



Ministry to Young Adults
Professional Doctoral Seminar - CEAD8305
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Discipleship and Ministry Leadership Division
Summer June 8-10, 2026

Jody Dean, PhD

Professor for Christian Education
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Office: Bunyan 203
(504) 816-8277
jdean@nobts.edu

Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

Students will explore and evaluate generational characteristics, values, and lifestyles and their influence on strategies and methods for reaching, leading, teaching, and ministering to young adults. They will also consider young adult responses to organizational design and leadership styles.

Student Learning Outcomes

When you have completed this course, you will be able to:

1. Identify current sociological, psychological, and developmental issues affecting young adults' ministry to and education.
2. Discuss challenges, concerns, and opportunities for reaching and teaching young adults in the church or other ministry settings.
3. Integrate young adult education and ministry models and processes into his ministry.

Seminar Requirements/Assignments:

Before the Seminar

- Foundations Paper:
 - Write a 4-page paper offering a sociological and theological foundation for ministry to young adults. The paper should have three primary sections. 1. Definitions and parameters of the people group identified as "Young Adult." 2. Biblical and theological principles supporting a ministry to young adults. 3. A brief reflection on implications for ministry.
 - Complete this assignment before beginning the others.
 - Due Date: June 1, 2026
- Talking Points:
 - Generate 7 major talking points (annotated observations, insights, criticisms, etc.) for each required textbook. Identify your paper with a header including your name, assignment, date, and course title. Be prepared to discuss talking points in class sessions. The assignment must be submitted on or before the first day of the seminar.
 - Due Date: June 8, 2026

- Ten Questions: During class @ SBC
 - Identify major life needs, challenges, opportunities, or issues related to ministry with young adults and compose a list of 10 questions based on the reading assignments. Proposed questions should reflect significant concepts addressed in the texts and their implications to various ministry contexts. Consider this as you explore the exhibit hall and what ministry options are being promoted for young adults.
 - Due Date: June 24, 2026
- Textbook Presentation and Discussion:
 - In addition to the two primary texts, you will be assigned one additional text. Be prepared to present the book's major themes and ideas. Look for key principles and ministry applications. Rate the value of the book to the seminar topic. 1= much to be desired, to 5=outstanding in every way. Complete the template summary report to share with seminar participants. Post to the Discussion Board prior to class.
 - Due Date: June 9, 2026

During the Seminar

- Ten Questions: During class @ SBC
 - Identify major life needs, challenges, opportunities, or issues related to ministry with young adults and compose a list of 10 questions based on the reading assignments. Proposed questions should reflect significant concepts addressed in the texts and their implications to various ministry contexts. Consider this as you explore the exhibit hall and what ministry options are being promoted for young adults.
 - Due Date: June 24, 2026
- Seminar Participation:
 - You are expected to be an active participant in all seminar sessions.
 - The seminar begins with the receipt of the syllabus and continues until all assignments are completed and submitted.
 - The seminar does not consist only of the class time component; please plan accordingly.
- Assigned Textbook Presentation and Discussion:
 - Be prepared to introduce your assigned textbook and present major themes, ideas, ministry implications, and applications.

Following the seminar

- Ten Questions:
 - Identify major life needs, challenges, opportunities, or issues related to ministry with young adults and compose a list of 10 questions based on the reading assignments. Proposed questions should reflect significant concepts addressed in the texts and their implications to various ministry contexts. Consider this as you explore the exhibit hall and what ministry options are being promoted for young adults.
 - Due Date: June 24, 2026
- Survey/Interview:
 - Survey or Interview young adults from various backgrounds (be sure to include some unchurched and/or de-churched). The survey/interview content will be

created during the seminar. You will administrate the survey or interview several young adults to be determined by the collaborative effort of the seminar.

- Due: July 28, 2026
- Survey/Interview Report:
 - Prepare a brief written summary (4-5 pages) of the survey/interviews highlighting the most significant responses and your personal observations.
 - Due: July 28, 2026
- Resource Contribution:
 - The seminar instructor will create an online place to collect resources to be used during the seminar and beyond. All students in the seminar are expected to contribute possible resources such as: books, blogs, websites, articles, dissertations, projects, etc. A brief annotation of the entry a reference citation should be included.
 - Due: July 1, 2026
- Abbreviated Strategic Ministry Plan:
 - Prepare a 3–5-point strategic ministry plan for ministry to young adults in your church or ministry situation. The Abbreviated strategy should be 3-4 pages in length. Instructions will be provided during the on-campus portion of the seminar. The paper will follow a format derived from synthesizing the presented material.
 - Due: July 1, 2026

Textbooks:

You are expected to read all of the primary textbooks

Arnett, Jeffery Jensen. *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties* (3rd edition). New York: Oxford University Press. 2023

Setran, David P and Chris A. Kiesling. *Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood: A Practical Theology for College and Young Adult Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013 (ISBN: 978-0-8010-3956-0)

And one of the following: (will be assigned)

Dunn, Richard and Jana Sundene. *Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012

Kinnaman, David. *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church and Rethinking Faith*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2011. (ISBN: 978-0-801-0134-0)

McKee, Jonathan, and Thomas McKee, *The New Breed: Second Edition: Understanding and Equipping the 21st Century Volunteer*. Loveland, CO: Group. 2012. (ISBN: 978-0764486197)

Parr, Steve and Tom Crites. *Why they Stay: Helping Parents and Church Leaders Make Investments That Keep Children and Teens Connected to the Church for a Lifetime*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2015 (ISBN: 978-1-5127-0883-7)

Powell, Kara, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church, Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing, 2016 (ISBN: 978-0-8010-7297-0)

Rainer, Thom S. and Jess W. Rainer. The Millennials: Connecting to America's Largest Generation. Nashville, TN: B& H Publishers, 2011 (978-1-4336-7003-9)

Stetzer, Ed, Jason Hayes, and Richie Stanley. Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches that Reach Them. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2009

Twenge, Jean M. Generations: The Real Differences Between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents—and What They Mean for America's Future. California: Atria Books, 2023 (ISBN 978-1982181611)

Wachs, Daliah. Generation Alpha: They're Alpha for a Reason. Independently published, 2020 (ISBN: 979-8670126465)

White, James Emery. The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014 (ISBN:978-0-8010-1623-3)

White, James Emery. Meet Generation Z: Understanding and Reaching the New Post-Christian World. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2014 (ISBN:978-0-8010-1701-8)

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: lecture, expert panel discussion, in-class discussion, case study, group activities, research and application.

Directed Study:

Students who choose to take this course as a Directed Study are expected to complete all the class assignments as detailed. Students must also complete two additional assignments due by the end of the trimester to compensate for the lost seat time.

1. **Talking Points.** After you have read all the primary textbooks, write Talking Points on each. Talking Points is an annotated list of 7-10 critical thoughts or ideas you found compelling, controversial, or applicable to your ministry setting (one paragraph each).

2. **Reaction Paper.** Write a brief "reaction paper" for each book summary posted for this seminar. You have desecration with the content, but you should consider points of agreement, disagreement, inspiration, or challenge. Each paper should be 1 1/2- 2 pages in length.

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Foundations Paper	15%
Talking Points	10%
Book Summary/Presentation	15%
10 Questions	15%
Interviews w/Report	15%
Resource Contribution	10%
Strategic Ministry Plan	20%

Attendance Policy – Intensive and Weekend Hybrid Classes

Students are expected to attend and participate in the class sessions. Because of the nature of the intensive, students who miss any portion of the class may receive a grade of “F” for the course.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at “The Write Stuff”

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer. A copy of the approved NOBTS Style Guide can be found in the course Canvas shell, or can be located online at the Writing Center’s page on the seminary website at:

<https://www.nobts.edu/resources/pdf/writing/StyleGuide.pdf>

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Course Schedule

Projected Seminar Schedule

Schedule for Convention meetings will be posted in Canvas the week before class meets at the SBC.

Selected Bibliography

Anderson, Ray. *Something Old/Something New: Marriage and Family in a Postmodern Culture*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2007.

Arnett, Jeffery Jensen. *Emerging Adulthood: The Winding Road from the Late Teens through the Twenties*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015

Atkinson, Harley, ed. *Handbook of Young Adult Religious Education*. Birmingham: Religious Education Press, 1995.

Dunn, Richard and Jana Sundene. *Shaping the Journey of Emerging Adults: Life-Giving Rhythms for Spiritual Transformation*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2012.

Elmore, Tim. *Generation Yi: Our Last Chance to Save their Future*. Atlanta, GA: Poet Gardner, 2010

Fagerstrom, Douglas L. *Baker Handbook of Single Adult Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2004.

Isaac, E. Paulette, ed. *Expanding the Boundaries of Adult Religious Education: Strategies, Techniques, and Partnerships for the New Millennium*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2012.

Franck, Dennis. *Reaching Single Adults: An Essential Guide to Ministry*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2007

Kinnaman, David. *Unchristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2007.

_____. *You Lost Me: Why Young Christians Are Leaving Church and Rethinking Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2011.

- Marston, Cam. *Motivating the “What’s In It for Me?” Workforce*. Hoboken, New Jersey: Wiley & Sons, 2007
- McIntosh, Gary. *One Church, Four Generations: Understanding and Reaching All Ages in Your Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2002.
- Merriam, Sharan B. and Rosemary S. Caffarella. *Learning in Adulthood: A Comprehensive Guide*, 2nd edition. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2014.
- McKee, Jonathan, and Thomas McKee, *The New Breed: Understanding and Equipping the 21st Century Volunter*. Loveland: CO: Group. 2008.
- Packard, Josh. *Mental Health & Gen Z: What Educators Need to Know*. Springtide Research Institute Winona, MN. 2022
- Packard, Josh. *Belonging: Reconnecting American Loneliest Generation*. Springtide Research Institute Winona, MN. 2020
- Packard, Josh. *The State of Young People: Exploring the Sacred*. Springtide Research Institute Winona, MN. 2023
- Parr, Steve and Tom Crites. *Why they Stay: Helping Parents and Church Leaders Make Investments That Keep Children and Teens Connected to the Church for a Lifetime*. Bloomington, IN: WestBow Press, 2015
- Powell, Kara, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church*, Grand Rapids: Baker Publishing, 2016
- Rainer, Thom S. and Jess W. Rainer. *The Millennials: Connecting to America’s Largest Generation*. Nashville, TN: B& H Publishers, 2011
- _____, Thom and Sam Rainer. *Essential Church? Reclaiming a Generation of Dropouts*. Nashville: B & H Publishing, 2008.
- Reid, Topper. *Beyond the Walls: Focus on Adults and Young Adults*. Nashville: Lifeway, 2000.
- Setran, David P and Chris A. Kiesling. *Spiritual Formation in Emerging Adulthood: A Practical Theology for College and Young Adult Ministry*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2013
- Stetzer, Ed, Jason Hayes, and Richie Stanley. *Lost and Found: The Younger Unchurched and the Churches that Reach Them*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2009
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