INSTRUCTOR:
Les Christie

TEXT:
OR a text you choose with pre-approval by Les Christie

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Youth Ministry Skills is an introduction to the purpose and style of ministry with youth. There will be a special emphasis and overview of methods and programming. The class will include lecture, discussion and small group interaction. The topics that will be covered include:

- The Importance of Youth Work
- Getting a job in youth ministry
- Working with a multiple staff and church board
- Youth ministry and personal budgets
- Time management
- Measuring effectiveness
- Legal issues
- When tragedies strike
- How to make a hospital call
- Fundraisers
- Publicity
- Discipline in Youth Ministry: Working With Rude, Obnoxious, and Apathetic kids
- Retreats and Camps
- Evangelism of Youth
- Developing Leadership in Youth
- Mission and Service Projects
- Summer Programming
- Publicity and Promotion
- Getting Published
- Youth Minister’s family
- When to stay and when to leave a ministry
COURSE OBJECTIVES:
The student will at the end of this course will be prepared to begin working with a youth group. The student will be:

- Able to get a job
- Confident in managing time
- Able to prepare a personal and ministry budget
- Prepared to deal with disruptive kids
- Confident in fundraising
- Introduced to camping and mission trips
- Able to produce attractive publicity for ministry

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Three tests (True/False, Multiple choice, Brief essay, Fill in the blank) will be given over the lecture material covered in previous class sessions.

- Test #1 will be on Tuesday, September 22,
- Test #2 will be on Tuesday, October 20
- Test #3 will be on Tuesday, November 17.

Type a four full page response paper to The CORE Realities of Youth Ministry by Mike Yaconelli OR a text you choose with pre-approval by Les Christie. I'm not merely looking for a restatement of the book, but rather a personal statement on how the book has affected you.

Answer the following questions in your response:

- What new ideas did you receive from your reading?
- How have you struggled or been challenged because of your reading?
- What did you disagree with in this reading?
- What will you incorporate into your ministry?
- The paper is due during class time on Tuesday, November 3.

A final exam will be given that will cover all lecture material given in class for the entire semester.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Attendance: Class sessions are important for fulfilling the objectives of this course. Attendance is expected at all class sessions. A student who misses 20% of class sessions will be dropped one full grade. There are no differences between excused and unexcused absences, with the exception of a death in the family. It is in the best interest of the student to attend class faithfully. If the
student has an emergency that precludes them from attending class it is the responsibility of the student to get notes from that class from a classmate. It is recommended that students get contact information of dependable and thorough classmates that can give them the notes of the class they missed. If a student is unexpectedly and without notice unable to attend class the student must leave an e-mail or voice mail with their professor prior to the end of that class time. A professor has the right at some point to fail a student for excessive absences.

Student athletes must provide professors a copy of their season schedule at the beginning of the semester listing the dates of their upcoming absences for games. Student athletes will be allowed to miss class sessions for games plus an additional 15% of remaining class sessions before their final grade drops one full grade.

It is expected that students will arrive on time and continue until the end. To ensure this, three late entrances and/or leaving early will be considered as one complete absence.

No extra credit work will be given to make up for absences.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments will drop two full grades if turned in within one week of due date. Exams must be taken at the assigned time unless previous arrangements are made, available only for *extreme* circumstances.

**Cell phones/Pagers/Beepers:**
It is the professor’s expectation that each and every student, including myself, will take into consideration respect for the learning environment by turning off all devices with noise and the capability to interfere with the learning environment.

**Laptops:**
The use of laptops is for educational purposes only, therefore a laptop may be banned, by the professor, from the class for the remainder of the semester if it is used inappropriately (example: e-mail, games, internet surfing, other course work).

---

**Grading Policy:**
A  90% - 100
B  80% - 89%
C  70% - 79%
D  60% - 69%
F  Below 60%

Grading:
200 points - Test #1 Tuesday, September 22,
200 points - Test #2 Tuesday, October 20
200 points - Book Response Tuesday, November 3
200 points - Test #3 Tuesday, November 17.
200 points - Final
1,000 points - Total

Individual Discussions: Les Christie is available by calling 916-577-2268 to arrange an appointment to discuss any issues in the class. He mainly available Monday through Friday from 9 am to 4 pm, but may arrange occasional times outside these hours. If you are having difficulty understanding any assignments, lecture topics, or want further information, please do not hesitate to call or arrange an appointment during the class.

WJU Integrity Policy: WJU considers its students to be responsible, Christian adults and prefers to treat them as such. A major part of an education at a Christian college is developing and maintaining Christian character, specifically integrity. One jeopardizes that integrity by participating in any kind of deceit; WJU regards such acts as willful plagiarism, cheating, and misrepresentation as deceitful. A student discovered in this kind of activity will not only lose the trust the college has invested in him or her, but will also be subject to discipline: no credit for any assignments willfully misrepresented by plagiarism or cheating and a personal interview by the Academic Committee to determine if the student may remain in the class or in school.

Class Discussions:
Les Christie encourages questions during the class time and is available after class to meet with individual students.

Student Mailboxes:
Please put your name and student mailbox number on all papers.

COURSE OUTLINE:
Thursday, August 27 - Class (Getting a job - Resume)
Tuesday, September 1 - Class (Getting a job – Interviewing Skills)
Thursday, September 3 - Class (Getting a job – Questions to Ask)
Tuesday, September 8 - Class (Youth ministry and personal budgets)
Thursday, September 10 - Class (Youth ministry and personal budgets)
Tuesday, September 15 - Class (Time management)
Thursday, September 17 - Class (Time management: Youth Minister’s family)
Tuesday, September 22 - Class Test #1
Thursday, September 24 - Class (Evangelism of Youth)
Tuesday, September 29 - Class (Evangelism of Youth)
Thursday, October 1 - Class (Developing Leadership in Youth)
Tuesday, October 6 - No Class
Thursday, October 8 - No School (mid-term break)
Tuesday, October 13 - Class (Developing Leadership in Youth)
Thursday, October 15 - Class (Fundraisers)
Tuesday, October 20 - Class Test #2
Thursday, October 22 - Class (When Tragedies Strikes)
Tuesday, October 27 - Class (When Tragedies Strikes)
Thursday, October 29 - No Class
Tuesday, November 3 - Class Book Response (Retreats and Camps)
Thursday, November 5 - Class (Retreats and Camps)
Tuesday, November 10 - Class (Getting Published)
Thursday, November 12 - Class (Mission and Service Projects)
Tuesday, November 17 - Class Test #3
Thursday, November 19 - No Class
Tuesday, November 24 - Class (Discipline in Youth Ministry)
Thursday, November 26 - No School (Thanksgiving)
Tuesday, December 1 - Class (Legal issues)
Thursday, December 3 - Class (Publicity and Promotion)
Tuesday, December 8 - Class (Measuring effectiveness)
Thursday, December 10 - Class (When to stay and when to leave a ministry)

BIBLIOGRAPHY:


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


Veerman, Dave. 2001. Reaching kids before high school: A guide to junior high

Yaconelli, Mike. 2001. Youth ministry outside the lines. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.