

THE CONTENT OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS NOT A LEARNING CONTRACT AND THE INSTRUCTOR IS NOT BOUND TO IT. IT IS OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND INTENDED AS A HELPFUL GUIDE TO THE STUDENT. THE OFFICIAL COURSE SYLLABUS WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE FIRST CLASS.

=====

TITLE: The Ministry of the Evangelization of Adolescents **TERM:** Summer **YEAR:** 2017

SCHEDULE: Online, Start Date: April 24, 2017; End Date: June 30, 2017

Registration Deadline: April 17, 2017

Withdrawal Deadline: May 12, 2017

PROFESSOR: Rev. John Yake, I. V. Dei

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO 25

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Ministry of the Evangelization of Adolescents recognizes that “religious activities” currently offered to teens do not evangelize them. A scientific approach to youth ministry can succeed, however, because adolescents are very spiritual but inherited forms of ministry, particularly in a secular society where relative values are emphasized *via* media utilized by the young, cannot compete so as to be an effective agent of Christian conversion. The course will focus upon four themes (modules) that require attention in order to implement a successful ministry with youth: articulating your theology of (youth) ministry, understanding normative adolescent psychosocial development, considering the influence of culture, and acquiring an evangelizing methodology; i.e. the five principles of Youth Ministry Theory.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

A diligent application to the course themes should enable students to:

1. Enhance an understanding of adolescence as a unique moment in the life cycle and a distinctive opportunity for evangelization.
2. Deepen one’s grasp of the Christian religious heritage by articulating one’s theology of ministry and thus acknowledge one’s personal gifts for ministry in the youth context.
3. Access a realistic perception of the pastoral task through an accurate appreciation of contemporary cultural trends.
4. Acquire pastoral and leadership skills in the area of youth ministry that can contribute to a more personally satisfying and professionally successful ministry.
5. Through a greater understanding of *Youth Ministry Theory* students may become more cognizant of the field of youth ministry, generally, in terms of discerning who should be involved, what available resources/activities should be employed, and how these personal and material resources come together to enable an effective strategy for the evangelization of adolescents.
6. For those already engaged in youth ministry the course offers knowledge and skills that may improve their present *praxis*.

PREREQUISITES: none

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Please order the text right away from Mellen Press (716-754-2266, www.mellenpress.com). John C. Yake, *The Theory of Religious Ministry to Youth: Faith Development and the Christ in Others Retreat*. Lewiston, Queenston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 2005. Ask for the paperback edition.

POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENTS/PRESENTATIONS/TESTS:

1. Participation in assigned weekly unit discussions.
2. An Observation Report.
3. A major synthesis paper of 8-10 pages.

ABRIDGED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Besides class handouts there are ample youth ministry resources indicated in the endnotes and bibliography of this class text to assist students with their areas of interest.