



**ED 620-1 Foundations of Children's Ministry
(Winter 2013)**

Course Description

Number of Credits: 3

In order to develop a good foundation for children's ministry this course will explore biblical, theological, sociological and educational principles that shape our approach to ministering to children. Various models (traditional and contemporary) of children's education will be discussed. The goal is to look at not only the "what" or "how" of children's ministries, but ultimately to understand WHY we do what we do. Special attention will be paid to the life of the Children's Pastor and the vital importance of nurturing one's relationship with Christ.

Expected Learning Outcomes

Students will:

1. Review biblical, theological and historical approaches that influence why we do children's ministry.
2. Identify your leadership type and begin to uncover a personal ministry philosophy as it relates to ministry to children and families.
3. Reflect on the importance of a child's biblical worldview.
4. Understand the vital importance of nurturing one's relationship with Christ in order to be an effective minister to children and families.

Class Schedules

Thursdays 2:30-5:15pm

Classroom: L2091

Instructor Information

You can contact the instructor via email at charla.willison@shaw.ca or schedule an appointment.

Textbooks

Fowler, Larry, Rock Solid Kids. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2004.

Holmen, Mark A., Building Faith At Home. Ventura: Regal, 2007.

Hybels, Bill, Courageous Leadership. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Stonehouse, Catherine & Scottie May, Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2010.

Book report 4 of your choice

Attendance

In order to benefit from this course and to best prepare you for a vocation in Children's Ministry, you must attend all classes. A student who misses more than 20% of scheduled classes will not be able to receive a passing grade for the course. In the cases of severe or prolonged illness, or other extenuating circumstances, the Academic Vice President may grant extensions.

Course Outline

	Topic	Due
1 Jan. 10	Why do we do Children's Ministry? A look at historical, biblical and theological foundations for ministering to children	
2 Jan. 17	Moral Education vs. Gospel based Faith Formation	Due: Part A Personal Philosophy of Children's Ministry
3 Jan. 24	Parents Role vs. Role of the Church We will discuss your reflections of our Brentview tour	Due: Book Report 1 (Listening to Children)
4 Jan. 31	No Class - Community Day	
5 Feb. 7	Tour Brentview Baptist Meet at the front door at 2:30pm sharp!	Due: Have 'Building Faith At Home' read by this date
6 Feb. 14	Leadership & a discussion of Philosophy of Ministry	Due: Journal #1 (Brentview)
7 Feb. 21	No Class - Reading Week	
8 Feb. 28	Tour First Alliance Church Meet at the front door at 2:30pm sharp!	Due: Book Report 2 (Courageous Leadership)
8 Mar. 7	Purposeful Children's Ministry	Due: Journal #2 (FAC)
9 Mar. 14	Creating a Child Friendly Culture	Due: Book Report 3 (Rock Solid Kids)
10 Mar. 21	Developing a Biblical Worldview	
11 Mar. 28	Children's Ministry Trends	Due: Seminary Book Report 4 & Presentations
12 April 4	Soul Nurture	Due: Part B Personal Philosophy of Children's Ministry

Course Requirements

(Please note, all assignments must be posted to MOODLE for marking)

1. Philosophy of Children's Ministry 15%

Part A (5%) due: Jan. 17, 2013

Articulate your *current* personal philosophy as it relates to ministering to children. Reflecting on scripture, reading and personal experience the student will prepare a personal philosophy of children's ministry. Consider the following: Who are you and how has God gifted you? What do you hold as high values (non-negotiables) in ministry? This philosophy should be 3-5 pages.

Part B (10%) due: April 4, 2013

Based on your reading and class discussion, you will now build on the philosophy statement you started at the beginning of the semester. You have the opportunity now to add to or subtract from your philosophy statement from a couple months ago. This paper will be 3-5 pages in length. You may rewrite the initial philosophy OR you may add pages to the end of your initial paper to articulate what you might add to what you already believe. Each student will share their philosophy (Part B) with the class.

2. Required Reading & Response (60% total – 15%/paper)

a). *Listening to Children on the Spiritual Journey* **Due: Jan. 24, 2013**

b). *Courageous Leadership* **Due: Feb. 28, 2013**

c). *Rock Solid Kids* **Due: Mar. 14, 2013**

d). *book of your choice* (PLUS presentation) **Due: Mar. 28**

These 5-7 page responses will include:

*A 1-2 page overview of the author's key points and explorations

*A 4-5 page discussion of implications for ministry. Essentially, you are asking yourself how this reading might influence you as a leader which ultimately impacts the ministry you lead.

3. Journal– (10%)

Due: the week immediately following each tour*. (tour dates are subject to change)

*At this point tour dates are Feb. 7 & Feb. 28 so journals are due Feb. 14 & Mar. 7.

We will be touring two different Children's Ministries in the city. At the end of these tours, students will write a 2 page reflection (double spaced) on what they learned. This journal is a place for students to write what they have learned, ideas they would like to implement, things they found helpful etc. What you have learned will be discussed in class. These tours are extremely important. **If there are extenuating circumstances that keep you from these tours, it is your**

responsibility to connect with these children’s pastors and set up a tour of your own.

5. Attendance, Class Participation & QUESTIONS 15%

Due: ongoing

Students are expected to attend class and participate in the discussion. As part of your class discussion, students are required to keep a running list of Questions About Children’s Ministry. These will be referred to as often as possible throughout the semester for the purpose of discussion.

Grading

Late Assignments

Extensions beyond the published due dates will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances. All assignments must be turned in on time on the assigned date. An assignment that is not submitted on time will receive a penalty, 10% for the first day and then 3% for each of the following 10 days (including holidays). After that the assignment will receive 0 points. But it must still be handed in or the final grade will be “Incomplete”. There are extenuating circumstances from time to time, and these may be discussed with the instructor.

Assignment Specific Grade Values

A. Philosophy	Value:15%	Due Date: a). Jan 17 b). April 4
B. Reading Report (Listening to Children)	Value:15%	Due Date: Jan 24
C. Reading Report (Courageous Leadership)	Value:15%	Due Date: Feb. 28
D. Reading Report (Rock Solid Kids)	Value 15%	Due Date: Mar. 14
E. Reading Report (student choice) & Presentation	Value 15%	Due Date: Mar. 28
F. Journal #1	Value:5%	Due Date: Feb. 14
G.. Journal #2	Value:5%	Due Date: Mar. 7
H. Participation & Questions	Value:15%	Due Date: ongoing

Grading: The available letters for course grades are as follows:

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Description</u>	
A+		
A	Excellent	80-100%
A-		
B+		

B	Good	70-79%
B-		
C+		
C	Satisfactory	60-69%
C-		
D+		
D	Minimal Pass	50-59%
F	Failure	Below 50%

An appeal for change of grade on any course work must be made to the course instructor within one week of receiving notification of the grade. An appeal for change of final grade must be submitted to the Office of the Registrar in writing within 30 days of receiving notification of the final grade, providing the basis for appeal. A review fee of \$50.00 must accompany the appeal to review final grades. If the appeal is sustained, the fee will be refunded.

Important Notes/Dates:

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) – Sunday, September 16, 2012 (Fall semester) or Sunday, January 20, 2013 (winter semester). These courses will not appear on the student’s transcript. Courses should be added or dropped on the student portal by the deadline date.

Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit, or drop out of the “audit” up to the “drop” date indicated above. After that date, the original status remains and the student is responsible for related fees. Please note that this is a **new policy**, that came into effect in the 2010-2011 academic year.

Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course without academic penalty (**withdraw**) – Monday, November 12, 2012 (Fall semester) or Friday, March 22, 2013 (Winter semester). A grade of “W” will appear on the student’s transcript.

Students wishing to withdraw from a course, but who fail to do so by the applicable date, will receive the grade earned in accordance with the course syllabus. A student obliged to withdraw from a course after the Withdrawal Deadline because of health or other reasons may apply to the Registrar for special consideration.

Electronic Etiquette

Students are expected to treat their instructor, guest speakers, and fellow students with respect. It is disruptive to the learning goals of a course or seminar and disrespectful to fellow students and the instructor to engage in electronically-enabled activities

unrelated to the class during a class session. Please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Laptops should be used for class-related purposes only. Please do not use iPods, MP3 players, or headphones. Do not text, read or send personal emails, go on Facebook or other social networks, search the internet, or play computer games during class. The professor has the right to disallow the student to use a laptop in future lectures and/or to ask a student to withdraw from the session if s/he does not comply with this policy. Repeat offenders will be directed to the Dean. If you are expecting communication due to an emergency, please speak with the professor before the class begins.

Academic Policies

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies as stated in the Student Handbook and Academic Calendar. Personal information, that is information about an individual that may be used to identify that individual, may be collected as a requirement as part of taking this class. Any information collected will only be used and disclosed for the purpose for which the collection was intended. For further information contact the Privacy Compliance Officer at privacy@ambrose.edu.

Extensions

Although extensions to coursework in the semester are at the discretion of the instructor, students may not turn in coursework for evaluation after the last day of the scheduled final examination period unless they have received permission for a "Course Extension" from the Registrar's Office. Requests for course extensions or alternative examination time must be submitted to the Registrar's Office by the appropriate deadline (as listed in the Academic Calendar <http://www.ambrose.edu/publications/academiccalendar>). Course extensions are only granted for serious issues that arise "due to circumstances beyond the student's control."

Academic Integrity

We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. Academic dishonesty is taken seriously at Ambrose University College as it undermines our academic standards and affects the integrity of each member of our learning community. Any attempt to obtain credit for academic work through fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest means is academic dishonesty. Plagiarism involves presenting someone else's ideas, words, or work as one's own. Plagiarism is fraud and theft, but plagiarism can also occur by accident when a student fails or forgets to give credit to another person's ideas or words. Plagiarism and cheating can result in a failing grade for an assignment, for the course, or immediate dismissal from the university college. Students are expected to be familiar with the policies in the current Academic Calendar and the Student Handbook that deal

with plagiarism, cheating, and the penalties and procedures for dealing with these matters. All cases of academic dishonesty are reported to the Academic Dean and become part of the student's permanent record.

Students are strongly advised to retain this syllabus for their records.