

SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY

School of Distance Education

CHM 1213 Foundations of Children's Ministry

Instructor: Dr. Darren Daugherty

Spring 2006

Course Syllabus

Course Description

An overview study of the various aspects of children's ministries. This course will provide the foundational understanding of the biblical perspective of children's ministries. It will also address the role of the children's minister in relation to parents, the pastor, and other church staff in leadership positions.

Course Objectives

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the Biblical implications for ministry to children and families.
2. Articulate a personal conviction about the need for ministry to children.
3. Explore the critical issues that impact children's ministry in the church.
4. Recognize the importance of home and parents in the lives of children and in the implementation of a children's ministry.
5. Examine current philosophies and trends of children's ministry.
6. Examine the role of the children's pastor/director as recruiter, screener, manager, and trainer of children's ministry volunteers.
7. Develop a personal philosophy of children's ministry to utilize in the local church.
8. Recognize the importance for support ministry to the church and staff.
9. Understand the role of the children's minister or children's ministry director in building an entire program focused upon the spiritual training of children

Required Texts

Fowler, Larry. Rock-Solid Kids. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 2004.

Jutila, Craig; Jim Wideman, etc. Children's Ministry That Works! Loveland, Colorado: Group Publishing, 2002.

Weidman, Jim. Children's Ministry Leadership. Loveland: Group, 2003.

Course Requirements

Papers (except reflection paper) must be in the MLA format (double spaced, 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, marked references, with title page). Submit all writing assignments through the assignment drop box.

1. *Reading assignments:* Read assignments and submit the 5 most important principles to be gained from your assignment. This aspect of the course is designed to help you glean from the readings and produce teaching material that you can use in your ministry. As you read each assignment, ask yourself, "What are the 5 most important principles that I get out of this?" Type them out, and send them to the instructor through the assignment drop box. This assignment is what you make it. It can be a way for you to form material that you can use to communicate with others your own vision of children's ministry – especially the workers under your supervision. There will be 11 of these assignments throughout the semester. You are required to do 10.
2. *Reflection paper:* Write a two-page reflection of the ministry that you received OR did not receive as a child. Reflect on its importance. Resources are not necessary. This assignment, in the past, has shown that some children's ministry students have been motivated out of the great ministry received; others are motivated out of the great lack that they received. You may fall into one of these categories or somewhere in between. This reflection will help your ministry and help you put vital self-study in writing. Consider it a two-page journal entry.
3. *Interview paper:* There are two different ways to do this paper. Your choice. Either choice is to be 5 pages long (6 pages if you count the title page). As you already know, children's ministry is so much about learning from others who are doing the ministry. Even if you are an experienced children's pastor of many years, this assignment will help broaden, adjust, or sharpen your vision.
 - a. Interview two children's pastors, outside of your church, about his/her philosophy and how it is implemented into his/her ministry to children. The student is to pick two very different churches, based on one or all of the following differences: the size of the congregation, the ethnic makeup of the congregation, the demographic location (rural, urban, and suburban). This paper is to include a few demographical descriptions of each church.
 - b. Interview a group of children's pastors about how their philosophies are implemented into their ministries to children.

The student may find opportunity for a quality round-table discussion that he/she can then write about. In this case, you may want to make your paper a collection of five, one-page reports on 5 different children's ministries.

4. *Philosophy paper:* Write a 5-7 page paper (not counting title page) describing your philosophy of children's ministry. You must have at least 5 references, one being the Bible. Follow MLA criteria. Start with a general philosophy of children's ministry before moving to your specific passion/focus. Think about this assignment like this: If someone told you that they would like to read about your philosophy of children's ministry, what would you want them to know? What would you want to put in their hands as an accurate picture/description?
5. *List of Leadership Qualities:* See Lecture #21. Submit through assignment drop box. If posting it to the bulletin board, you must still alert the instructor through the assignment drop box.
6. *Media Presentation:* Create and demonstrate a media presentation to be used in one of these ways: recruiting people for children's ministry or informing people of the importance of children's ministry. The context of the presentation is to be within the church. The media of the presentation may be video, drama, or digital photos / power point. Please make sure that you have copyright permission on items you use and indicate those copyrights within your presentation. If it is a teacher training PowerPoint, please include outline. If it is a promotional PowerPoint, please include brief description of the area you are promoting and the reason. A copy (cd, dvd, vhs) must be submitted to the instructor by the due date. Presentations must have two versions (a 3-minute and a 7-minute).

Grading

Grading	
Reading assignments	20% (10x20pts = 200)
Children's pastor interviews	20% (200 points)
Personal Reflection Paper	10% (100 points)
Philosophy of Ministry Paper	20% (200 points)
Leadership qualities	10% (100 points)
Media Presentation	20% (200 points)

Grading Scale	
900-1000	A
800-899	B
700-799	C
600-699	D
Below 600	F

Class Calendar and Due Dates

All due dates fall on Mondays, except the first assignment

Assignment	Due Date
Lesson 1: Lecture "Introduction" Assignment: Personal reflection paper (see assignment #2 above)	Jan 14
Lesson 2: Lecture "Passion – Philosophy and Purpose" Assignment: Read (Fowler, chaps 1-3) and write (see assign. #1 above)	Jan 16
Lesson 3: Lecture "Passion – Principles and Priorities" Assignment: Read (Fowler, chaps 4-6) and write (see assign. #1 above)	Jan 23
Lesson 4: Lecture "Passion – Possibilities and Projections" Assignment: Read (Fowler, chaps 7-8 & Jutila, chap 1) and write (#1 above)	Jan 30
Lesson 5: Lecture "Passion – Pupilage and Ponderance" Assignment: Do interviews and write paper (see assignment #3 above)	Feb 6
Lesson 6: Lecture "Parents – The Taters" Lesson 7: Lecture "Parents – Why Family Ministry?" Lesson 8: Lecture "Parents – How Family Ministry?" Assignment: Read (Jutila, chapters 5 and 18) and write (see assign. #1 above)	Feb 13
Lesson 9: Lecture "Players – Prevention and Protection" Lesson 10: Lecture "Players – Understanding Hurting Children" Lesson 11: Lecture "Players – Helping Hurting Children" Assignment: Read (Jutila, chapter 3)	Feb 20
Lesson 12: Lecture "Personnel – Organizing" Lesson 13: Lecture "Personnel – Coaching" Lesson 14: Lecture "Personnel – Multiplying" Assignment: Read (Jutila, chapter 2)	Feb 27
Lesson 15: Lecture "Program – Policies and Procedures" Assignments: Submit your media presentation (see assignment #6 above)	Mar 6
Lesson 16: Lecture "Program – Events Overview" Lesson 17: Lecture "Program – Programs Overview" Assignment: Read (Jutila, chaps 16, 19, 21) and write (see assign. #1 above)	Mar 13
Lesson 18: Lecture "Program – Budgeting" Lesson 19: Lecture "Program – Evaluation" Assignment: Read (Jutila, chap 6 & Wideman, chaps 1-4) and write your 5...	Mar 20

Lesson 20: Lecture "Professional – Teamwork" Assignment: Read (Wideman, chapters 5-8) and write your 5...	Mar 27
Lesson 21: Lecture "Professional – Leadership" Assignment: Write leadership principles (see assign. #5 above and lecture).	Apr 3
Lesson 22: Lecture "Professional – Hero Status" Assignment: Read (Wideman, chapters 9-12) and write your 5...	Apr 10
Lesson 23: Lecture "Professional – Family" Assignment: Read (Wideman, chapters 13-16) and write your 5...	Apr 17
Lesson 24: Lecture "Professional – Education" Assignment: Write your philosophy paper (see assignment #4 above)	Apr 24

Early assignment submissions welcome. Late assignments drop 10% per day.

Course Policies

Assignments

All course assignments should be completed with due consideration for the professional work expected of students of this university. Work should be neat, organized and typed. Assignments are due on the date posted in the syllabus, the course location on the WebCT site, and the Assignment Drop Box. Assignments should be saved and submitted to the WebCT Assignment Drop Box as a MS Word (.doc) file or .RTF file. Speeches must be mailed to instructor at address on last page. No late work will be accepted.

Library Use

All students are permitted to make use of the SAGU Nelson Memorial Library. In some instances, other schools honor the ID cards of SAGU students. Failure to return SAGU library books may jeopardize re-enrollment.

Integrity

Any evidence of cheating or any kind of plagiarism will result in an "F" for the course. Plagiarism is the use of another person's material or work as though it were your own.

Withdrawal

In the unfortunate event that a student seeks to withdraw from a course or from school, the SDE Office should be contacted to initiate the process. Request to withdraw must be in the form of a written statement from the student.

Last day to withdraw: March 29

Incompletes

The School of Distance Education does not grant automatic extensions for course work. Personal emergencies may become grounds for seeking an incomplete in an SDE course. However, unless requested in writing and the permission of the instructor secured in a timely fashion, no incomplete for course work or testing will be permitted. No incompletes will be granted if the student has not previously submitted 50% of the work with a passing grade during the course of the semester. An incomplete will incur a fee. Please see the University calendar for the last day to file an incomplete.

Last day to file an incomplete: April 19

Automatic Administrative Withdrawal

All student are required to turn in work or reports at the 4th and 8th week (3rd and 6th during the summer) of the course. If no work has been submitted or notice received, at the eighth week of the semester students will be automatically administratively withdrawn from the course.

Tips for the student

When in question about anything relating to the class, whether assignments or policies, please inquire of the professor. A good understanding prevents a misunderstanding. Be sure to seek help immediately if you are having difficulty with this course. I am here to assist you.

Instructor Availability

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