YOUT 630
COURSE TITLE: STUDENT MINISTRIES

COURSE DESCRIPTION
A study of the philosophy, principles, and practices of evangelizing and discipling middle and high school age students within the context of their own diverse cultures. Certain axioms and paradigms of adolescent ministry will be examined and evaluated for their effectiveness as tools for understanding and reaching students with the gospel.

RATIONALE
YOUT 630 is consistent with the program learning outcomes of scholarship, research, and professional communication based upon the course’s learning outcomes that consist of a synthesis that includes analysis, comparisons, examinations, and identification of student ministry, resulting in the construction of a student ministry strategy that balances evangelism and discipleship.

I. PREREQUISITES
THERE ARE NO PREQUISITES FOR THIS COURSE.

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE(S)


Disclaimer: The above resources provide information consistent with the latest research regarding the subject area. Liberty University does not necessarily endorse specific personal, religious, philosophical, or political positions found in these resources.
III. **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING**

A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment  
B. Internet access (broadband recommended)  
C. Microsoft Word  
   (Microsoft Office is available at a special discount to LU students.)

IV. **MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

A. Analyze the contexts of generational culture, Generation X, Millennials, Generation Z, Digitals) represented with student ministry  
B. Evaluate the effectiveness of select evangelistic methodologies within youth ministries for the purpose of implementation  
C. Identify student ministry axioms and paradigms essential for effective student ministry  
D. Recognize characteristics that are associated with middle and high school students  
E. Construct a strategy of student ministry that incorporates evangelism and discipleship

V. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

*To be completed during the intensive*

A. Discussion Board Forums (2)

There will be 2 Discussion Board forums throughout the course. The purpose of Discussion Board forums is to generate interaction among students in regard to relevant current course topics. You are required to post one thread of at least 250 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Friday of the assigned module. You must post 2 replies of at least 100 words by 11:59 p.m. (ET) on Monday of the assigned module. For each thread, you should support your assertions with at least 1 citation in Turabian format (unless the DB indicates that no citation is required). Acceptable sources include textbooks, the Bible, websites, personal interviews, course lectures, etc.

Discussion Board #1:

Comment on what you remember most about your adolescence, whether it be physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, or spiritually. Please include two or more citations from the textbook, “The Adolescent Journey.” This can include any personal anecdotes.
Discussion Board #2:

Discuss your own personal style of evangelism. What types of evangelistic methodology have you participated in? What types are you most comfortable? Explain. Please include two or more citations from the textbook, “Connect.”

B. Personal Reflection Paper

The Personal Reflection assignment requires the student to synthesize their readings, both in this course as well as others, personal reading and required reading, juxtaposed with the student’s own experience, to develop their own perspective on student evangelism. This should be described succinctly in the form of an axiom(s). This perspective should include the student’s own personal position and practice of evangelism. The student can include an explanation of their own spiritual gifting, as well as their personality type. Emphasis should also be on the student’s personal convictions on evangelism, as well as how it can be demonstrated corporately within a student ministry. This paper can be written as a narrative. Please include the appropriate number of citations from the textbook, “Lifestyle Evangelism.”

To be completed as Pre-course assignments

A. Book Critiques (2)

Write a 5-page summary (not including Title page and Bibliography) on the textbooks: Timeless Youth Ministry (Moody Press) and The Hole in Our Gospel (Thomas Nelson). This should include the following sections; Introduction, Summary, Personal Response, Conclusion. Remember to use quotes from the book. Refer to rubric for complete assignment requirements.

B. Generational Interviews

The student is expected to interview 4 individuals from 4 different generations to include: Baby Boomers; Gen X; Gen Y; Gen Z. These individuals are to be identified based upon the descriptions in the video presentation. Personal interviews are recommended but not required. You may use other means to get your interviews. Once you have secured your interview, synthesize their responses to include, but not limited to an introduction; summary; personal observations; ministry implications; conclusion. Be sure to include confirmations or comparisons with assigned readings (these will make up your citations/footnotes). Questions to be included but not limited to the following:

- When is your birthday?
- What 2 or 3 events in your lifetime have helped shape your generation’s thinking?
- Are you optimistic about the future? Why?
- Should Christians be involved in politics? Why?
- What 2 or 3 social issues are the most important to you? What solutions would you recommend to solving them?
- Do you consider the Scriptures/Bible to be the source of absolute truth? Why?
- What types of technological devices do you use?
- What types of communication do you use most frequently?
Who would you consider the main ‘voices’ of your generation? What are they know for?
What would you consider the greatest contribution of your generation?
What would you consider the biggest challenge of your generation?

To be complete as post-course assignments

C. Field Experience Report

The emphasis of this assignment is twofold: the observation/participation of a local ministry/service; and writing a description of that experience.
It is the expectation that the student identifies a local ministry and observes it operation. Another expectation is that the student pre-determines the ministry’s relationship to student ministry and uses this as a criterion for selection. This can include but not limited to local church or para-church ministries. It could also include social service ministries (i.e. Christian based boys/girls homes/shelters; youth centers; mentoring/tutoring; clothing/food). This field experience should include conversations with those in leadership, as well as those who benefit (from the ministry). There is no length of time (for participation/observation) but to get the full benefit of this experience, the student should plan on an evening/afternoon/shift/daylight hours to be on site.

D. Strategy Paper

The Strategy Paper is a compilation of all video presentations; required readings; and assignments. The expectation of this assignment is that the student develops a plausible strategy of evangelism and discipleship for a current student ministry (can be their own church or ministry). This should include but not limited to the following:
Give a specific philosophy of your Student Ministry. Where does campus ministry fit in your philosophy? That is, what is the purpose of a campus ministry in the overall Student Ministry philosophy? (One-two pages)

Give a detailed description of your church and/or youth program.
List the number of students in your youth group from each middle school and high school in your area, as well as any other relative demographic information.
What programs/people/attitudes must be changed or altered to move toward a more strategic student ministry? How would you go about making these changes?
What programs could be retained or tolerated at the beginning?
What would you feel needs to be changed over the long haul?
Does your strategy include campus ministry? Why? If so, what ideas would you like to see implemented in order to facilitate a campus ministry.
List any and all lay staff and jobs needed to start and maintain a student ministry. (3-4 pages)

Project a year in advance, presenting ideas and plans for evangelism and discipleship. This should include rationale as well as the micro-managing of your strategy. This should include frequency of activities; budgetary considerations;
lay workers needed; any required training; etc. The student can present this in a narrative or in bullet form. (3-4 pages)

VI. **COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES**

A. Points

- Discussion Board Forums (2 at 50 pts ea) 100
- Book Reports (2 at 100 pts ea) 200
- Generational Interviews 200
- Personal Reflection Paper 100
- Field Experience Report 200
- Strategy Paper 200

**Total** 1000

B. Scale

- D- = 730–749  F = 729 and below

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact LU Online’s Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations.