

**CRITICAL ISSUES IN YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY**  
**PTh 410**  
**Course Outline**  
**Winter, 2000**

**Instructor:** Kelly Schwartz  
**Office Hours:** M - Th 4:00-5:00 PM  
**Office:** 508

**Class Time:** TBA  
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**Required Texts:**

Creasy Dean, K., & Foster, R. (1998). *The Godbearing life: The art of soul tending for youth ministry*. Nashville, TN: Upper Room Books.

Long, J. (1997). *Generating hope: A strategy for reaching the postmodern generation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

Selected assigned readings.

**Course Objective:**

The purpose of this course is to provide you with opportunities for systematic reflection on the praxis of ministry to youth and families. Several critical issues will be the focus of required readings and seminar-style discussions: Professional and legal issues related to working with youth and families; assessment and critique of the postmodern generation; and a personal reformation approach to youth and family ministry. You will have extensive opportunity to pursue reflection and study on issues of personal interest.

**Course Outline:**

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Class Topics/Readings:</b>
January 17	<i>Introduction</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Using Infotrac in assignment research</li><li>• APA style and searching empirical literature</li></ul>
January 24	<i>The Times They Are A-Changing: A Sociological Analysis of Youth</i> Chapters 1, 2, & 3 <u>Generating Hope</u>
January 31	<i>Longing to Belong: A Theological Foundation</i> Chapters 4, 5, & 6 <u>Generating Hope</u>
February 7	<i>An Intimate Journey of Hope: A Framework for Ministry</i> Chapters 7, 8, & 9 <u>Generating Hope</u>

February 14	<i>Professional Issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Boundaries (Staff, youth, etc.)</li><li>• Screening, Selecting, and Training Volunteers</li></ul>
February 21	<i>Safety and Legal Issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Confidentiality, Duty to Inform, Informed Consent</li><li>• Negligence, Liability</li></ul>
February 28	<b>Mid-Term Break</b>
March 6	<b>Student Presentations</b> <hr/>
March 13	<b>Student Presentations</b> <hr/>
March 20	<i>Introduction to Family Law</i> Guest Speaker: Kevin Hannah, LL.B. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Custody, Divorce Law, Child/Spousal Abuse</li></ul>
March 27	<i>Redefining Youth Leadership</i> Chapters 1,2, & 3 <u>The Godbearing Life</u>
April 3	<i>Soul Tending and the Godbearing Life</i> Chapters 4, 5, 6, & 7 <u>The Godbearing Life</u>
April 10	<i>Godbearing Practices for Youth Ministry</i> Chapter 8, 9, 10, & 11 <u>The Godbearing Life</u>

***Evaluation:***

**Reflection and Response: (30%)**

Each week you will receive an assignment related to the required reading for the next week's class. The assignments will normally include challenges for theological reflection, practical application, and/or critical analysis. Your responses will be shared in class, and you will hand in a hard copy following each class. Plan on 2-3 pages per assignment. The assignments will be marked out of 10 and will be evaluated on originality of thought, thoroughness of reflection, and quality of response.

**Selected Topic Paper/Presentation: (40%)**

You will prepare and present a paper on a topic of your choice related to youth and family ministry. An exhaustive list of topics will be provided for you to choose from or you may come up with your own. The paper should be between 15 to 20 pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point). It must include at least ten bibliographic references (theoretical and empirical) and must follow APA style. The paper is due on the Friday prior to your presentation date. The paper is worth **25%** of your final mark.

You will also prepare a presentation to the class (45 minutes in length) on your selected

topic. The presentation should focus on a thorough review of the theory, research, and applications related to your topic, and should include appropriate use of visuals (i.e., short video clip, PowerPoint, web example) and class participation exercises. The presentation is worth **15%** of your final mark.

**Final Evaluation: (30%)**

A) Comprehensive Final Exam: Scheduled during the exam period, the open book test will ask you to integrate material from the entire course in response to a specific scenario or problem related to youth and family ministry;

**OR**

B) Case Study Analysis: In consultation with the instructor, the student will be given a single case study to review and analyze. Specific questions will be asked according the case study, but will include a summary and analysis of the relevant issues (i.e., sexuality, identity, family). The length of the analysis should be 7-10 pages.

**Course Guidelines:**

1) The written assignments are due on the dates specified. Extensions will only be granted upon request of the student at least two (2) weeks prior to the due date.

2) Attendance at class is expected from each student. After three (3) unexcused absences, the professor reserves the right to ask a student to withdraw from the class.

**Grade Structure:**

Percentage:	Letter Grade:	Grade Point Weight:
93-100	A+	4.3
86-92	A	4.0
82-85	A-	3.7
78-81	B+	3.3
74-77	B	3.0
70-73	B-	2.7
66-69	C+	2.3
62-65	C	2.0
58-61	C-	1.7
54-57	D+	1.3
50-53	D	1.0
0-49	F	