

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.

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TITLE: The Ministry of the Evangelization of Adolescents **TERM:** Fall **YEAR:** 2018

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

REGISTRATION: LIMITED TO _____ UNLIMITED X

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Ministry of the Evangelization of Adolescents recognizes that popular pastoral programs offered to teens do not evangelize them because “religious activities” need a theological foundation, and as it is a professional enterprise, ministry requires some pastoral education on the part of ministers. A scientific approach to youth ministry can succeed because adolescents are very spiritual but inherited forms of ministry that lack a focused definition for “youth” ministry, particularly in a secular culture 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 addresses 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 contemporary culture, and acquiring an evangelizing methodology; i. e. the five principles of Youth Ministry Theory that were discovered by doctoral research.

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 TEXT:

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.

To purchase, *The Theory of Religious Ministry to Youth: Faith Development and the "Christ in Others" Retreat*, in paperback at the author's discounted price indicate your interest by sending an email to fr.j.yake@gmail.com.

The publisher's price is \$279.95USD (hard copy) whereas this offer's cost is \$130.00 plus shipping for a total of \$150.00. This amount is based on sending the book by regular mail (5 business days) to a Toronto postal code. Postage costs vary depending on location so there may be some alterations in the price but this can be ascertained when your mailing address is known.

Suggested publications by John C. Yake that utilize Youth Ministry Theory that is delineated in the above text:

--- *Talking to Teens About the Mass: A User's Guide*. Meditating Upon Christian Spirituality Through the Prism of Holy Mass. New York, Ottawa, Toronto: Legas Publishing. 2012.

--- *Teens Making Decisions: Engaging the Thought of Bernard Lonergan*. New York, Ottawa, Toronto: Legas Publishing. 2015.

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:

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