

Grace Communion Seminary
CM06 Trinitarian Youth Ministry
Course Syllabus (short)

Course Description

This course examines the relationship of theology and youth ministry practice as it has developed in North America. The course explores the centrality of Jesus in all ministry in the relationship that Jesus already has with young people. That relationship is explored in its post-Christian, post-modern cultural context, with an emphasis on the importance of mentoring as a relational/incarnational tool in youth ministry.

Required Texts

- Root, Andrew. *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry*. Downers Grove: IVP Books, 2007. ISBN 978-0-8308-3488-4.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York: Touchtone, 1959. ISBN-13: 978-0-648-81500-8.
- Whitfield, Charles. *Boundaries and Relationships: Knowing, Protecting and Enjoying the Self*. Deerfield Beach: Health Communications, 1993, ISBN 1-55874-259-X.

Recommended Text

- Barth, Karl. *The Call to Discipleship*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press Facets edition, 2003. ISBN 0-8006-3632-5.

Student Learning Outcomes

As a result of taking this course, students will:

1. Be conversant with the biblical theology that under-girds an approach to youth ministry that is trinitarian, Christ-centered and incarnational. This outcome will be demonstrated through contributions to online discussions and the short reflection paper.
2. Be able to compare a trinitarian approach to youth ministry to other approaches. This outcome will be demonstrated through contributions to online discussions, including reporting on a visit to a youth ministry program in the student's community.
3. Be able to understand how the primary current approaches to youth ministry developed within North American evangelicalism. This outcome will be demonstrated through contributions to the online discussions.
4. Be conversant with the trending of North American culture toward post-Christendom and post-modernity, and how these trends impact the practice of youth ministry. This outcome will be demonstrated through contributions to the online discussions and in the final paper.
5. Be able to design a youth ministry program that is faithful to a trinitarian theology in their particular setting. This outcome will be demonstrated in the final paper, which sets forth the student's assessment of current youth ministry programming and proposal for the re-design of that programming.

Course topics, assignments and grading

Week #	Topic for the Week	Assignments for the week (contributions to the online forum are required each week of weeks 1-10)
1	Theology forms ministry	Reading: lecture, books and articles Project: view assigned videos
2	The history of youth ministry in North America	Reading: lecture, books and articles Project: visit and report on a local youth ministry meeting
3	Our relational motivations	Reading: lecture, books and articles
4	Who is Jesus Christ?	Reading: lecture and books
5	Where is Jesus Christ?	Reading: lecture and books Project: begin work on a 500 word <i>reaction paper</i> (due no later than Monday of week 8)
6	What then shall we do?	Reading: lecture, books and articles Project: continue work on reaction paper
7	Place-sharing	Reading: lecture and books Project: view the GenMin website and the movie "Goodwill Hunting", continue work on <i>reaction paper</i>
8	Relational transformation	Reading: lecture, books and articles Project: turn in <i>reaction paper</i> —due no later than Monday of this week (week 8)
9	Place-sharing in community	Reading: lecture and books Project: view assigned videos
10	Local application	Reading: lecture, books and articles Project: begin work on 15 page <i>final report</i>
11	(work on assignments)	Project: continue work on <i>final report</i>
12	(work on assignments)	Project: turn in <i>final report</i> no later than Monday of this week (week 12)

The final grade for the course is determined combining the grades for the assignments noted above, weighted as follows:

- 60% of total grade: *online forum contributions*—mostly commenting on assigned reading (and then commenting on other students' and faculty member comments)
- 10% of total grade: *reaction paper*
- 30% of total grade: *final report*

Nondiscrimination policy: Grace Communion Seminary admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school administered programs.