



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY**

UNIT TITLE	NEW DIRECTIONS IN YOUTH MINISTRY
UNIT CODES	E74037
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	E
PREREQUISITE/S	-
INCOMPATIBLES	E52037
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	3 hours per week contact and 7 hours per week study over a 13-week semester.

Separate seminars will be conducted for postgraduate students in relation to additional set readings. Students will be required to focus on topics depth and to do research. This research will be shared in class through mini-teaching presentations.

FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Even years – Semester 1
UNIT COORDINATOR	Mr Bruce Mullan
TEACHING STAFF	Mr Bruce Mullan
DATE PREPARED	28 February 2004

Rationale

This unit provides both undergraduate and postgraduate students with an opportunity to develop a strong biblical and theological basis for youth ministry, along with a theoretical and practical understanding of contexts, issues and models of working with young people. Adolescence is a stage when many people make significant life and faith choices. As a consequence, understanding how to work with young people is crucial for the missional and pastoral agenda of the contemporary church.

The ministry with young people provided by 21st century churches occurs in a number of contexts, deals with a range of youth issues, and arises out of basic biblical and theological understandings. This unit gives students the opportunity to research key issues faced by young people, explore the contexts in which ministry is provided, and develop a model for youth ministry. Students also reflect on the nature and role of the professional youth worker, with particular attention given to considerations of best practice in youth ministry.

Relation to Course

It is important for people leading the church in youth ministry to have a strong theoretical, biblical and theological basis for ministry with young people, and to have a range of models to choose from when participating in that ministry. Consequently this unit provides students with a range of closely linked learning experiences designed to enhance the understanding and practice of youth ministry. Postgraduate students are expected to develop a strong research orientation. Students also undertake

additional reading and participate in distinctive postgraduate seminars. They are also required to participate in mini-teaching sessions in which they present their research findings to the combined undergraduate and postgraduate class.

Aims

The aim of this unit is to enable postgraduate students to identify and explore contemporary contexts and issues relating to youth cultures in Australian society and to equip students to articulate a framework for thinking and theologising about youth ministry, reflect on best practice in youth ministry, describe a working model of youth ministry, and enhance their ability to engage in sustained critical reflection on the theology and practice of ministry.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Write a biblical and theological rationale for ministry with young people
2.	Research and respond to a contemporary issue which influences youth ministry
3.	Research a contemporary model for youth ministry and present the findings in a class setting

Content

Week 1	Biblical and theological themes in Youth ministry
Week 2	Biblical and theological themes in Youth ministry
Week 3	Adolescent development
Week 4	Young people and identity
Week 5	Youth, culture and media
Week 6	Youth contexts: Church and community
Week 7	Youth contexts: The school
Week 8	Youth contexts: The family
Week 9	Asset development: a paradigm for youth ministry
Week 10	Asset building as a model of ministry
Week 11	Frameworks for ministry Comprehensive approach
Week 12	The professional youth worker
Week 13	Frameworks: Student presentations

Organisation and Teaching Strategies

A range of interactive teaching strategies will be used. Key material will be presented through formal lectures with an emphasis on group work and reflective analysis of issues and contexts. There will be opportunities for students to present their independent research into selected issues covered in the unit through a series of mini-teaching sessions. Postgraduate students will have six separate class sessions of one hour which will focus on engaging the students in a critical discussion of the additional readings.

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Using one biblical text write a theological rationale for ministry with young people	1000			1
2	Research a contemporary issue affecting young people in Australian society. Include your reflections on the issue and ways the church could respond to the issue. Present your findings in a class mini-teaching session				2

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
3	<p>OPTION A: A major project to be presented to the class detailing a model of youth ministry and outline its applicability to particular contexts and its application in a ministry setting by a professional youth worker. A clear proposal for the context and application of the project will be presented to the unit coordinator</p> <p>OR</p> <p>OPTION B: Self defined research project. The student will need a research base, bibliography, a section engaged in practical theological reflection on the subject and a clear thesis/ argument/ hypothesis to work from. A formal proposal for the project, complete with bibliography will be presented to the unit coordinator</p>	4000			3
		3000			3

Generic Skills

- Advanced skills in research, including primary and secondary sources
- Advanced writing skills, organisation and conciseness
- Advanced skills in using electronic databases and search engines
- Advanced skill in integrating theory and praxis.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recommended

Dean KC, Clark C and Rahn D (Eds): *Thinking Theologically About Youth Ministry – Starting Right* Zondervan Publishing House 2001

References – Books

- Basler, Cathi, Wayne Rice, Chap Clark: *New Directions for Youth Ministry*. Loveland, CO: Group Publishing 1998.
- Beaudoin T: *Virtual Faith* Jossey Bass 1998.
- Bessant J, Sercombe, Rob Watts, R: *Youth Studies an Australian Perspective* Longman 1998.
- Borgman D: *When Kumbaya is not Enough; A Practical Theology of Youth Ministry* Hendrixon Publishers Inc 1997.
- Borgman Dean & Chris Cook (Eds): *Agenda for Youth Ministry: Cultural Themes in Faith and Church*. Herndon VA: SPEK, 1998.
- Christopher, Nancy Geyer: *Right of passage: the heroic journey to adulthood*. Washington, DC: Cornell Press 1996.
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- Fuller A, McGraw K and Goodyear M: *The Mind of Youth: Resillience – a Connect Project* Victorian Government 1998.
- Garland, Diana R: *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive Guide*. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1999.
- Grimbol, William R: *Complete Idiots Guide to Spirituality for Teens* Alpha Books, 2000.
- Kitto C, Kitto F and Mullan B (Eds): "Schools – the last frontier or the last straw?" *New Trends for Youth Workers* Vol 2 1998 (pp 2-12)
- Yaconnelli, Mark "A Life Creates a Bridge" *Building Bridges: The Princeton Lectures on Youth, Church and Culture* 2003 Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary

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- Roehlkepartain, Eugene: *Growing Up Generous* Washington DC: Alban Institute, 2000.
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- Roehlkepartain E: *Tapping the Potential Discovering Congregations' Role in Building Assets in Youth Search Institute* 1998.
- Schultze Q J and Anker R M et.al. *Dancing in the Dark: Youth, Popular Culture and the Electronic Media* William B Eerdmans Publishing Co 1991.
- Senter, Mark: *Four Views of Youth Ministry and the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2001.
- Slaughter M (Ed): *Out on the Edge : A Wake-Up Call for Church Leaders on the Edge of the Media Reformation* Abingdon Press 1998.
- Strommen, M. & Hardel, R: *Passing on the Fait: A Radical New Model for Youth and Family Ministry* St Mary's Press 2000.
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- White R (Ed:) *Youth Subcultures: Theory History and the Australian Experience* National Clearing House for Youth Studies 1993.
- Woodruff, Mike: *Managing Youth Ministry Chaos*. Loveland CO: Group Publishing 2000.

References – Journal Articles

- Blum, Robert and Mann Rinehart, Peggy: 'Connections that make a difference in the lives of youth', *Youth Studies Australia* Vol 16 No 4 December 1997 pp 37-50

References – Online Resources

- Horsfield P: *The media: the major source and centre of religious activity and ritual in contemporary society* <http://vic.uca.org.au/ecrp/mediaritual.html>
- Mercer, Joyce Anne: "Are We Going on a Vocation Now? Ministry with Youth as a Lifelong Vocation" *The Princeton Lectures on Compass Points: Navigating Vocation 2002* Institute for Youth Ministry, Princeton Theological Seminary <http://www.ptsem.edu/iym/research/lectures/lectures02.htm>
- Readings in Adolescence: Figgs, Stacey "Puberty"; Villani, Linda "Hormones and adolescents; Horjatschun, Nina "A period is more than punctuation"; Seprish, Stacy "So what happens to boys?"; Robinson, Margaret A. "Cross Cultural Differences" Pennsylvania State University <http://www.personal.psu.edu/faculty/n/x/nxd10/adolesce.htm>
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References – Sound Recordings

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- Dean, Kenda Creasy: "On youth ministry as ministry" Audio CD *Cloud of Witnesses audio journal of youth, church and culture: Ministry* Volume 1, January 2001
- Elnes, Eric: "The world's most dangerous Bible study" Audio CD *Cloud of Witnesses audio journal of youth, church and culture: Ministry* Volume 1, January 2001
- Tewell, Tom: "Decaffeinated Chistianity" Audio CD *Cloud of Witnesses audio journal of youth, church and culture: Suffering and hope* Volume 3, January 2001
- Yaconelli, Mark: "On making space for God in youth ministry" Audio CD *Cloud of Witnesses audio journal of youth, church and culture: Spirituality* Volume 2, January 2001