

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

**MCS 639/PTH 640 Special Studies:
Children's Ministries Multicultural World**

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COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION a.k.a. **Multi-Faceted Cross-Cultural Children's Ministry**

This new course will provide a broad spectrum of exposure to various types of children's ministries and materials, as well as practical techniques needed in the actual production phase. It will include presentations by local Children's Ministry professional and on-site visits to several ministries that specialize in working with children around the world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

To provide participants with an overview of some of the many facets in ministering to children in today's world. To assist the student in understanding the complexity of issues when ministering cross-culturally. To provide a venue for seeing how others are creating ministry openings and achieving their goals of reaching children with the Gospel. To assist the participants in formulating their personal ministry philosophy by exposing them to various learning theories and the passion needed to adequately prepare to reach this age group.

During this process of this course, the participants will:

1. Identify and discuss current issues related to children's ministry and children's Christian Education.
2. Confront and critique major theories/philosophies of children learning.
3. Examine basic principles underlying children teaching methods
4. Identify key factors in creating a successful children's ministry.
5. Analyze techniques and methodology used in reaching various age groups.
6. Associate timing and learning readiness to the various age groups.
7. Develop a personal philosophy of ministry for working with children.
8. Participate in collaborative learning.

TEXTBOOKS

Clark, Robert E., Brubaker, Joanne and Zuck, Roy B. *Childhood Education in the Church*. Chicago, IL (1986) Moody Press

Hendricks, Howard G. *Teaching to Change Lives*. Multnomah Press, Portland Oregon, 1987

_____ *Children's Ministry Manual*. 2nd Edition, Generation XXI, Springfield, MO, 1995

_____ *Children's Ministry Resource Bible*. Child Evangelism Fellowship, Warrenton, MO, 1993 (Published by Thomas Nelson, Inc.)

These textbooks include bibliography for further reading and research.

CLASS FORMAT

The teaching-learning exchange will include lectures, dialogue, discuss groups, class interaction, student presentations, readings and writing assignments.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Understanding the child and his settings.
2. The learning process in Christian education and children's ministries.
3. Overview of children's ministry.
4. The relationship between education and children's ministries.
5. Leadership in children's ministries
6. Training of workers to expand your children's ministries.
7. Creation of resource lists, printed and on the internet.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Attendance and Participation:

- Maintain consistent and punctual attendance.
- Read critically. Come to class prepared to participate in the teaching-learning exchange, incorporating insights, personal experience, and questions from reading assignments.

2. Textbook Interaction:

- Read the three required textbooks. For each textbook, submit the following:
- A brief paragraph for each chapter stating the significant contribution of the text to your present knowledge/understanding of children, children's learning, and the facilitating of learning by children.
- Identification of 3-5 key insights (new ideas) gained from each textbook and how these insights may impact you and your specific ministry.
- Each textbook interaction should be double-spaced and 2-3 pages in length.

3. Personal Philosophy of Christian Education and Children's Ministry:

- Develop and articulate a brief (not more than 2 pages), a well-thought-out personal philosophy (a set of assumptions or beliefs) about working with children as learners and evangelistic prospects.

4. Case Study of Children's Ministry:

- Each participant will write his/her own **Case Study of Children's Ministry**. In this document articulate some viable aspect of ministry needed in reaching children in your setting. This may or may not be primarily related to an education only process.

- Select a specific ministry project, describe the target group and their unique cultural setting, the need for this project and gives reasons why it is important. Develop a realistic plan of function, time frame, and training needed. Include additional useful information such as learning theories applied, selection of materials and personnel to be used, amount of hours expected to be in needed for preparation, execution, and follow-up. Define the expected results both in behavioral change and spiritual results.
- Your case study should be 7-10 pages in length, double-spaced, one inch margins, and be printed in an easy to read 12 point typeface with a ragged right margin.

GRADING PROCEDURES

- 10% Textbook Survey Papers (3)
- 10% Personal Philosophy of Christian Education and Children's Ministries
- 20% Case study in Children's Ministry.
- 20% Classroom participation and presentation.
- 10% Attendance of external activities outside of regular class time.
- 05% Presentation of resource list.
- 25% Final Exam

Any work submitted late will be subject to a reduction of grade.

SPECIFIC DATA

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

To be provided in class