

# MIN694/CMI480 Advanced Topics: Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry

## GRAND RAPIDS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

---

January Term 2007

3 Credits

Professor: Steven Argue, M.Div.

Registration by permission of professor

E-Mail: Steve\_C\_Argue@cornerstone.edu

616.222.1422 (Office)

616.516.0558 (Mobile)

616.222.1502 (Fax)

---

**Description of the Course.** This course is designed to expand our understanding of youth ministry and the church through participating in the Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry in Nashville, TN. This course will integrate an all-day, pre-Forum class at GRTS; daily class gatherings during the Forum; and a wide range of readings pertaining directly or indirectly to Youth Ministry, including texts from some of the Forum lecturers. This course is designed to help students discern a biblical theology of youth ministry that shapes how the church addresses ministry to adolescent people groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Students will explore ministry issues facing the church and consider how these issues might be addressed through ministry to adolescents and the impact this has on the (especially western) church. Simultaneously, students will search for trends and consider what they must anticipate for their future contribution to youth ministry.

**Objectives.** As a result of this course, the student will be able to:

- 1) Articulate issues needing attention in the church and in youth ministry;
- 2) Respond to these issues by thinking through theological, missional, contextual, and personal implications;
- 3) Broaden her/his exposure to youth ministry through a broader scope of youth ministry resources;
- 4) Thoughtfully explore, understand, and articulate traditional and emerging expressions of youth ministry and be able to intelligently dialogue about relevant assumptions, issues, and solutions.
- 5) Articulate a youth ministry approach that she/he might take into a particular ministry context that addresses and responds to issues discovered through this course.

### Registration:

#### GRTS/Graduate Students

- Due to the special nature of this course, the class size will be limited to twelve students. Therefore, students should register as soon as possible, using the special enrollment form in the GRTS Office.
- In addition to GRTS course tuition, students will be financially responsible for conference tuition, travel, and accommodations. See registration section in this syllabus for costs and details.
- Due to the financial commitments that come with this course, the student will incur any costs or penalty fees that result in them dropping the course once they have registered for it.
- The deadline to register will be October 27, 2006.

#### This Course is open to College Juniors and Seniors

Sometimes, the best way to explore pursuing a graduate degree is to experience an actual, graduate course. Therefore, GRTS is offering this course to college Juniors and Seniors who aspire to pursue a graduate degree in the future. Students will receive graduate, Advanced Standing credits that they can apply to their future graduate program.

#### Cornerstone University Students

CU students taking this course will receive undergraduate credit AND will receive Advanced Standing credits that they can apply to their future graduate program. To receive graduate credit, college students must complete the attached enrollment form and receive approval by GRTS prior to taking the course.

Cornerstone University students will register with GRTS and, upon completion of the course, will have a graduate level transcript. Students can request a transfer of the credit to CMI480 to also get undergraduate credit.

## Potential Course Participants who are not Currently GRTS Students

All Students not currently a GRTS Student must complete the non-degree application along with the registration process. This form is at <http://grts.cornerstone.edu/prospects/admission/apply>

## Course Context.

### Classes

This class will meet one time at GRTS on Saturday, January 6 from 9AM to 3PM (with a break for lunch). Our class will then head to Nashville, TN on Sunday, January 7 through Friday, January 12 for the Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry. <http://www.ptsem.edu/iym/>

### Course Expenses

Due to travel and the Forum experience, students must anticipate Forum, travel and accommodations expenses in addition to GRTS tuition. Students should anticipate the following financial investment (costs are approximate).

- GRTS Tuition;
- Conference fee: \$315 (This is a discounted rate for GRTS students and includes conference, materials, coffee breaks, and most meals);
- Hotel: \$300 (5 nights, double occupancy);
- Transportation (flights, shuttle, misc expenses, etc.) \$300 (approximate).
- Miscellaneous personal expenses.

### Course Registration Details

- Register for the GRTS course through completing the Special Enrollment Form (and if applicable, the non-degree application), located at the Seminary office. Contact Diana O'Connor for any questions you might have.
- Register for the Forum online at <http://www.ptsem.edu/iym/> Make sure you indicate that you are a GRTS student and the appropriate tuition and accommodation discounts will apply.
- Make accommodation arrangements at HOTEL. Again, you can choose your roommate or you will be placed with one of the GRTS students.
- Flight accommodations will be arranged through GRTS. You will be contacted by GRTS to get the appropriate information for travel. It is a value of the course that we maximize our time together so we are encouraging traveling together rather than randomly showing up in Nashville.

Should the student need to drop the course, any financial penalties will be the student's responsibility.

## Course Readings.

The student will be required to do approximately 1500 pages of reading from the following resources.

### Required Text.

- Dean K. (2004). *Practicing Passion: Youth and the Quest for a Passionate Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishers. (250 pages)

### Choose, read, and interact with five of the following texts:

- Clark, Chap. (2004). *Hurt: Inside the world of today's teenagers*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Battle, Michael. (1997). *Reconciliation: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*. Cleveland, OH: Pilgrim Press.
- Brewin, Kester. (2004). *The Complex Christ: Signs of Emergence in the Urban Church*. London: SPCK.
- Dean, Kenda & Foster, R. (1998). *The Godbearing Life: The Art of Soul Tending for Youth Ministry*. Nashville: Upper Room Books.
- Gibbs, E., R. Bolger (2005). *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Guder, Darrell. (2000). *The Continuing Conversion of Our Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.
- Hauerwas, Stanley. (2000). *A Better Hope: Resources for a Church Confronting Capitalism, Democracy, and Postmodernity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press/Baker.
- Jaimeson, Alan. (2000). *A Churchless Faith: Faith Journeys Beyond the Churches*. London. SPCK.

- Lynch, Gordon. (2002) *After Religion: 'Generation X' and the Search for Meaning*. London: Darton, Longman & Todd.
- Hipps, Shane. (2005). *The Hidden Power of Electronic Culture: How Media Shapes Faith, the Gospel and Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Raschke, Carl. (2004). *The Next Reformation: Why Evangelicals Must Embrace Postmodernity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.
- Stone, Howard & Duke, James (2006). *How to Think Theologically (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.)*. Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press.
- Webber, Robert. (2002). *The Younger Evangelicals: Facing he Challenges of the New World*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books.
- Wright, N.T. (1999). *The Challenge of Jesus: Rediscovering who Jesus was and is*. InterVarsity Press.

## Course Requirements:

1. **Critical Reflection Paper: "To Whom/Where must Youth Ministry Minister? (20%)** Read Kenda Dean's book and write a 5-7 page reflection paper, with a one-page summary, that attempts to answer the question, "To whom and where must youth ministry minister?" This is not a book review so don't simply summarize the author. Instead, make connections between the thoughts presented by Dean with your thoughts and experiences (and the thoughts of others', Scripture, etc. While this reflective paper should include personal reflections, the student must adhere to good writing practice (e.g. introduction, conclusion, clear thesis, citations, etc).

- **The paper and summary are due at the first class on Friday, January 05, 2007. Students will share their one page summary of our reflections with the class and discuss their implications as preparation for the Forum.**

2. **Class Engagement (10%)**

The class will meet on Saturday, January 06, 2007, before we head to Nashville from 9AM to 3PM with a break for lunch.

The class will meet daily at the Forum for formal interaction and discussion. The student is expected to be an active participant in the whole learning community for the week. A community of learning encompasses both formal and informal interaction. It includes relationships between students just as much as the relationship between the teacher and each individual student. It is our hope that we can construct a positive learning environment together. Involvement and investment in this process will affect her/his grade.

3. **Lecture Summaries (20%)**

In addition, the student will submit a three-page summary for two of their Princeton Forum lectures.

The paper must include:

- The thesis of the seminar;
- The ideas/concepts presented in the seminar;
- A reflection and critique on the seminar's content and a response to how this seminar specifically interacts with youth ministry;
- Five questions the student wants to pursue as a result of this seminar.

- **Lectures Summaries are due Friday, February 16, 2007 at Noon.**

4. **Reading Log and Forward-Looking Paper on Youth Ministry (50%)**

From the five books the student read from the above list, the student is to identify five issues that youth ministry must address in the future. While not exhaustive, the student will attempt to be forward thinking (i.e. prophetic) through synthesizing one's personal experiences, reflections from Princeton Lectures, and interaction with books the student chooses to read. Issues must be specific and beyond the obvious. For instance, "families" might be an issue but this is too general and too common. What about families might youth ministry need to consider?

Consider the theological, personal, missional, and contextual issues associated with each issue as you identify the problem and propose some solutions. This assignment must be completed by Friday, February 02. This is to be a 12-15 page paper. Please note the writing guidelines explained in this syllabus.

Please submit a reading log that lists the name of the reading and the date when each work was completed.

- **Paper and Reading Log are due by Friday, February 16, 2007 at Noon.**

**Student Evaluation.** The final grade will be determined in light of the proportions indicated next to the assignments above.

#### Grading Scale

A	96-100	C+	77-79
A-	91-95	C	72-76
B+	87-90	C-	70-71
B	84-86	F	0-69
B-	80-83		

#### **OFFICE HOURS:**

The instructor welcomes and encourages you to meet for discussion of class issues, academic advising or personal matters. Office hours are Monday thru Friday by appointment. Please contact Diana O'Connor to set up a convenient time to meet (616.222.1422).

#### **INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE & WRITING EXPECTATIONS:**

Inclusive language should be used with reference to human communities. "Man," "men," "he/his" are to be used when they clearly refer to (solely) male referents, not for mixed or indeterminate referents. Use "person," "people," or "he and she"/"his and/or her." *This refers to classroom dialogue as well as writing.* For further suggestions with regard to gender-sensitive writing, see: Casey Miller and Kat Swift, *The Handbook of Nonsexist Writing*.

All papers should have subheadings within the paper for organization, be typed, size 12 characters, single-spaced, paginated, 1" margins, and error free.

#### **PLAGIARISM:**

Copyright violation and plagiarism have serious ramifications for Grand Rapids Theological Seminary students, both legally (the former) and ethically (the latter). Unauthorized copying or use of copyrighted materials, including downloaded files of various kinds, can result in criminal charges and fines. Plagiarizing another's words *or ideas* (i.e., passing them off as your own) can result in failure in the course assignment, failure in the course, or suspension from the program. For a fuller explanation, see the "Academic Integrity" section of the most recent version of the GRTS Academic Catalog and Miller Library's website under ["Research: Copyright Questions."](#)

#### **UNIVERSITY DISABILITIES STATEMENT:**

Cornerstone University will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students asking for disability accommodation should identify themselves to the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students will then meet with Anna Maddox in the Cornerstone University Learning Center to accommodate the disability.

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

DATE	ACTIVITY
Saturday, January 06, 2007: 9AM-3PM.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Trip logistics</li><li>• Theological, Personal, Contextual, and Missional considerations for youth ministry</li><li>• Initial reflections from K. Dean's book are due and will be read in class for discussion.</li></ul>
Sunday thru Friday, January 07-12, 2007.	Travel Conference Daily, Formal Class Meetings
Friday, February 16, 2007.	All final assignments due at Noon.