REFORMED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

**Youth and Family Ministry**

**January 2020**

**Instructor: Dr. John Perritt**

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**Course Description:**

This course gives an overview of a philosophy and methodology of youth & family ministry. Students will gain a deeper understanding of youth ministry in a local church and how they are to come alongside parents in their call to disciple their children. Students will also consider a biblical methodology for their specific church context. In addition to a philosophy and methodology of youth and family ministry, a significant portion of the class will deal with youth cultural analysis in order to assist the student’s implementation of youth ministry in our current context.

**Required Reading:**

* Clark, Chap. *Youth Ministry in the 21st Century: Five Views* (Baker Academic: 2015)
* Cosby, Brian. *Giving Up Gimmicks: Reclaiming Youth Ministry from an Entertainment Culture* (P&R Publishing: 2012)
* Jones, Timothy Paul. *Perspectives on Family Ministry: Three Views* (B&H Academic: 2009)
* Mueller, Walt. *Engaging the Soul of Youth Culture: Bridging Teen Worldviews and Christian Truth*. (InterVarsity Press: 2006)

* Perritt, John. *Time Out! The Gift or god of Youth Sports* (Christian Focus Publications: 2018)

**Recommended Reading:**

* Carter, Anthony J. *Black and Reformed: Seeing God’s Sovereignty in the African-American Christian Experience* (P&R Publishing: 2016).
* Clark, Chap ed. *Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the Family of Faith* (Baker Academic: 2016).
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *Hurt & Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today’s Teenagers* (Baker Book House: 2004).
* Cole, Cameron & Jon Nielson eds. *Gospel-Centered Youth Ministry: A Practical Guide* (Crossway Books: 2016).
* Detweiler, Craig. *iGods: How Technology Shapes Our Spiritual and Social Lives* (Brazos Press: 2013).
* DeVries, Mark. *Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why Most Youth Ministry Doesn’t Last and What Your Church Can Do About It* (InterVarsity Press: 2008).
* Jones, Timothy Paul. *Family Ministry Field Guide: How Your Church Can Equip Parents to Raise Disciples* (Wesleyan Publishing House: 2011).
* Jones, Timothy Paul & Randy Stinson eds. *Trained in the Fear of God: Family Ministry in Theological, Historical, and Practical Perspective* (Kregel Publications: 2011).
* Köstenberger, Andreas J. *God, Marriage, and Family: Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation* 2nd Edition (Crossway Books: 2010).
* Kwasny, John. *Pursuing a Heart of Wisdom: Counseling Teenagers Biblically* (Christian Focus Publications: 2019).
* Livermore, David A. *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World* (Baker Academic: 2010).
* Mason, Eric. *Woke Church: An Urgent Call for Christians in America to Confront Racism and Injustice* (Moody Publishers: 2018).
* McGarry, Michael. *A Biblical Theology of Youth Ministry: Teenagers in the Life of the Church* (Randall House Academic: 2019).
* Mueller, Walt. *Opie Doesn’t Live Here Anymore: Where Faith, Family, and Culture Collide* (Standard Publishing: 2007).
* *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Youth Culture 101* (Zondervan: 2009).
* Pearcey, Nancy. *Love Thy Body: Answering Hard Questions About Life & Sexuality* (Baker Books: 2018).
* Perritt, John. *Your Days Are Numbered: A Closer Look at How We Spend Our Time & the Eternity Before Us* (Christian Focus Publications: 2016).
* Platt, David. *Counter Culture: Following Christ in an Anti-Christian Age* (Tyndale Momentum: 2017).
* Renkie, Tony. *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You* (Crossway Books: 2017).
* Robbins, Duffy. *Youth Ministry Nuts & Bolts: Organizing, Leading and Managing Your Youth Ministry* (Zondervan: 2010).
* Senter III, Mark H. *When God Shows Up: A History of Protestant Youth Ministry in America* (Baker Academic: 2010).
* Tripp, Paul David. *Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens* (P&R Publishing: 2001).
* Twenge, Jean. *iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy--and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood--and What That Means for the Rest of Us* (Atria Books: 2018).

**Assignments:**

**Reading**

Reading is required and the student will be graded through an honor system method. You will be asked to submit a statement of percentage of reading with your final exam.

**Paper**

Pick one book from the ‘Required Reading’ section and write a reaction paper. Discuss ways in which your views were challenged, modified, or strengthened. Share ways in which you plan to implement some of your reading in your personal or ministry life. The paper will be 5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman, with standard margins.

**Group Project/Presentation**

Students will be divided into groups to research a specific topic related to youth culture. Some class time will be allotted to research and preparation for a class presentation. Each member of the group will be expected to take part in the research and presentation. They will also be expected to turn in an *individual* paper based on their group’s research findings. The paper will be 5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12 point, Times New Roman, with standard margins. The presentation should incorporate Powerpoint/Keynote; length 45mins-1hour; Q/A 10-15 mins.

**Final Exam**

The final exam will be a comprehensive, written exam which will cover content from all of the lectures and general themes from the required reading.

**Grading:**

* 10% - Reading
* 10% - Reaction Paper
* 25% - Group Project/Presentation
* 25% - Individual Presentation Paper
* 30% - Final Exam