canadian Youth Workers

March 12—Class # 8: Critical Issues in the Lives of Canadian Teenagers

March 19— Class # 9: Student Presentations

March 26—Class # 10: Student Presentations

April 2—Good Friday (no classes)

April 9—Class # 11: Student Presentations

4. REQUIRED TEXTS

When Kids Hurt: Help for Adults Navigating The Adolescent Maze by Chap Clark and Steve Rabey (2009, Baker Books).

Help My Kids are Hurting: A Survival Guide to Working with Students in Pain by Marv Penner (2005, Youth Specialties).

Strongly Recommended Reference Text for Your Library: The Youth Worker's Guide to Helping Teenagers in Crisis by Jim Hancock and Rich Van Pelt, (Youth Specialties).

5. BEING IN CLASS AND BEING ON TIME

No Penalty - 2 absences for 3 hour course
- 4 lates will be considered an absence

Penalty - 3 absences for 3 hour course = one grade deduction
- 4 or more absences will result in an automatic withdrawal from course

***please note there will not be a class on February 29 (reading week)**

6. ASSIGNMENTS

Participation **5%**

A. Hurt Reading Assignment **20%**

Read Clark and Rabey's book and respond with a well thought out book reflection of five-six pages comprised of:

- ◆ a brief summary of the book (1 page maximum),
- ◆ an analysis of the argument
- ◆ your response with your implications for working with youth and families

Due: January 29

B. Today's Teens & Reflection Paper **20%**

You are to write a personal response paper to Today's Teens Conference being held on Saturday, February 20th. Tony Campolo is the keynote speaker.

Your paper will be set out in 5 sections which will include opening general session, seminar 1, seminar 2, closing general session, and a conclusion. In your general sessions and seminar sections, tell me what you learned that was new, what you thought of the presenter's style, content and effectiveness in communication with his audience. State how you would implement what you heard/learned in the sessions/seminars. In the conclusion section of your paper, please state your overall impression of the conference, what could have been done better, what was good, changes you would make if you were running it and any other thoughts you would like to share. Please note that the cost of this conference is \$20 (half price) for EBC students and is not included in the price of course tuition.

Due: March 5

C. Help my Kids are Hurting Reading Assignment **20%**

Submit a 7-10 page paper that answers the following questions and includes some of your own thoughts.

1. (I suggest about 3 pages) Summarize the book and include the authors' thesis (a position or proposition that a person advances and offers to maintain by argument)

2. What specifically did you like about the book? What challenged you? What did you learn? (1-2 pages)
3. What did you dislike about the book? If you were writing a response to the authors' arguments what would you comment on? (1 page)
4. What 3 things from this book will you apply to your life or ministry in the future (1-2 pages)?

* Be prepared to discuss the book in class

Due: March 19

D. Major Project on Youth Issue

35%

In groups of 2 you will do a 40 minute presentation on a critical issue affecting teenagers today. In your presentation you will communicate why this issue is important, make us aware of the issue, provide handouts, and explain possible helping strategies and resources for us to use. Please use a variety of teaching methods in your presentation--feel free to be creative. Each group will submit a 10-12 page paper to the instructor that expands on the above information and shows evidence of a variety of credible resources (books, websites, media).

These presentations will occur during the last 3 classes of the course and the paper will be due on the date of your presentation.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

***TO BE HANDED OUT IN CLASS**