



**A MINISTRY OF ABC-IN/KY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ABC-GI
ALONG WITH SPONSORING AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS**

C202b – Youth and Young Adult Ministries

January 28, February 11, February 25 & March 11, 2017

Instructor: Rev. Shellie Riggs Jordan

Cell Phone: 812-522-6120

Email: shelliejordan@gmail.com

Syllabus

Course Description

Youth and Young Adult Ministry (C202b) will examine the purpose of youth ministry within the congregational context; explore how the stages of faith intersect with the progression of cognitive and physical adolescent development; examine youth culture in modern America and its effect on spiritual development and worldview; and explore how to build and maintain a healthy and vibrant youth ministry.

Course Objectives

By participating in class and other course work, each student will:

- † Develop a working definition of Youth Ministry.
- † Understand some of the basics of adolescent development and how it effects their spiritual formation.
- † Become more familiar with modern American youth culture and how it shapes the worldview of our adolescents
- † Reflect on his/her own youth ministry context and explore ways to build and strengthen it.

About Your Instructor

Rev. Shellie Jordan has over 24 years of experience in Youth Ministry. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Ball State University in 1992, and began her ministry with youth as a volunteer in charge of senior high youth shortly after graduation. In 1995, she was hired as a Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, and served over seven years in that position before her call to First Baptist Church in Seymour, Indiana. Shellie served as the Minister of Youth at Seymour FBC for more than 14 years. During her ministry there, with the support of her church, she earned her Masters of Divinity from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota in June 2007, and was ABC ordained in May 2009. Shellie also worked with the American Baptist Youth Board to coordinate the Regional Jr. / Sr. High Conventions for five years, and has led workshops on youth ministry for Region Events as well.

Required Texts

1. Jesus Centered Youth Ministry, Rick Lawrence. Group Publishing, 2014. (Amazon – \$14.99)
2. Sticky Faith: Youth Worker Edition, Powell, Griffin & Crawford. Youth Specialties, 2011. (Amazon – \$12.46)

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Required Text Books
- Good English translation of the Bible
- Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
- 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)

Class Calendar:

**All Assignments must be completed before each class session

Session #1: January 28, 2017

Just what is this thing we call ‘Youth Ministry’?

Session Objectives:

1. Introductions
2. Overview of the course
3. Why should youth ministry be a vital part of our congregations?
4. Create a working, biblical definition of ‘Youth Ministry’
5. Understanding the importance of ‘ministry’ versus ‘program’
6. Begin the process of examining each students ‘home’ youth ministry context

Assignment:

Come prepared to introduce yourself and tell us about your ministry context. Think about and be prepared to discuss the following questions: Does Youth Ministry matter? Do our current practices of Youth Ministry reflect Christ? Do our current practices of Youth Ministry shape Christians? These are questions about the general state of Youth Ministry, but you can also think about them relative to your particular ministry context.

Session #2: February 11, 2017

All the ups and downs of Adolescent Development

Session Objectives:

1. Examine the adolescent development process from an emotional, physical, cognitive and spiritual point of view
2. Begin to more deeply understand how and why each of these developmental stages effect both our students and the ministries we form around them

Assignment:

Read Rick Lawrence’s book, *Jesus Centered Youth Ministry*, and write a 2-3 page reaction paper. Interact with the following questions in your paper: What was your overall impression of the material presented in the book? What did you appreciate about this book? What did you find challenging about this book? Was there a chapter or idea you resonated with the most? What was it and why? Did this book cause you to think differently about your own ministry with students and if so, how? Do you agree or disagree with Lawrence’s ideas? Explain your stance.

Session #3: February 25, 2017

Youth Culture and its impact on worldview

Session Objectives:

1. Examine youth culture in modern America
2. Look at how youth culture effects the worldview of our students
3. Look at ways to engage youth culture in a positive way in our ministry contexts

Assignment:

Read *Sticky Faith, Youth Worker Edition* by Kara Powell and write a 2-3 page reaction paper. Interact with the following questions in your paper: What was your overall impression of the material presented in the book? What did you appreciate about this book? What did you find challenging about this book? Was there a chapter or idea you resonated with the most? What was it and why? Did this book cause you to think differently about your own ministry with students and if so, how? Do you agree or disagree with author's ideas? Explain your stance.

Session #4: March 11, 2017

Putting it all together and bringing it home

Session Objectives:

1. Evaluating our Youth Ministries
2. Obstacles to effective and healthy Youth Ministries
3. Strategies for positive change in our Youth Ministries

Assignment:

Final Project: (Presentations of the final project will be done during class time.)
Take everything you've learned about youth culture, adolescent development, youth ministry theories and theologies and use it to help you create a one-hour youth group meeting. Think through all the elements you feel are important in youth ministry and find a way to incorporate them. Tailor this to the needs and abilities of your students. Use a story or a passage from the Bible as your focus. You will each present 15 minutes of your lesson during class time on Saturday March 5th. You can choose to do any part of the lesson. You could do a game, a mixer, small group discussion questions, teaching time or whatever you would like. If you will have handouts for your classmates, be sure to make those copies **before you arrive**. Even though you are only presenting 15 minutes of the lesson, you will need to turn the full one-hour assignment in to me during this class time. Be creative and have fun! 😊

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

8:45am Arrive
9:00am – 10:15am Session A
10:15am – 10:30am Break
10:30am – 11:45am Session B
11:45am – 12:30pm Lunch
12:30pm – 1:45pm Session C
1:45pm – 2:00pm Break
2:00pm – 3:15pm Session D

CLASS LOCATION

Switzerland County Technology
& Education Center
708 W Seminary St
Vevay, IN 47043