

15800 Calvary Road
Kansas City, MO 64147-1341

Course: YM439 D/DN – Practical Youth Ministry Applications (Legacy)
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2027, Session 1 (1/11-3/5)
Time: NA / Legacy
Location: By Appointment; Online through Canvas/Teams
Instructor: Dr. Joshua Paxton, Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu, (816)322-5152 ext. 1353
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I. DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on the specifics and details of a youth ministry (YM) such as vision, planning youth events, youth missions, time management, parents, and youth staff training. It will place emphasis on the practical application of these issues in the YM context

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. OBJECTIVES

A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Understand the nature and demands of YM. (PLO*-2) (A**-A,B,D)
2. Learn the specifics and details to carry out YM. (PLO-3) (A-B,C,D)
3. Consider the dynamics involved in practical applications of YM. (PLO-2) (A-A,B,C,D)

B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Explore various practical areas of working with youth. (PLO-2,5) (A-A,B,C,D)
2. Begin to develop practical strategies for ministering to youth by writing Position Papers. (PLO-2,5) (A-A,B)
3. Discuss, share and learn from others regarding practical applications of YM. (PLO-2,5) (A-A,B,C,D)
4. Develop Youth Ministry and personal management plans for using in the leadership of Youth Ministry. (PLO-1-5) (A-A,B,C,D)

III. REQUIREMENTS

A. TEXTBOOK, OBSERVATIONS AND LIBRARY: Read the textbooks, record significant observations and build your library. (230 pts.)

1. Read both textbooks in their entirety. (100 pts.)

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2. On the due date for each text, submit a *Reading Summary* (provided via Canvas). (100 pts.)
3. Library Builder (30 pts.):
 1. List 10 books related to YM that you do not yet own, that you believe you need to add to your library, and give a brief explanation about why each is an important choice.
 2. List 10 of the most helpful YM-related websites and write a brief explanation about why these will be helpful to turn to in future ministry.
- B. POSITION & PRACTICE STATEMENTS: Write eight (8) Position & Practice papers stating the student's views in selected aspects of YM. These papers will be more theological in nature, explaining the "why" behind ministry. (45 pts.; 360 pts. total)
 1. Write these either as a statement of personal practice as a youth minister or a policy position the student would implement in the church YM where the student is a leader. Be sure to include the Scriptural basis for conclusions and sources as appropriate.
 2. Focus these statements through the Youth Ministry context envisioned upon graduation (e.g., in a local church, in a para-church organization, in a camping ministry, etc.).
 3. Be sure to include the Biblical passages and/or principles which guide in answering these questions; include references.
 4. Each paper will be ~700 words in length and may be written in the format which would allow the information to be communicated most clearly (e.g., paragraphs, list, outline, or bullet statements).
 5. The following four (4) topics must be addressed for this assignment:
 1. Church and YM. How does YM relate to the larger church context? How should the Youth minister relate to the rest of the staff? To the pastor and official church board? What are some practical ways a YM can and should support both children's ministry (before YM) and adult ministries (after YM)?
 2. Biblical Vision for YM. What is the Biblical basis for YM? What does the Bible say YM should seek to do and accomplish? What will "success" look like in YM?
 3. Parents & YM. What is the Biblical role of parents in the life of youth (i.e., older children and/or younger adults)? How should parents and YM work together?
 4. Leadership for YM. Who may lead in YM? What qualifies them for leadership? What disqualifies for YM leadership?
 6. Choose four (4) of the following to complete this assignment:
 1. Youth Missions. What kinds of "missions" should the YM involve? How should the YM missions efforts relate to the larger local church missions program? The larger church missions program?
 2. Youth Ministry Staff (paid or volunteer) Development. How should

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leadership development be done? By whom? How? What is the role of outside training events (e.g., conferences, para-church organizations, etc.)? What curriculum/process is required to train YM staff?

3. Time Management in YM. What should a youth minister do in a normal week (e.g., evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, study, planning, etc.). What boundaries should the YM staff have in how they spend their time (i.e., with youth, family, larger church ministry, etc.)? What agreements should the youth minister seek with the church leadership concerning their accessibility to the "office" and to the other church ministries?
4. Relationships in YM. What kinds of relationships should the youth minister seek/develop? What are some examples of inappropriate relationships? Appropriate and inappropriate use of social media?
5. Teaching Youth. What should "youth" be taught? Should middle school students be taught the same subjects as high school students? What teaching methods are best for an effective YM (i.e., lecture, small-group discussion, testimony, media, etc.)?
6. Counseling Youth. Who should and should not counsel youth and why? What limitations, checks and balances, and boundaries should a youth minister have in place to ensure healthy counseling? At what point should parents, the senior pastor and elders become involved in the counseling of youth?

C. **MINISTRY PLANS (200 pts.):** Prepare an Annual Youth Ministry Plan, a Personal Weekly Youth Ministry Plan, and four Meeting Plans utilizing course reading, speaking to experienced ministry leaders and other research as needed. These papers will be more practical in nature, explaining the "how" behind ministry.

1. Submit a Youth Ministry Activities plan that includes all the major activities/events for one calendar year. (50 pts.)
 - a) Include the major events in a "normal" YM year for an entire calendar year (i.e., include all regular/weekly and special youth events).
 - b) This plan can be done in the form of a calendar, an outline, or some other practical format.
2. Also, submit a Personal Ministry plan that includes all the anticipated major activities for one "normal" week as a youth minister. (50 pts.)
 - a) For example, teaching study and preparation, visitation, ministry planning, staff meeting, meeting planning time, day off, personal devotions, etc.
 - b) This plan may be done in the form of a calendar, an outline, or some other practical format.
3. Meeting Plans (4 parts) (100 pts.)
 - a) Guidelines:
 - (1) These plans will be very "skeletal" (i.e., outlines).
 - (2) Each will be ~300 words using the format you would use in the meeting/service.
 - (3) In each plan, include appropriate elements and sufficient detail to guide the others who may be involved (i.e., musical

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- accompanists, worship leader, sound technician, ushers, etc.).
- (4) You may ask your pastor or other ministry leader for ideas and suggestions, but be sure to include references.
- b) Submit ministry plans for each of the following:
- (1). Regular large group meetings (25 pts.)
 - (2). Regular small group meetings (25 pts.)
 - (3). Weekend Retreat Plan (25 pts.)
 - (4). Choose one of the following special events (25 pts.):
 - i. Wedding Ceremony
 - ii. Funeral Service
 - iii. Youth-led Sunday morning service
 - iv. Service/meeting honoring graduates
 - v. Service/meeting welcoming new students
- D. **LEADER VIDEO RESPONSES.** Students will watch seven (7) videotaped interviews with a variety of leaders and write responses to each according to instructions in Canvas. (30ea.; 210)

IV. METHODS

A. In-class methods: listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, writing, and taking tests.

B. Out-of-class methods: reading, writing, research, and studying for tests.

1. Grading:

- i. Assignment A: Textbooks, Observations, Library (100,100,30) = 230 points
- ii. Assignment B: Position & Practice Statements (8X45ea) = 360 points
- iii. Assignment C: Ministry Plans (50,50,100) = 200 points
- iv. Assignment D: Leader Video Responses (7X30) = 210 points

Total

1000

2. "See Grading Scale in the University Catalog"

C. 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.

D. All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise

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indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.

- E. Late Assignments:** Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.
- F. 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.
- Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the student's work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.*
- G. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support
- H. The Clark Academic Center** (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU 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.
- I. Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

V. REQUIRED MATERIALS

The Bible (Instructor will use CSB)

Fields, Doug. 2002. Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry: A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. ISBN-13: 9780310240457. Retail: \$19.54. Kindle ISBN-13: 9780310569978. Retail \$5.49.

Kageler Len. 2008. The Youth Ministry Survival Guide: How to Thrive and Last for the Long Haul. Grand Rapids, MI. Zondervan. ISBN-13: 9780310276630. Retail: \$14.99. Kindle ISBN-13: 9780310669630. Retail: \$7.99

VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Discipleship Ministry in the Local Church; The Importance of Acts and the Pauline Epistles in the Discipleship Process

Week 2: Discipleship Principles from Acts, Part 1; The Birth of the Church and the Progress of the Gospel in the Ministry of Peter

Week 3: Discipleship Principles from Acts, Part 2; The Missionary Journeys of Paul and the Expansion of the Early Church

Week 4: Discipleship Principles from Paul's Early Letters; The Process of Establishing Believers in the Gospel and Implications

Week 5: Discipleship Principles from Paul's Middle Letters; The Process of Establishing Believers in the Importance and Purpose of the Church

Week 6: Discipleship Principles from Paul's Later Letters; The Process of Establishing Believers in Household Order and Leadership Development in the Local Church

Week 7: Addressing Various Discipleship Challenges and The Stabilization of Local Churches

Week 8: Designing a Discipleship Ministry for the Local Church