REGR 6202.01 YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

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Graduate School of Religion and Religious Education
Fall 2015, Session B, Online Course
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For Fall 2015: Appointments available upon request

The course explores the personal and communal dynamics of youth and young adult faith and provides a conceptual framework for youth and young adult ministry. Students will draw from contemporary theology, the research of developmental theorists, and popular culture (for example, music, music videos, literature, and movies) as they discuss how we can nurture the faith and spirituality of youth and young adults today.

Course Resources:

• Required texts for all students:

* There will also be additional readings, audio and video presentations, and online materials that will be made accessible to students through the course Blackboard site.

* Additional required text for doctoral students:


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

* Writing Resources:
  

Course Goals

• To foster a better understanding of the disciplines of youth ministry and young adult ministry by exploring a conceptual framework for understanding the life issues and concerns of youth and young adults

• To further develop student's abilities as youth and young adult ministers to understand, reflect on, discuss and write about youth and young adult faith

• To foster the ability to mentor the personal and spiritual growth of youth and young adults

Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

• Demonstrates a knowledge of core theories, approaches, and historical origins of the youth and young adult ministries in relation to the academic field of religious education;

• Demonstrate an ability to relate effectively the core theories, approaches, and historical origins of the youth and young adult ministries to the educational ministries of the church and the larger religious and public world;

• Articulate the relationship between the Christian faith and their professional practice and spiritual development.

Proposed Curriculum

MODULE ONE: Getting Started in Youth and Young Adult Ministry (available Tuesday, March 15, 2016)

Required Reading:
  USCC, Renewing the Vision*.
USCC, *Sons and Daughters of the Light.*

- Give the documents a “quick read” to familiarize yourself with the official statements by the U.S. Bishops on youth and young adult ministries. I recommend that you return to the documents periodically throughout the course as we discuss the various components of youth and young adult ministries. If you are a member of one of the Protestant denominations you may want to skim through these documents and spend time reading *Starting Right,* chapter 4 in depth. If you are an international student, have the bishops of your country or region of the world issued statements on youth and young adult ministries? If you do not know the answer to this question I suggest you find out, and then compare the USCC statements to any statements by your own bishops—and pass on to me copies of these statements on youth and young adult ministry.

Go back and read carefully the short section on “Evangelization” in *Renewing the Vision* and the paragraph on “Accepting God’s Invitation” in Part Two of *Sons and Daughters of the Light.* Then, consider the question: How do these two sections deepen my understanding of evangelization?”

- Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, Revised National Certification Standards. (module materials)
- Alliance for the Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers, NCCL / Catechetical Leader (CL) Specialized Competencies; NFCYM / Youth Ministry Leader, Including Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (YML) Specialized Competencies; and NFCYM / Diocesan Youth Ministry Leader, Including Pastoral Juvenil Hispana (DYML) Specialized Competencies. (module materials)

*Starting Right,* Introduction & Chapters 1 and 7.

Recommended for Additional Reading:


*Starting Right,* Chapter 4

**MODULE TWO:** Human Development (available Tues, March 22, 2016)

Required Reading:

Recommended for Additional Reading:


**MODULE THREE**: Contemporary Culture & Life Contexts (available Tuesday, March 29, 2016)

Required Reading:

*Starting Right, Chapter 3*
Tom Roberts, “Young Adult Catholic Accept the Church as Is,” *National Catholic Reporter* on-line, July 2009. (module materials)

Recommended for Additional Reading:

**MODULE FOUR:** Advocacy and Religious Education/Catechesis (available Tuesday, April 5, 2016): **Short Essay due Sunday evening April 10, 11:59pm**

**Required Reading:**
- Cusick & DeVries, *The Basic Guide to Young Adult Ministry*, Part I

**Recommended for Additional Reading:**

**MODULE FIVE:** Pastoral Care and Prayer & Worship (available Tuesday, April 12, 2016)

**Required Reading:**
- Parks, Chapter 5

**MODULE SIX:** Christian Faith Communities and the World beyond the Church (available Tuesday, April 19, 2016)
Required Reading:

- *Starting Right*, Chapters 8, 12
- Parks, Chapter 6

Recommended for Additional Reading:


**MODULE SEVEN:** Leadership Development (available Tuesday April 26, 2016)

Required Reading:

- *Starting Right*, Chapters 10, 13
- Parks, Chapter 7
- Cusick & DeVries, *The Basic Guide to Young Adult Ministry*, Chapters 8, 10, and 11.

**MODULE EIGHT:** Justice and Service (available Tuesday May 3, 2016)

Required Reading:

- *Starting Right*, Chapter 5
- Parks, Chapter 8

Recommended for Additional Reading:

- *Starting Right*, Chapter 11.

*Final due May 10, 2016, 11:59pm*