

SOCIOLOGY OF ADOLESCENTS (GST 301/CE 506)

**Canadian Bible College/Canadian Theological Seminary
YouthWorks Course - January 13-17, 1997
Instructor: Matt Boda**

I. Course Vision

Each student will develop an understanding of the world and culture of adolescents today and apply that understanding to the development of an effective ministry to Canadian adolescents.

II. Course Goals

1. Each student will gain a greater understanding of Canadian and North American culture and youth culture in regards to both mindset and practice.
2. Each student will learn how to study culture as a whole and adolescent culture in particular, grappling with philosophies, methodologies and resources available to the students of culture.
3. Each student will develop an understanding of the history, development, and problems of adolescence.
4. Each student will be enabled to combine sociological study with Biblical principles which meet real needs among adolescents in youth ministry today.

III. Course Requirements

There are five course requirements. Late assignments and absenteeism will be graded as per Canadian Bible College/Canadian Theological Seminary academic policy and each student is responsible to be familiar with that policy. Extensions beyond the normal due date for completion of course work must be negotiated with the YouthWorks Program Director. Only exceptional cases will be considered. Without official extensions, student assignments which are submitted late will receive a failing grade. You will be wise to plan the three weeks following the class wisely in order to fully enjoy the fruit of the labours of your study. No handwritten assignments will be permitted. A summary of grading is as follows:

25%	Reading
15%	Adolescent Fact Sheets
15%	Youth Surveys
35%	Final Exam
10%	Class Participation

A. Reading

For Canadian Bible College students there are four textbooks which are required reading for this course which total approximately 1000 pages of reading. Canadian Theological Seminary students are required to read five textbooks. In regards to reading, the texts are listed under Textbooks below. Reading is worth 25% of final grade. A report on your reading is due at Greg Johnson's office by 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 1997. Please hand in a three-by-five card with your name, the name of this course and the extent of your reading in total pages read written on it. The professor's view of the role and expected method of reading will be presented in the first class session.

B. Adolescent Fact Sheets

Select a particular issue related to adolescents and prepare a set of fact sheets that deal with that issue. Of particular interest to your study should be definitions, statistics, quotes, history of the issue, resources available on the issue (books, videos, tapes, speakers, experts, etc.) as well as Scriptures (reference only) which bear upon the issue. The bibliography should include available materials written from both a Christian and non-Christian perspective. Spend some time as well discussing methods that a Christian can use in ministering to meet this need. Your final draft should evidence study into all of these areas.

Your best sources of information are the Regina Public and the University of Regina Libraries. Please endeavour to include Canadian statistics wherever possible. You may make your adolescent fact sheets as long and extensive as you wish with a suggested minimum length of five pages single spaced.

For Canadian Theological Seminary students, there is an additional assignment. Please write a four to five page application paper, sifting through your information and preparing an action plan for how you would incorporate the facts you have learned into your ministry. This will necessitate choosing a topic which is "closer to your heart" and an area in which you would be interested in pursuing within the context of your ministry.

Please clear your topic with the instructor before the end of Tuesday classes (January 14th). Adolescent Fact Sheets are due at the conclusion of all classes on Friday afternoon, January 17th. Adolescent Fact Sheets are worth 15% of final grade.

C. Youth Surveys

Working with a partner, your assignment is to create a survey to study adolescents in their own cultural setting. Choose one of the following topics and create a survey to help you better understand adolescent beliefs and practices in regards to that topic. (Feel free to choose another topic if you clear it with the instructor). You may want to choose a survey topic which is similar to or the same as the Adolescent Fact Sheet above. Make use of a wide variety of environs to gather your data (malls, school campuses, local convenience stores, etc.). Please survey no less than fifteen teenagers and limit your study to non-Christian youth. As well you will be wise to make use of adults who regularly work with adolescents particularly if they relate to the topic

of your survey. Remember the larger your sample size, the greater insights you will gain. Please hand in a final report including a sample of your survey, statistics of those surveyed (age, gender, answers, etc.), general themes discovered and implications for ministry to youth today. The implications for ministry should be well-thought through and are an essential part of your final report. Students should work as partners for the surveys, but write their own reports independent of any help from their partner. Suggested length of the report is five to seven double-spaced pages not including a summary of the findings of your survey. Youth Surveys are worth 15% of final grade. Final reports on surveys are due at Greg Johnson's office by 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 12, 1997. Please clear youth topic with the professor before the end of class on Friday, January 17th, 1997. Suggested topics for survey, all of which relate to adolescent belief and practices:

1. What I Believe about the Church
2. What I Hope to Accomplish with My Life
3. Can Humans Really Change Themselves?
4. What I Would Do Different as a Parent
5. How I Cope with Stress
6. Where Our Morals Come From
7. What Makes a Great Friendship?
8. Why Music is Important
9. What Happens When We Die
10. What Does a Great Marriage Look Like?
11. What God is Like
12. What is Right and Wrong with High Schools
13. What I would do to change Canada?
14. How I would go about attaining world peace

D. Final Exam

A final exam covering the materials taken in class will be given sometime around the end of January. In studying, pay particular attention to anything addressed in class which is of a non-statistical nature with a view to displaying understanding and insight into the principles taught in the course. Final exam will take the form of short answer and essay and will be worth 35% of final grade. Final exam date is

E. Class Participation

Class participation and involvement is key to successfully completing the course. As well, it is worth 10% of your final grade. Seek to be involved in class discussion and contribute all you can to make this the best class you've ever taken.

IV. Textbooks

There are four required textbooks for this course each of which is to be read in full to receive credit. The following order is suggested for reading the texts: Veith, Mueller, Bibby, and then Celek. There is a total of approximately 1000 pages of reading. The assigned readings are:

Bibby, Reginald W. and Donald C. Posterski, *Teens Trends: A Nation in Motion*. Toronto: Stoddart Publishing Company, Limited, 1992. (Read pages 1-114, 155-320).

Celek, Tim and Dieter Zander. *Inside the Soul of a New Generation: Insights and Strategies for Reaching Busters*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.

Mueller, Walt. *Understanding Today's Youth Culture*. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1995. (Read all 345 pages).

Veith, Gene Edward. *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*. Wheaton: Crossway Books, Good New Publishers, 1994. (Read all 233 pages).

**** additional reading for Canadian Theological Seminary students:**

McDowell, Josh and Bob Hostetler, *Right From Wrong: What You Need to Know to Help Youth Make Right Choices* (Word Publishing), 1994. (Read all 20 pages).

V. General Information

If you are a commuting student and need to send assignments in via the mail service, please send them to: YouthWorks Program Director, CBC/CTS, 4400 Fourth Avenue, Regina, SK., S4T 0H8.

If you wish to have your assignments returned to you, please submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the completed assignment to the YouthWorks Program Director.

If you have a need to contact the professor at any time following the class, you may do so through the following address and numbers:

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Home Phone: 606-858-0086
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