

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Session
In Conjunction with the National Youth Workers Conference
September 23-25, 2004
Tulsa, Oklahoma

P THE 640 NATIONAL YOUTH WORKERS CONFERENCE
(2 and 3 Credits)

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Fall 2004

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This conference-based course will utilize the National Youth Workers Conference as an opportunity for focused reflection on the emerging Millennial culture and what the Church must do to engage today's youth. The course will facilitate a deeper understanding and appreciation of the Millennial world in order to produce greater ministry effectiveness within contemporary youth culture.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course is an arena for learning and growth of several kinds:

Cultural exploration: to gain a greater awareness of the major forms of cultural influence that are creating the context in which Millennials live and are shaped, and how these cultural shifts can be maximized to facilitate the Millennial quest for holistic spirituality.

Cultural appreciation: to acquire an increased appreciation for the unique contributions Millennial culture can make to our Christian journey and our ministry efforts.

Theological reflection: to hear Millennial culture posing critical life questions, and to exercise reflective skills needed to begin the process of developing meaningful answers.

Ministry enhancement: to be better prepared with the attitudes and skills necessary to facilitate Millennial spirituality and cultivate authentic community, as well as to develop relationships with other leaders devoted to this mission.

METHODOLOGY

This course will incorporate attendance at the National Youth Workers Conference to be held September 23-25, 2004, along with required readings, reflection papers, and projects. While the course will have a cognitive component, it is largely intended to be personal and experiential in nature--in keeping with the Millennial learning style.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Howe, Neil and William Strauss. *Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation*. New York: Vintage Books, 2000.

Barna, George. *Real Teens: A Contemporary Snapshot of Youth Culture*. Regal Books, 2001.
3 credit option additional required reading:

Jones, Tony. *Postmodern Youth Ministry: Exploring cultural shift, creating holistic connections, cultivating authentic community*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

Careaga, Andrew. *eMinistry: Connecting with the Net Generation*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 2001.

Gaylor, Dennis, ed. *Reach the U: A Handbook for Effective Campus Ministry*. Springfield, Chi Alpha Ministries, 2003.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. *Class Attendance:* Students are expect to attend all conference sessions and be active participants in all discussions, activities, etc.
2. *Reading Requirement:* Read the required texts in their entirety and prepare a two page typewritten "Reflective Reading Report" for each book. In this report you are to state whether or not you have completed the reading in its entirety, and discuss 3-4 of the most important ideas or challenges you picked up from the book and how they relate to your ministry context. (This is not a review or summary outline of the book's main points, but a personal reflection on specific insights that were significant for you personally, and why.)
Due: December 23, 2004.
3. *Final Project.* Each student will design final projects that assist them in integrating materials from the conference within their ministry context. Final project options include:
 - *Multimedia project:* Using the course as a starting point, develop a brief multimedia (PowerPoint/Web-based, etc.) presentation designed to effectively reach Millennials or to assist non-Millennials in understanding and/or ministering to Millennials
 - *Sermons/Messages:* using insights gained from the course, write two messages designed to reach a Millennial audience.
 - *Internet Project:* research Millennial culture on the Internet and prepare a 10-12 page paper on your findings, including the implications for ministry.
 - *Research paper:* prepare a 10-12 page paper on some aspect of Millennial ministry that would be helpful to you.
 - *Personal ministry growth plan:* Discuss in practical terms some of the ways the course can be implemented into your own life and ministry

- *Self-designed project*: Participants have the option of proposing a customized post-session project. The proposal must be submitted in written form, and the professor's permission must be secured in advance.

All coursework is due December 23, 2004.

- 2 credit hour option: complete **two** of the above options.
- 3 credit hour option: complete **three** of the above options.

Submit all coursework to:

**AGTS Continuing Education
Dr. Jay Taylor
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802**

GRADING PROCEDURE

	<i>2 Credits</i>	<i>3 Credits</i>
Conference attendance	10%	10%
Reading of 2 (3) course textbooks	10%	10%
Completion of 2 (3) reading reflection papers	10%	10%
Final Project 1	30%	20%
Final Project 2	30%	20%
Final Project 3		<u>20%</u>
	<u>100%</u>	100%

Note: Late work will be penalized.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Jay Taylor, July 2004.