



AMBROSE

**ED 620 Foundations of Children's Ministry (3)**  
**Winter 2014 (Directed Study)**  
**Instructor: Alice Kung**

**Contacting the Instructor**

**Office No.:** L2111

**Office Phone:** 403-560-6231

**Class Times:** Wednesdays 6 – 9 pm

**Class Location:** A2212

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**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.

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

Joiner, Reggie, Think Orange. Ventura: Regal, 2007.

Scazzero, Peter, Emotional Healthy Spirituality. Nashville :Thomas Nelson, 2006

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

**Recommended Texts**

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. Winnipeg:Wordalive Press, 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. 29, 2014**

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, 2014**

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 re-write 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 (45% total)

a). *Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions* (Barna)

**Due: Jan 22, 2014 (10%)**

b). *Think Orange (Joiner) vs Faith Begins at Home (Holmen)* - Make comparison between the two difference philosophies of Family Ministry.

**Due: Feb 12, 2014 (15%)**

c). *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* (Scazzero) **Due: Mar 12, 2014 (10%)**

d.) *Rock-solid Kids* (Fowler) **Due: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (10%)**

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 30%

#### **Written Ministry Plan Due: April 2, 2014 (20%)**

#### **Presentation Date: April 9, 2014 (10%)**

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:15%	Due Date: A). Jan. 29 B). April 2
<b>B. Reading Report (Barna)</b>	Value:10%	Due Date: Jan. 22
<b>C. Reading Report (Holmen &amp; Joiner)</b>	Value:15%	Due Date: Feb. 12
<b>D. Reading Report (Scazzero)</b>	Value:10%	Due Date: Mar. 12
<b>E. Reading Report (Fowler)</b>	Value: 10%	Due Date: April 9
<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

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

	Topic	Due
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1 Jan. 8	<b>Why do we do Children's Ministry?</b> A look at historical, biblical and theological foundations for ministering to children	
2 Feb. 12	<b>Values &amp; Why</b> Core Ministry Values and benefit of a clear starting point. Review philosophy from both Holmen and Joiner (which camp are you at?)	<b>Due: Critical Book Review on Holmen and Joiner</b>
3 Mar. 12	<b>Leadership Principle, Volunteers &amp; Plan to Protect</b> Recruiting/Training/Caring	<b>Due: Critical Book Review (Scazzero)</b>
4 April 9	<b>Classroom Presentation</b>	<b>Due: Ministry Plan Presentations Critical Book Review (Fowler)</b>

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

#### **Important Notes/Dates:**

Include here such information as is relevant to the course but not listed above.

The last day to enter a course without permission and /or voluntary withdrawal from a course without financial penalty (**drop**) – Sunday, September 15, 2013 (Fall semester) or Sunday, January 19, 2014 (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.

Directed Study courses cannot be dropped to audit.

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, 2013 (Fall semester) or Friday, March 21, 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.

#### **Other**

*Any added features in the syllabus are optional. You may or may not wish to include elements such as a bibliography, reading list, schedule of lectures/topics, or reporting form.*

*If you do not already have a policy for the use of electronic equipment in your classroom, the following paragraph is provided for your use. You may adapt this paragraph as you see fit.*

*The following information must be included in your syllabus:*

#### **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](mailto: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 due date 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 Monday, November 25, 2013 (Fall semester) or Monday, March 31, 2014 (Winter semester). 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 advised to retain this syllabus for their records.