

**Foundations of Youth Ministry**  
W-Fr. 8:40-10:30 AM  
Hoover 211

**CHMN 330**  
Dr. Steve Sherwood  
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### **Course Description**

A four credit course looking at motivation, guidance and method in reference to youth and youth ministry, aimed at developing leadership and ministry skills.

### **Course Objectives**

Students taking this course will gain insight and understanding in relation to:

- \*theological foundations and principles for ministry
- \*issues relating to adolescent development
- \*issues related to popular culture and postmodernity
- \*issues related to personal call and development as a leader of others
- \*various models and approaches to church and para-church youth ministry.
- \*issues related to leading small groups, large groups and individual discipleship.
- \*practical skills related to organizing and implementing a youth ministry program

**Youth Culture and Studying at a Christian University** Part of this course is an exploration of the realities of the world that youth live in and how Christian adults can engage meaningfully in that world. In light of that, some of the media content we will watch or listen to and some of the discussions we will have in class may be “raw” at times. Every effort will be made to not introduce objectionable content just for effect or without reason, but we will take an honest look at how kids live, think, and experience the world. If any particular content is particularly difficult or problematic for you, please, feel free to discuss this with me and we can come up with alternate ways for you to get the needed material.

### **Required Texts**

Clark, Chap. Hurt 2.0, Baker Academic, 2011. ISBN-13: 9780801039416  
Fields, Doug. Your First Two Years In Youth Ministry, Youth Specialties, 2002.  
ISBN 0-310-24045-X  
Kinnaman, David. You Lost Me, Baker Books, 2011. ISBN 978-0-8010-1314-0  
Palmer, Parker. Let Your Life Speak, Jossey-Boss, 2000 ISBN 0-7879-4735-0

### **Assignments and Tests (You will post all assignments on FoxTale. The Final will be taken in class).**

Hurt Take Home	10%	Fri. Jan 27
Fields Take Home	10%	Fri. Feb 17
Kinnaman Book Summary	15%	Fr. Mar. 9
Missions Trip Project	20%	Fr. Mar. 23
Group Observation Assignment	5%	Fr. Apr. 6
Bible Study/Talk Project	15%	Fr. Apr. 13
Palmer Personal Reflection	5%	Fr. Apr. 20
Final exam	20%	Wed. Apr. 25, 8:00am

### **Assigned Readings**

**Clark & Fields texts:** For these two books you will complete a take home test designed to demonstrate that you know and understand the main points in each book. Each test will be distributed a week before it is due.

**Kinnaman's book:** You will write a 4-6 page paper on this book. Spend one page summarizing each section. Take one to two pages to interact with which of his categories resonate most with you personally in your faith journey.

**Palmer text:** Following the reading of the Parker Palmer book, you will write a 2 page personal reflection indicating A. familiarity with the book and B. a sense of where you understand yourself to be on your journey of discovering God's call in your life. This reflection will be 2-3 pages.

### **MLA formatting for papers**

Here is a link that provides a basic summary of MLA formatting. Please, follow these guidelines for both papers.

[www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3mla.pdf](http://www.calstatela.edu/library/guides/3mla.pdf)

**Missions Trip Project:** You and an assigned partner will plan all aspects of your church's spring break mission trip to Mexico. You will be provided with a list of questions to consider, but this list is meant only as a STARTER, and is not exhaustive. You will jointly write a paper outlining your response to the list of questions and other plans that you come up with. As a team, you will meet with me for 10 min. on Fri. Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> where I will ask you questions individually about your plan. This interview will comprise 50% of your grade. (This assignment will be explained further in class).

**Group Observation Assignment:** You will find a small group to visit and observe. It can be a Bible study on campus, a group in a ministry you are involved in, etc.. You will observe only, and write up your observations about how this group functions based upon the topics covered in our class sessions dealing with small groups. 1-2 pages.

**Bible Study/Talk Project:** You will plan a series of 4 talks or Bible Studies for a hypothetical youth group. The group will be 30 HS students at your church. You will outline: the Biblical texts you will use, the questions you will ask, the way you will structure both the delivery of your content (talk, handout, etc.) and how you will break up the group for discussion, any media, non-biblical texts or illustrations you will use. The content must be thorough and all 4 sessions must cohere around either a topical (forgiveness, shame, following Jesus, etc.) or biblical (the Parables of Jesus, the book of Luke, the Sermon on the Mount) theme. (This assignment will be explained further in class).

### **Class Attendance and Participation**

I believe engagement with the issues of class, with me, and with one another is paramount to learning. Additionally, this is a class on youth ministry and doing youth ministry can't happen if you don't talk to kids. Therefore, you MUST talk in

class (I understand that some of you will be more outgoing than others, but everyone must interact, out loud, in class). Failure to actively participate in class or missing more than 3 classes will result in a reduction of at least one letter grade. The assignments are geared to give you an A if you do them, so much of your grade will be determined by how often and how well you interact in class.

In addition to the opportunity to make comments or ask questions during lecture, each class period will have “breakout” times where you will be in small groups. Each of you will be expected to take days where you take the lead in that time and present a summary of your groups comments to the class. This will be a chance for all of you to get class participation points.

### **Final Exam**

In class exam consisting of a section identifying key terms/names and a section of essay questions where you will discuss key themes of the semester. This exam will be based almost entirely upon in class lecture and discussion, so TAKE NOTES.

### **Cheating**

Don't do it. Using other's work without citation, cheating on tests, etc. are all inappropriate and will result in a loss of grade appropriate to the infraction or your being turned into the Academic Affairs Office for University discipline.

### **Late work**

Papers are due at 5:00 of the day assigned. If there is an extreme reason for late work, please discuss this with me prior to the due date. Late work will be accepted but will result in a reduction in grade.

### **Accommodation**

If you have need of special accommodation for the taking of tests, class lecture or paper writing, please discuss this with me so we can plan accordingly. I am very happy to work with you, but you will need to provide documentation from the ARC regarding your personal situation. Please, do not be hesitant to utilize services if you have a need.