REGR 6204 SPECIAL QUESTIONS:  
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AND EDUCATION Online  
Fordham University  
Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education

Prof. Harold (Bud) Horell  
Spring Semester 2016, Online A  
Week Zero Begins January 12, 2016  
Course Dates: 01/19-03/14/16  
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Offers an overview of the life perspectives of contemporary youth and young adults; and a study of adolescent and young adult social consciousness, sexual development, and spirituality. Participants will explore ways of creatively re-envisioning religious education and pastoral ministry in the light of an understanding of life-span development and the socio-cultural context of contemporary youth and young adult life.

Course Resources:  
• Required texts:  

  * Additional readings will be posted on the Blackboard site for the course.

• The experience and insight of the teacher  
• The experience and insight of the students

* Writing Resources:  

Course Learning Outcome
- To demonstrate an ability to relate effectively the core theories, approaches, and historical origins of the academic fields of youth ministry and young adult ministry to the educational ministries of the church and the larger religious and public world, with a specific focus on demonstrating an understanding of the religious and educational development of youth and young adults;

Course Goals

• To explore the psychological, social and cultural factors affecting young people today and how these influences are shaping their understandings of their place in society, their sense of sexuality, and their spirituality
• To investigate Church teaching, Christian traditions and contemporary theological reflection as resources for those striving to assist young people in responding to the life pressures they face
• To explore how religious educators and pastoral ministers can help to prepare young people for life in our fast-paced, multi-perspectival, and religiously diverse world
• To foster the intentional ability to mentor the moral and spiritual growth of young people

Curriculum:

Module 1: THE LIFE PERSEPECTIVES OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (Week 1)

Focuses on understanding the life perspectives of contemporary youth and young adults; highlighting the challenges and new opportunities faced by young people and then explores how religious educators and pastoral ministers can reach out effectively to young people

Required Reading:

Dean, Kenda Creasy, et al., OMG: A Youth Ministry Handbook, selections from chapters 1-4:
“Telling the Truth: We Do This for Joy,” 3-4;
“Does Youth Ministry Matter,” 5-12 only;
“Thumb Lines in Youth Ministry,” 44-57.

Module Two: THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS (Weeks 2 and 3)
Part 1: Youth, Young Adults and the Social World: Perils and Potentials

Required Reading:
Serwer, Andy. “Ruled by Pop Culture,” *Fortune* (04/07/14), 169:5.

Recommended for Additional Reading:

Part 2: Learning to Respond to the Social World: Social Mis-education or Education for Peace and Justice

Required Reading and Viewing: (Readings will be made available on the course Blackboard site)
“What is Digital Citizenship?”, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oCkTmZ0bF5Q>.

Recommended for Additional Reading:

Module Three: SEXUALITY AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION (Weeks 4 and 5)

Part 1: The Development of Psycho-sexual Identity and Sexuality Education

Required Reading:

Scott and Horell, eds., *Human Sexuality*, Part I and chapters 8, 9, and 11.


Recommended for Additional Reading:


Part 2: Gender, Sexuality, Gender Identity, and Sexual Orientation/Homosexuality

Required Reading:


Anglican-Roman Catholic Theological Consultation in the USA, “Ecclesiology and Moral Discernment: Seeking a Unified Witness” (2014), nos. 43-59 (module materials).

Recommended for Additional Reading:


Module Four: NURTURING AN INTENTIONAL SPIRITUALITY (Weeks 6 and 7)

Part 1: Nurturing Spiritual Growth and Development

Required Reading:
- Frank Mercadante, Engaging a New Generation, chapters 4, 5, and 6. Recommended for Additional Reading:

Part 2: Nurturing an Embodied, Communal, Inculturated, Ecumenical and Inter-religious Spirituality

Required Reading:
- Helen Wolf, "Fostering Vibrant Worship in Catholic Schools." In Vibrant Worship with Youth.

Recommended for Additional Reading:

Module 5: Constructing a Pedagogical Creed as a Youth Minister

Required Reading:
- Mercadante, chapters 7 & 8.