



Youth Leadership Conference CESE8305

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Discipleship and Ministry Leadership Division
Southeast Youth Ministry Conclave
January 23-25, 2025

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Mission Statement

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

Purpose of Course

The purpose of this course is to provide the student an opportunity to attend the Southeast Youth Ministry Conclave in Chattanooga, TN, and gain academic credit for participation. Students must register separately for the conference.

Course Description

The objective of the Youth Ministry Institute (YMI) is to offer youth ministry training, using a concentrated delivery system. YMI is an educational delivery system to provide a different type of youth ministry dialogue. The delivery system is especially beneficial for professional doctoral students through exposure to the changing discipline of youth ministry. In addition, alumni and veteran youth ministers who wish to return for continuing education may register for a conference fee.

YMI is not a replication of classes which are offered during the regular academic semester, but a different type of exposure to youth ministry altogether. Professors and guest speakers who are experts in the field of youth ministry will address topics within the discipline of youth ministry.

Student Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify current issues in youth ministry in the areas of youth culture, adolescent development, discipleship with youth and families, and the basic work of the minister of youth. Additionally, students will process information regarding the fundamentals of youth ministry.
- Value the need to create environments to facilitate community among families, student friendships, and other adults in the church.
- Develop skills and strategies to encourage relationships within the church to create environments where families, youth ministry, and friendships may synergize to facilitate discipleship and faith maturity among the youth in a community of faith.

Required Textbooks

Haidt, Jonathan. *The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*. New York: Penguin Press, 2024

Hull, Brian C., and Patrick Mays. *Youth Ministry as Mission: A Conversation About Theology and Culture*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Ministry, 2022.

Powell, Kara, Jen Bradbury, and Brad Griffin. *Faith Beyond Youth Group: 5 Ways to Form Character and Cultivate Lifelong Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2023.

Prior to the conference, students must read the first book on the list, *The Anxious Generation*. Students will meet for dinner to discuss the text.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: reading assignments, written book reviews, Youth Ministry Conclave session summaries, and a research paper. The primary methodology will be conference session attendance and discussion, supplemented by individual research and writing, guided by the professor.

Assignments and Evaluation Criteria

Pre-Conference Assignments

1. Reading Report (10%)

The Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness by Jonathan Haidt. Write a 1-page (double-spaced) summary of the basic themes of the book and one application to youth ministry. Students will refer to this summary at the dinner meeting on the first day of the conference.

Email the professor before midnight on Thursday, January 23, 2025.

During the Conference

2. Attend Conference Sessions (20%)

Students are required to attend all conference sessions. Attendance at conference sessions serves as class time for the course.

After the Conference

3. Session Summaries (20%)

Students will write one-page, double-spaced summaries of all sessions (main stage and breakouts) from the Youth Ministry Conclave. Submit one document with all session summaries on Canvas. **Due before midnight on Sunday, February 16, 2025.**

4. Critical Book Reviews (20%)

Write a review (5-6 pages each) of all three of the required reading textbooks. Each review should include the following:

- a) Identify the author's purpose for writing. Was he able to communicate his purpose?
- b) Provide a brief overview of the key ideas from the text (about 3 pages).

- c) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Note: Strengths and weaknesses are not likes or dislikes, but an academic evaluation that should be supported by the course texts or content (about 2 pages).
- d) Answer the question, “Did the book help your understanding of youth culture or youth ministry?” If so, how did it help? If not, why not?

Students should refer to the Canvas document, “How to Prepare a Critical Book Review.”
Submit all three reviews as one document to Canvas before midnight on Sunday, March 2, 2025.

5. Synthesis Paper (30%)

Based on the textbook readings and what you learned at the conference, write a 10-12 page paper describing your youth ministry strategy/philosophy and a one-year ministry plan for a local church. The document should include youth cultural information, bible study topics, ministry to parents, and your plan for training adult volunteers. The one-year plan should include weekly meetings and special events, as well as a summary of teaching content. **Submit the document on Canvas before midnight on Sunday, March 30, 2025.**

Evaluation of Grade

The student's grade will be computed as follows:

Reading Report	10%
Attend Conference Sessions	20%
Session Summaries	20%
Critical Book Review	20%
Synthesis Paper	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Academic Honesty Policy: All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Style and Formatting

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>

Assignment Submission: All assignments are to be submitted via email to the professor (1st assignment) or to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. of the due date unless otherwise indicated.

Grading Scale: Your final grade will be based on your total accumulation of points as indicated under the *Assignments and Evaluation Criteria* section of this syllabus according to the grading scale in the NOBTS 2013-2014 catalog.

A 93-100 B 85-92 C 77-84 D 70-76 F 69 and below

Late Assignments: All work is due on the assigned date and time in the syllabus. Late assignments will be penalized five points for each day the assignment is late. Assignments will not be accepted two weeks past the due date.

Plagiarism: A high standard of personal integrity is expected of all students. Copying another person's work, submitting downloaded material without proper references, submitting material without properly citing the source, submitting the same material for credit in more than one course, and other such forms of dishonesty are strictly forbidden. *Although anything cited in three sources is considered public domain, we require that all sources be cited.* Any infraction will result in failing the course. Any infraction will be reported to the Dean of Students for further action.

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>

Selected Bibliography

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Youth Ministry Conclave Conference Schedule

Thursday, January 23	
1:00 – 3:00pm	Check-in and Registration
3:00 – 4:15pm	Breakout Block 1
4:15 – 5:30pm	Dinner Break – Meet with Dr. Odom at Registration Tables (Main Lobby next to the Exhibit Hall Entrance. We will walk to dinner at Urban Stack (12 W 13th Street))
5:30 – 7:30pm	Exhibit Hall Grand Opening
7:30 – 9:00pm	Main Session 1
9:00 – 10:15pm	Exhibit Hall Party
Friday, January 24	
8:30 – 9:45am	Mega Breakout
9:00 – 10:00am	Exhibit Hall Open
10:00 – 11:30am	Main Session 2
11:30am – 1:00pm	Lunch Break
1:45 – 3:00pm	Breakout Session 2
3:30 – 4:45pm	Breakout Session 3
1:00 – 5:15pm	Exhibit Hall Open
5:00 – 7:30pm	Dinner
7:30 – 9:00pm	Main Session 3
9:00 – 10:15pm	State Fellowship
Saturday, January 25	
8:30 – 9:45am	Breakout Block 4
9:00 – 10:15am	Exhibit Hall Open
10:15am – 11:45pm	Main Session 4
11:45am	Dismiss