



AMBROSE  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FACULTY OF  
THEOLOGY

**ED 620-1 Foundations of Children's Ministry (3)  
Winter 2012  
Instructor: Charla Willison**

**Contacting the Instructor**

**Study:**

**Class Times:** Mondays 9:00-11:45 am

**Email Address:** [charla.willison@shaw.ca](mailto:charla.willison@shaw.ca) or [chwillison@ambrose.edu](mailto:chwillison@ambrose.edu)

**Office Phone:**

**Class Location:** A2212

**Course Description**

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.

**Course Objectives**

1. Review biblical, theological and historical approaches that influence why we do children's ministry.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of children's development physically, socially and spiritually.
3. Reflect on role as leader and begin to uncover a personal ministry philosophy as it relates to ministry to children and families.
4. Articulate a vision, mission and values for children's ministry in order to create an effective ministry plan.
5. Understand the vital importance of nurturing one's relationship with Christ in order to be an effective minister to children and families.

**Required Texts**

Barna, George, [Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions](#). Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 2003.

Cordiero, Wayne, [Doing Church as a Team](#). Ventura: Regal, 2009.

Miller, Sue with David Staal, [Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week](#). Grand Rapids: Willow Creek Association, 2004

Wiebe, Bissell & Cates, [Plan to Protect: A Protection Plan for Children and Youth](#). 2007.

## Course Schedule

*See appendix.*

## 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 Requirements

### 1. Philosophy of Children's Ministry 15%

#### **Part A (5%) due: Jan. 23, 2012**

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 2, 2012**

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 2-3 pages to the end of your initial paper to articulate what you might add to what you already believe. Along with discussing this in class, we will be reflecting on this philosophy at the end of the semester.

### 2. Required Reading & Response (40% total – 20%/paper)

a). *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions* (Barna) **Due: Feb. 6, 2012**

b). *Doing Church as a Team* (Cordiero) **Due: Mar. 5, 2012**

c). *Third book of your choice* (see suggested list attached) **Due: Mar. 25, 2012**

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. Ministry Plan: Paper and Presentation 35%

**Written Ministry Plan Due: April 2, 2012 (20%)**

**Presentation Date: April 9, 2012 (15%)**

You are the Children’s Pastor whose responsibility it is to ensure you have properly thought through and articulated your mission/vision/values as well as how you would cast that vision to your elders and congregation. Your mandate is to create a year plan for an effective Christ-centered ministry to children and families.

A thorough written ministry plan will include:

- Well defined mission/vision/values
- 3-5 Goals (these are general) and Objectives (steps you will take to realize your goals and should be measurable)
- Staffing – what will you require in terms of volunteers to make this happen?
- Training – how will you train your volunteers and how often will this take place?
- Screening – what will you have in place to ensure the safety of children and volunteers?
- Budget
- Outcomes

Presentation of ministry plan:

Be creative, feel free to use visuals or whatever multimedia you feel will enhance the presentation. Presentations will take place in class and each student has 15-20 minutes to present.

5. Attendance & Class Participation 10%

**Due: n/a**

Students are expected to attend class and participate in the discussion.

**A. Grading**

**Assignment Specific Grade Values**

<b>A. Philosophy</b>	Value:10%	Due Date: A). Jan. 23 (5%) B). April 2 (5%)
<b>B. Reading Report (Barna)</b>	Value:15%	Due Date: Feb. 6
<b>C. Reading Report (Cordiero)</b>	Value:15%	Due Date: Mar. 5
<b>D. Reading Report (your choice)</b>	Value:15%	Due Date: Mar. 25
<b>E. Ministry Plan – written</b>	Value:20%	Due Date: April 2
<b>F. Ministry Plan - presentation</b>	Value:15%	Due Date: April 9
<b>G. Participation</b>	Value:10%	Due Date: n/a

Grades Awarded in Foundations of Children’s Ministry	
A+	Superior performance showing comprehensive
A	Understanding of subject matter.
B+	Clearly above-average performance with

<b>B</b>	<b>Knowledge of subject matter completely</b>
<b>C+</b> <b>C</b>	<b>Basic understanding of subject matter.</b>
<b>D+</b> <b>D</b>	<b>Marginal performance.</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory performance or failure Or failure to meet course requirements</b>

### Schedule\*

	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Due</b>
1 Jan. 16	<b>Why do we do Children's Ministry?</b> A look at historical, biblical and theological foundations for ministering to children	
2 Jan. 23	<b>Understanding Children</b> A look at educational foundations for ministering to children	<b>Due: Part A</b> Personal Philosophy of Children's Ministry
3 Jan. 30	<b>Understanding the Children's Pastor's role in ministering to children</b> Discussion on Family Ministries	
4 Feb. 6	<b>Leadership Principles</b> Wayne Cordiero's book, 7 Principles book	<b>Due:</b> Barna book reflection
5 Feb. 13	<b>Volunteers</b> Recruiting/Training/Caring	<b>Due:</b> Miller/Staal chapters 1-3 due
6 Feb. 20	<b>FAMILY DAY - NO classes</b>	
7 Feb. 27	<b>Designing Ministry Plans pt 1</b> Developing mission/vision/values	<b>Due:</b> Miller/Staal chapters 4-6 due
8 Mar. 5	<b>Developing Ministry Plans pt 2</b> Goals/objectives/budget	<b>Due:</b> Miller/Staal chapters 7-9 due <b>Due:</b> Cordiero Book Reflection
8 Mar. 12	<b>Risk Management: Plan to Protect</b>	<b>Due:</b> Review the Plan to Protect manual
9 Mar. 19	<b>Philosophy</b> What is your ministry philosophy?	
10 Mar. 26	<b>Current Trends in children's ministries</b> Eg. Special Needs Ministry, Mentoring, ministry to Grade 5/6 students	
11 April 2	<b>Class Presentations</b>	<b>Due:</b> Written Ministry Plan
12 April 9	<b>Soul Nurture</b>	<b>Due:</b> Ministry Plan Presentations

***\*schedule subject to change, articles will be assigned throughout the semester for discussion purposes.***

### Important Notes

It is the responsibility of all students to become familiar with and adhere to academic policies of as are 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.

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty – **Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012** .

The last day to voluntarily withdraw from a course or change to audit without academic penalty – **Friday, Mar. 23, 2012**.

***Please note that final grades will be available on your student portal. Printed grade sheets are no longer mailed out.***

**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.*

*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](mailto:privacy@ambrose.edu).*

*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.”*

*We are committed to fostering personal integrity and will not overlook breaches of integrity such as plagiarism and cheating. 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.*

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

*Course changes, including adding or dropping a course, may be made during the Registration Revision period, as outlined in the Calendar of Events. All course changes must be recorded on a Registration form, available from the Office of the Registrar. Due to circumstances such as class size, prerequisites or academic policy, the submission of a Registration form does not guarantee that a course will be added or removed from a student’s registration. Students may change the designation of any class from credit to audit up to the date specified in the Calendar of Events, although students are not entitled to a tuition adjustment or refund after the Registration Revision period.*

*Withdrawal from courses after the Registration Revision period will not be eligible for tuition refund. Students intending to withdraw from some or all of their courses must submit a completed Registration form to the Registrar's office. The dates by which students may voluntarily withdraw from a course without penalty are listed in the Calendar of Events. A grade of 'W' will be recorded on the student's transcript for any withdrawals from courses made after the end of the Registration Revision period and before the Withdrawal Deadline (also listed in the Calendar of Events). 'W' grades are not included in grade point average calculations. A limit on the number of courses from which Academic a student is permitted to withdraw may be imposed. 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.*

*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.*

*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 Ambrose. Students are expected to be familiar with the policy statements 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.*

