



15800 Calvary Rd
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: YM235 D&DN Principles and Methods of Youth Ministry

Credit: 3 hours

Semester: Fall 2026

Dates: Session 2: October 19 – December 11

Days/Time: Legacy Course (no in-class meetings; entirely online)

Location: Online only

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will include all aspects of youth ministry, including local church, para-church and Christian camping. A biblical philosophy as well as practical methods for youth ministry will be studied. An analysis of various programs will be considered. The diversity of youth as well as their different developmental stages will be examined. Vocational opportunities and practical life experience in youth ministries will be discussed.

This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved. The student will:

1. Understand the Biblical truths and principles which establish the proper foundation for Youth Ministry. (PLO* - 2) (A** - A, B, C, D)

2. Understand the history of Youth Ministry and the developmental needs of youth which must inform contemporary Youth Ministry. (PLO - 2, 4, 5) (A - A, B, C, D)
3. Be conversant concerning the different contemporary views and venues of Youth Ministry. (PLO - 2, 3, 4, 5) (A - A, B, C, D, E)
4. Develop a basic philosophy toward Youth Ministry. (PLO - 2, 3, 4, 5) (A - A, B, C, D, E)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved. The student will be able to . . .

1. Articulate understanding of the biblical foundation for Youth Ministry. (PLO* - 2) (A** - A, B)
2. Distinguish the dominant views of Youth Ministry. (PLO* - 2) (A** - B, C, D)
3. Critically evaluate the various Youth Ministry Methodologies. (PLO* - 2) (A** - A, B, C, D)
4. Develop a basic statement of personal philosophy of Youth Ministry. (PLO* - 1, 2, 3) (A** - E)
5. Demonstrate comprehension of all course material. (PLO* - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A** - A, B, C, D, E)

III. TEXTBOOKS FOR THE COURSE

- A. The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB), English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.
- B. *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church* by Senter, Mark H., III., Wesley Black, Chap Clark, and Malan Nel. 2001. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN: 978-0310-2340-50. Retail: \$17.99.

IV. COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

- A. **Response Journals:** Study the Scriptures toward the development of the Biblical theology of youth ministry. Students will study key passages of the Bible both through individual study, and review of classroom discussions, documenting study through eight (8) response journals (200 points).

- B. Reading Responses.** Read the textbook toward the development of a Biblical philosophy of youth ministry. Students will read the course textbook (*Four Views*) and analyze using reading response questions assigned criteria provided via Canvas for the purpose of developing personal convictions regarding the principles and methods of youth ministry (200 points).
- C. Voices Project.** Research contemporary “voices” (in addition to the textbook authors) to determine the contemporary conversation regarding the principles and methods of youth ministry (200 points).
1. Students will research to identify 10 leaders, writers, speakers or ministries (not necessarily individuals) the student believes are important voices addressing the principles and methods of youth ministry early in the 21st century.
 2. Students will list the 10 “voices” (names, ministries), a few resources produced (books, blogs, films, etc.), and include a few paragraphs explaining why each voice is significant.
- D. Leader Interviews.** Interview three local church leaders regarding youth ministry (200 points).
1. The first step in this project will be to identify three local church leaders to interview, then provide details to the professor via Canvas. Preferably, the student will choose three leaders who have different perspectives regarding the principles and methods of youth ministry.
 2. The second step in this project will be the development of at least 20 questions to be asked in the interviews—questions should focus on principles and methods of youth ministry (Note: the textbook and classroom discussions will help with this project).
 3. The third step in this project will be to conduct the interviews (in person or online), asking at least the questions developed in the second step, then document those conversations in summary form, then analyze and document lessons learned.
- E. Philosophy Paper.** Develop a Personal Philosophy of Youth Ministry (200 points).
1. Students will write a minimum 10-page paper stating a personal philosophy of youth ministry, pulling together the study and research done in the entire course, focusing on both the principles and methods of a Biblical youth ministry.
 2. Students will prepare a 10-15-minute presentation to creatively share their personal philosophy of youth ministry. This will be a summary of the 10-

page paper using video, audio, PowerPoint, skits, art, music, etc., to help communicate what they believe about youth ministry.

V. GRADING FOR THE COURSE

Assignment A	200
Assignment B	200
Assignment C	200
Assignment D	200
Assignment E	200
TOTAL	1000

VI. POINTS AND FINAL GRADE

- A. 930-1000 points = A
- B. 900-929 points = A-
- C. 870-899 points = B+
- D. 830-869 points = B
- E. 800-829 points = B-
- F. 770-799 points = C+
- G. 730-769 points = C
- H. 700-729 points = C-
- I. 670-699 points = D+
- J. 630-669 points = D
- K. 600-629 points = D-
- L. 0-559 points = F

VII. TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (Subject to change)

- A. Week 1: Introduction to Principles and Methods of Youth Ministry
- B. Week 2: Developing a Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry, Part 1
- C. Week 3: Developing a Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry, Part 2
- D. Week 4: Developing a Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry, Part 3
- E. Week 5: Developing a Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry, Part 4
- F. Week 6: History of Youth Ministry
- G. Week 7: Principles and Methods of Youth Ministry
- H. Week 8: Conclusions and Student Presentations

VIII. NOTES

- A. * PLO = Program Learning Objectives (see Calvary University Catalog)
- B. ** A = Assignments; showing how the assignments for this course are directly linked to the objectives.
- C. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, 8th edition and the Calvary Style Guide, 2019 update. See the “Clark Academic Center” page on the CU website for a “Turabian Help” (<https://www.calvary.edu/clark-academic-center/>).
- D. About Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person’s or AI entity’s ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. Most assignments at Calvary require the student to produce original work. Therefore, unless specifically permitted by the instructor, the use of AI-generated content is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. AI, however, may be utilized in cases where the instructor has explicitly permitted its use to accomplish specific tasks. It is only in these cases that AI-generated (or modified) content may be submitted by the student. If there are any questions as to the permissibility of AI use for an assignment, please ask your instructor for clarification.
- E. Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.
- F. The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu) is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for Calvary University students. Student tutors aid with

all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

- G. The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time during the course, but any changes made will only be done after clearly communicating the need for the change and the specific change to be made via in- class announcement and Canvas announcement.
- H. Assignments are due when posted on Canvas. After that time, late assignment grades will be lowered 5% for each day it is late.