

SOUTHWESTERN ASSEMBLIES OF GOD UNIVERSITY

CHM 4413 - Current Issues in Children's Ministry

Instructor: Dr. Darren Daugherty

Fall 2005

Course Syllabus

Course Description:

This course will explore contemporary challenges in children's ministries. Issues such as: parenting challenges today, the single parent, "latchkey kids," homeless children, the impact of divorce, abuse, neglect, sexual abuse, alcohol and drug abuse will be examined from a Christian perspective.

Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Discuss contemporary challenges faced in children's ministries
2. Exhibit confidence in the Gospel to meet the needs of children in postmodern society.
3. Relate key strategies for meeting the needs of children today.
4. Discover and become familiar with unique ministries that are addressing specific challenges in the lives of children.
5. Understand how to implement resources, persons, agencies, and ministries in meeting the needs of the children to whom he or she ministers.
6. Decide ways that he or she would like to implement ministry to children dealing with specific issues examined in the course.

Texts:

As a conference course, the student and instructor will explore a number of different resources at their disposal, including many owned by the instructor.

Course Methods:

Study by reading books and magazines; doing research on selected websites; contacting various ministries my phone and email.

Conduct interviews with professionals in the fields of various topics

Build a resource file with a section for each topic

Create a weekly typed report for each topic studied after completion of the assignment (3 pages) (bibliography required for each reference used).

Course Plan:

Meet with instructor for course introduction

The student will explore 14 weekly topics of research from the following list. He or she and the instructor will decide on the selections during the opening session.

1. Physical disabilities
2. Mental (cognitive) disabilities
3. Loss of sibling
4. Loss of parent
5. Terminal diseases
6. Foster Care
7. Adoption
8. Stress in Children
9. Angry children
10. Poverty & children
11. HIV and AIDS in children
12. Child Abuse
13. Single parent families
14. Blended families
15. Same-sex parents
16. Children of incarcerated parents
17. Occult and Cults
18. Diversity and Prejudice
19. Media influence (movies, music, games, internet)
20. Royal Family Kids Camps
21. Missions focused on children in Africa and/or Eastern Europe
22. ADHD, ODD, and other prevalent disorders
23. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and drug Effects

If the student is would like to explore a topic not covered in this list, he or she is welcome to discuss it with the instructor. The instructor is open to any suggested additions to the list above.

Course Requirements and Assignments:

1. *Planning the course:* It is expected that the student will follow the schedule of topics agreed upon with the instructor. This will ensure the completion of assignments in a timely manor.
2. *Reading:* books, magazines, and internet sites.

3. *Interviewing professionals:* This course requires an interview with a professional in the field relating to the topic of the week. Your weekly report should include your findings from this interview.
4. *Create a weekly report.* This report should be at least three pages in length, double-spaced, reporting at list three things learned from the research. This report should specify, on a 4th page, who was interviewed for the topic of the week and the basic details of the interview (time, day, duration, face-to-face, telephone, etc) **This report is due each Monday by 4:00, which is when the instructor and student will have their weekly meeting.**
5. *Creating a resource:* The student will compile all research into a resource notebook. This file must be a 1" or 2" 3-ring folder, which the student must purchase. The folder must also have a slip cover, in which the student will place a cover and binder label. The resource must also have sections for each topic. This notebook will be graded and considered 20% of your final grade. It should include your reports along with any handouts and articles you found on the topic. Resource should include some creativity and uniformity. The student should recognize the benefit of this resource for the student's future use, including a portfolio addition to be used in interviews.
6. *Demonstrating knowledge:* The student will take an oral final exam, which will include information from the student's resource notebook.

Tips for the Students:

Keep current on research and interviews. If you procrastinate it will show in your report, and you will be lacking a quality resource that can be very beneficial to your future ministry.

Attempt to make contact in environments where you will have opportunity to experience those children facing the issues you are studying (Ex: hospitalized children, children in a shelter with their mothers, etc.)

Approach ever issue with an open heart to what God will reveal to you or call you to do in the future. I pray that this project will be one of the most beneficial projects for your ministry. May Christ give you much wisdom and insight as a result of your hard work.

You are encouraged to take advantage of the P.C. Nelson Library. You may surprised by resources you've never used there.

Suggested professionals for interviews:

Chaplain at the hospital, social workers, child protective services, adoption organizations, shelters for women/children, police (specialized units), medical

professionals who specialize in pediatrics, children's therapists, elementary school counselors, principles, foster parents, adopted parents, adults who were affected by the weekly topic when they were children.

Grading and Class Calendar

Meet with instructor August 31

Grading	
Weekly reports Due: September 5, 12, 19, 26; October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28; December 5	70% (50 pts ea. X 15 = 700 pts.)
Resource Notebook (Dec 9)	20% (200 points)
Final Oral Exam (Dec 9)	10% (100 points)

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

Final Exams

During the final exam week, a final exam will be administered in class at the time that the University has established as printed in the class schedule. No final exam will be given prior to final exam week. Students with conflicting exam schedules may arrange with the professor (subject to professor approval) to take an exam at an alternate time. The arrangement must be done prior to exam week. The alternate exam time is published by the Registrar.

Graduating seniors with a grade of B or higher within a course may be exempted from the last examination of the course if the professor designates it as a comprehensive final exam. However, a graduating senior with a grade of B or higher within a course, at the professor's prerogative, may or may not be exempted from a unit exam given during the final exam week.

Class Policies

1. Class Attendance

The student will meet with the instructor on a weekly basis. This time will be Monday at 4:00pm, which is when weekly reports are due. If this time/day does not work for the student, the instructor will schedule a different time of meeting. If the student cannot make a meeting, he or she must contact the instructor before the meeting.

2. Class Assignments

If the student is absent on the day an assignment is due, it is the student's responsibility to turn in the assignment by class time.

Assignments will be marked down 10% for each day late.

Office Hours and Availability

I am available to meet with you during regular office hours (MWF 2:45-4:45pm; TT 4:00-5:00pm), or by special appointment at other times. Be sure to seek help immediately if you are having difficulty with this course. I am here to help you.

If you misplace your syllabus or other assignment sheets, see the instructor's website (www.Darren.Daugherty.net).

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