The following syllabus is the teaching and learning guide for the last time this course was taught. It will give you a good idea of the descriptions of the course, how it was taught, the reading, the papers and other assignments, the intended outcomes, and the workload. By examining this syllabus and others, you will be able to form an impression of what graduate theological education at Phillips Theological Seminary requires of students.

Due to periodic curriculum revisions, course names and/or numbers may be different on this syllabus than what the name and/or number of the current offered course may be.

This syllabus is provided for your information only. The faculty reserves the right to revise the curriculum, and each professor reserves the right to decide how best to meet the learning goals of the curriculum. Therefore, the following syllabus is an historical artifact rather than a promise of how the course will be taught in the future, or that the course will be taught again.

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PT661.07 Youth Ministry: Theology and Practice (CAMPUS)
Fall 2012 Syllabus
Thursdays, 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm

Course Description
Theological and practical instruction about faithful and effective Youth Ministry in a 21st century context. Emphasis will be given to building a theology of Youth Ministry that leads to sustainable and relationship-oriented practice. This is a synchronous distance learning course that will include students in the classroom at PTS and students joining by live video feed.

Course Instructors
Rev. Randy Kuss – rkythm@gmail.com
Rev. Lara Blackwood Pickrel – larablackwoodpickrel@gmail.com
Rev. Bill Spangler–Dunning -- bsdumw@gmail.com
Rev. Julie Richardson Brown – jerb75@gmail.com
Rev. Adam Frieberg – adam@npartnership.org
Rev. Russ Boyd - russ@uccftw.com
Rev. Michael Davison, lead instructor – michael@npartnership.org / 405.509.5231

Some of the Questions Considered During the Semester
1. What is my Theology of Youth Ministry and how does this connect with / diverge from my Theology of Ministry?
2. Is Youth Ministry Missional Ministry?
3. What are my strengths and how do I work from those?
4. Is there a skill-set necessary for sustainable Youth Ministry?
5. What Youth Ministry “best practices“ and insights are necessary for the whole Church?

Learning Goals
1. Students will develop and articulate their own Theology of Youth Ministry.
2. Students will identify strategies, skills, components, resources and leadership for Youth Ministry consistent with their own Theology of Youth Ministry
3. Students will explore how to support Youth Ministry from the position of core leadership, (aka youth minister), and from the position of other staff roles for those that may be solo ministers or Sr Ministers of multiple staff congregations in the future.
Required Textbooks
These are the required textbooks. There will all be some additional reading material made available on the Moodle website. All students are expected to purchase and read the assigned materials for this course. If you have financial limitations that prevent you from purchasing the books, please alert Michael Davison right away.


Requirements
Course requirements are listed below, along with their respective values for the final course grade.

- My Theology of Youth Ministry Paper (40%) - Due October 11
  A paper demonstrating knowledge of the readings that develops your Theology of Youth Ministry and answers the question, “What is ‘youth ministry’ and how is it faithfully practiced in the life of the Church?”
- Practical Application Paper (40%) - Due December 6
  Students will select a topic (youth ministry event, teaching series, etc.) from the provided list (or create their own, with permission from instructors) and create a holistic plan for this event/curricula/activity that integrates their youth ministry theology and practice that has been discussed throughout the semester.
- At least two posts per week on the course discussion board in Moodle. On Friday following class an instructor will post two questions for further conversation that students must respond to by the following Tuesday to receive credit. (10%)
- Classroom participation. (10%)

All students are expected to turn in assignments on (or before) the dates they are due. Late assignments are not accepted unless prior permission has been granted by the lead instructor. Extensions will only be approved for emergency situations.

Grades: Letter grades will be determined based on the following:

- “A” range = 90–100: A+ = 98–100  A = 94–97  A– = 90–93
- “B” range = 80–89: B+ = 87–89  B = 84–86  B– = 80–83
- “C” range = 70–79: C+ = 77–79  C = 74–76  C– = 70–73
- “F” = 59 and below

Accommodation for Individuals with Disabilities
Phillips Theological Seminary is committed to providing equal access to its programs of graduate professional education for all qualified students with learning, physical, medical, and/or psychological disabilities. The Seminary aims to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability (based on clinical documentation) to ensure their access and participation in Seminary programs. For details, see “Disabilities Policies and Procedures” in the PTS Student Handbook. The Student Handbook is located on the PTS website (www.ptstulsa.edu): go to Worship & Community tab; select Student Handbook. Please contact Belva Brown Jordan, the Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services, for consultation.
Academic Honesty
Integrity is a basic principle of academic work. All students are required to be familiar with the PTS policies regarding “Academic Misconduct”. Dishonesty in student work (including, but not limited to: cheating and plagiarism) will not be tolerated in this course. Students who are found guilty of academic misconduct will receive at least a grade of “F” on the assignment in question and have a letter sent to the Dean explaining the situation. Other, more serious consequences are possible as described in the Student Handbook (www.ptstulsa.edu).

Attendance
“At PTS, class attendance and engaged participation are very important. Every member of the faculty and student community is, in fact, both teacher and learner. Therefore, a class absence means more than merely a missed delivery of educational content. It also means the irrecoverable loss of a unique dialogical ‘learning-through-teaching’ opportunity for oneself and others. In view of this understanding, PTS has an established Attendance Policy that states: Any student who misses 20% or more of the class contact hours for a course, for any reason, cannot pass or successfully audit that course. The intention of the policy is not to be punitive, but to recognize that students should retake courses for credit if they miss a significant number of the class contact hours. The 20% rule holds for online classes as well. In an online class, the instructor will set forth in the syllabus the requirements for what constitutes class attendance. The standard may change from week to week depending on the assignment. Typically, attendance is measured by the number of quality posts-per-week on the discussion board or other activities. The instructor sets the minimum number of posts-per-week required for a student to be considered present. If a student fails to make that minimum number of posts-per-week, s/he will be considered absent for the week. If a student is absent for 20% or more of the semester, s/he cannot pass the course.”

Other Policies
All written work should follow Turabian formatting. Assignments may NOT be faxed to the seminary. Unless previously arranged with the professor, all assignments (except online work) are to be submitted to the professor at the beginning of the class session in which they are due. Students are required to use inclusive language for all written work and during classroom discussions. See the “Just Language” document in the “Syllabus & Other Important Documents” folder in the Moodle room. Out of respect for the class, all cell phones must be turned-off during the session. In emergency situations, phones may be left on vibrate, but students must notify the professor before class.

See the “Netiquette Statement” in the “Syllabus & Other Important Documents” folder in the Moodle room for guidelines on participating in the bulletin board discussions.

Class Schedule
If you are joining class by video feed, please login no later than 12:55 pm so that class can begin at 1:00 pm. The online video feed will be available at 12:45 pm each Thursday. Students will use the same link to join by video feed each week.

Aug 23
Introductions / Stories / Syllabus
Topic: What is “Youth Ministry”

Aug 30
Topic: What’s Old / What’s New
Reading: Dean, OMG, Introduction through Chapter 3

Sept 6
Topic: Theological Frames 1: Community
Reading: Dean, OMG Chapter 4, pgs 59–66, 72–74
Web sources in Moodle Room

Sept 13
Topic: Theological Frames 2: Relational
Reading: Root, Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry Chapter 6
Spangler-Dunning, Revolutions, “Intro to Methodology”
http://dscpl.cc/revolutions

Sept 20
Topic: Theological Frames 3: Sacred Practice
Reading: Dean, OMG Chapter 4, pgs 74–78
Web Sources in Moodle Rm
Sept 27
Topic:  Theological Frames 4: Missional
Reading:  Dean, *OMG* Chapter 4, pgs 66–71
        Root, *Revisiting Relational Youth Ministry*, TBA

Oct 4
Topic:  What kind of Minister with Youth are you?
Reading:  Rath, *Strengths Finder 2.0*
        Read the sections based on your Top 5 results.

Assignment:  *Strength’s Finder 2.0*, Online Assessment & Discussion
Students will receive this book as part of the course from nPartnership. You will receive it either
as an eBook or hard copy. The code that comes with it allows you to connect to an online
assessment that will provide you a listing of your top 5 strengths. Complete this assessment
and be ready to discuss with the class where you see the assessment on target and which of
your Top 5 areas you think diverge from your strengths.

Oct 11
Topic:  Organizational/Structure Strategies 1: How to develop a Youth Ministry?
Reading:  DeVries: *Sustainable Youth Ministry*, Introduction to Chapter 3

Assignment:  *My Theology of Youth Ministry Paper Due Today*
A paper demonstrating knowledge of the readings that develops your theology of youth ministry
and answers the question, “What is ‘youth ministry’ and how is it faithfully practiced in the life of
the Church?” More information will be provided in class.

Oct 15–19 / Oct 22–26: Concentrated Courses

Nov 1
Topic:  Organization/Structure Strategies 2: Context, the Calendar, and Eat the Frog
Reading:  DeVries, *Sustainable Youth Ministry*, Chapters 4-6

Nov 8
Topic:  Organization/Structure Strategies 3: Technology & Youth Ministry
Reading:  Pre-class: None
        Post-class:  [http://wrth.it/ymtech](http://wrth.it/ymtech) (seriously post-class)
Nov 15
Topic: Organization/Structure Strategies 4: Competencies for Youth Ministry
Reading: Dean, OMG, Chapter 5
       DeVries, Sustainable Youth Ministry, Chapter 7

Thanksgiving Break

Nov 29
Topic: What Works in Youth Ministry?
Reading: TBA

Dec 6
Topic: Real Live Youth Ministry: Q & A
Today we will welcome “real live” youth ministry veterans that are serving full-time to take your questions about life in ministry with youth.

Assignment: **Practical Application Paper Due Today**
Students will select a topic (youth ministry event, teaching series, etc.) from the provided list (or create their own, with permission from instructors) and create a holistic plan for this event/curricula/activity that integrates their youth ministry theology and practice that has been discussed throughout the semester. More information will be provided in class.

Dec 7 Last Day of Classes