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# YM 610X Communicating the Gospel to Youth

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## YM 610 ExL Communication the Gospel to Youth Fall 2002

### **Instructor:**

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**Welcome!** I'm excited you have registered for YM610. The purpose of this course is to prepare you to be an effective Bible teacher and communicator with teenagers. This semester we will be focusing on learning and teaching style, developing sermons/talks that connect with youth, learning to share our faith journey clearly, developing and directing a discipleship program through small groups. It is my prayer that as we spend this semester looking at the power of the Word, the Word Himself will be present in our meetings together and because of His presence we will never be the same.

### **How we work best:**

This may be your first ExL course and it may be you are a pro at this "virtual" education. Regardless, here are several helpful bits of information that keep our class functioning smoothly and you will need to refer to this information throughout the semester.

### **Support Staff:**

Technical Difficulties: Andy Adams, [exl\\_support@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:exl_support@asburyseminary.edu)  
Exl Coach: Amy Jo Adams, [exl\\_coach@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:exl_coach@asburyseminary.edu)  
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Library Reference: [hannah\\_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:hannah_kirsch@asburyseminary.edu)  
Bookstore: [exlbooks@asburyseminary.edu](mailto:exlbooks@asburyseminary.edu)

### **The Virtual Classroom:**

**The Course Icon:** This is located on the First Class desktop. Use this icon to enter the classroom.

**Course Center:** This is the location where all of the modules will be posted.

**Office:** This icon is used to post things to the professor. All postings to this icon are private and will only be read by the professor. Please use this icon/address rather than my personal email address.

**Team Folders:** This is the location where you will carry on discussion in your teams. Each member of the class will be assigned to a team. You will only be able to read other team mates postings. People from the larger class, who are not on your team, cannot post material in your team folder.

**Prayer Folder:** This is a folder that I have asked Andy to create for us. Any needs or prayer requests, praises, etc. can be placed into this folder so that we as a class may keep members of the class in prayer at important junctures in their lives. I also commit to pray for each of my students once each week during the semester, so if you have particular concerns you would like me to remember feel free to let me know.

**Team Folder:** During the semester you may be divided into teams. You will be discussing specific required information there. I will let you know what team you are in and the name of your team early in the semester. The team folder is the place you go to find your other team members and communicate to them.

**Archives Center:** When we are finished with a module or a section of a module, I will move the discussion and work that has been generated from the module into the archive center. You can access things in the archive center, but you cannot change, delete, or add to them. They are a reference source for you to consult if you have questions about previous class material.

**Resource Center:** This icon links you to various resources like the library and specific sources available through the internet.

**Discussion Center:** The discussion center is the lower part of the classroom. When you click on the classroom icon you will see postings that are to be read by the whole class.

**Learning Outcomes:** Upon the completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understand of contemporary youth and will discover appropriate ways for adults to relate to youth and their culture, within the boundaries of sound hermeneutic principles.
2. Students will develop basic communication skills and how to adapt communication skills to youth audiences.
3. Define major terms and concepts in youth education, including the explanation of selected theories of youth development and motivation for learning;
4. Demonstrate how youth Sunday School, Discipleship Programs can be conducted effectively in a local church.
5. Demonstrate competency as leader of youth education in a local church.

**Required Texts:**

To Know as We are Known, P. Palmer

Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students, R. Dunn

How to Speak to Youth, K. Davis

New Direction for Small Group Ministry, Group Publishers

Leading Life Changing Small Groups, Willow Creek Publishers

### **Required Viewing and Listening:**

Selected class videos will be watched during appropriate modules.  
Selected audio tapes will be listened to during appropriate modules.

### **Modules**

Each module will be built around several common experiences:

1. Required reading
2. Dialogue with other students regarding the information and its impact on your youth ministry.
3. A written presentation of how this information has impacted you and your youth ministry.

#### **Module One: To Know As We Are Known**

As communicators of the Good News, we must understand our motives and our mission in “why we do what we do”. During this module we will be putting theory behind our practice. You will be reading Parker Palmer’s book, To Know as We are Known. This book will be challenging but can be life changing as you wrestle with the questions of

- What is the purpose of my teaching?
- What is different from the knowledge that is communicated in our society and in our youth group?
- What is truth?
- How do I create a true environment where the youth can learn and be transformed?

You will be submitting a paper (3-4 pages) addressing these issues in a way that will directly relate to your youth ministry.

#### **Module Two: Shaping the Spiritual Lives of Students**

During this module we will be looking at the lives of teenagers and the common forces at work that build into their spiritual lives. You will be reading the book, Shaping the Spiritual Life of Students.

You will also be completing an exercise entitled, “Sharing Your Faith Story”. During this module you will process your faith journey and what key steps lead to your spiritual conversion and transformation. You will develop the ability to share your faith story with teenagers is key in communicating the gospel to youth.

#### **Module Three: Developing the Skill of Effective Communication**

This module will give you a means of how to develop a youth talk using the SCORE method laid out in Ken Davis book, How to Speak to Youth. You will be presenting a “talk” to your youth group.

Youth Talk Presentation:

- Using the SCORE method, you will write and present a youth talk on a topic of your choice.

- ❑ The talk is to be 15-20 minutes in length.
- ❑ The presentation will be presented in front of a youth group and is to be video taped or
- ❑ For Wilmore on campus students, (or any ExL students who want to visit Wilmore) you will have the option of presenting the talk before the class. (time to be determined)

#### **Module Four: Developing and Leading Small Group**

An assessment of your current small group ministry or the development of a future small group ministry will be the focus of this module. You will be reading New Direction for Small Group Ministry and Leading Life Changing Small Groups as tools for understanding and implementing small groups in your youth group.

There will be 2 assignments for this module:

You will write a paper evaluating the role and implementation of small groups in the/your youth ministry setting.

You will develop and lead a small group for the audience of your choice (teenagers) and topic of your choice.

#### **Course Guidelines:**

1. Assignments: Papers should be typed, double spaced in a 12 point font using one inch margins. All assignments are due by the stated due dates. These are outlined below for your reference. Late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade per day late. For example, a B paper turned in one day late becomes a B-, etc.
2. Postings: Individual postings in the Discussion Center, in the Question Folder, and in your team folder should be limited to between 50 and 75 words.
3. Grammar: I expect us (myself included) to use proper English grammar at all times. This includes complete sentences, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. For assistance in this area, consult a standard style guide such as Carole Slade, *Form and Style: Research Papers, Reports, and Theses* (11th ed., Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999). Poor grammar will be reflected in the final grade.
4. Discussion: A crucial element of this course is the dialogue that we enter into with each other. All discussions are to be in the vein of encouragement, gentleness, patience, persistence, and hope. This does not mean that we will not challenge, confront, or question each other. It does mean that these things will be undertaken for the purpose of growth and stimulation to think and understand the subject at hand more deeply and more intimately.

## Observation Evaluations YM 630

### **Observations: 100 points possible**

You will be responsible for observing 2 different youth speakers. One observation should be in a Sunday School setting, the other in a youth group setting, i.e. UMFY, Weds. Night or Sunday night youth group gathering. A one page evaluation of their presentation will be turned. An evaluation form will be used and will be given to you by the professor.

### **Respond to the following:**

1. What was the speakers/teachers main

Unfortunately I will not be able to be present when the sermon is preached. This means I will have to rely in part on the observations of a "listening group" that you select. The group will consist of at least five people. The normal composition of the group will be left up to you but should include a cross section of youth and adults. If you cannot get a group together then you should not take this course. This is a mandatory requirement.

You may have more persons in your listening group than this, of course, but you will need to identify the five participants in your group. They will be responsible for giving you feedback on the sermon they heard. The group should hear both sermons so they can indicate areas of growth for you. Please send the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of these folks to me via the "to Office" icon. I want to write them and express appreciation for their willingness to help both of us.

after hearing  
immediately  
dismissed  
collate their  
them to me.  
from their  
time

I will be sending you the forms for these people to fill out each sermon. They need to be willing to fill out these forms after hearing the sermon (or as soon as the congregation is dismissed if the sermon is preached in a service of worship). You will collate their responses on a form provided for that purpose and send them to me. This will enable you and me to discuss your sermon delivery from their standpoint. Your report is due within forty-eight hours of the time when the sermon is preached.

their  
do that, let  
drops out of  
the  
person is

You may want to talk with your listening group after getting feedback. That is not required but it would be helpful. If you do that, let me know how that turned out. If for some reason a person drops out of the listening group, please replace that person and send me the necessary information on the new person, and who that person is replacing.

Your final

Your first sermon must be audiotaped and a copy sent to me. Your final sermon must be videotaped and a copy sent to me. I will give immediate feedback.

What you will need is:

1. a place to preach your sermons.
  2. a way to record your sermons (audio and video).
  3. at least five people to serve as your listening group.
- I suggest you use Uncle Sam's "Priority Mail" for shipment of tapes.

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