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YM 551 Seminar in Youth Ministry - Journey to Adulthood

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**YM551 – Seminar in Youth Ministry – Journey to Adulthood
Spring 2004**

Area of Christian Discipleship and Leadership

Faculty Contact: Jim Hampton

Office Hours: T, H 12:30-2:00pm or by appointment

Office Phone: 859-858-2367

March 12-13, 2004

M103

1 hour credit

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It is not within our power to place the divine teachings directly in someone else's heart. All that we can do is place them on the surface of the heart so that when the heart breaks, they will drop in.

-- Hasidic Saying

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The content and focus of this seminar will address current urgent issues. The seminar will build around nationally known guest faculty who are practicing ministry professionals in the content area. For the seminar, advanced reading/critique preparation and follow-up integrative reflection will supplement the contact hours with the resource person. Faculty serve as campus planners/conveners/professors of record. (Catalog)

The *Journey to Adulthood (J2A)* is a six-year program of spiritual formation for young people of middle and high school age, developed out of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Durham, NC. It is currently used by 1300 congregations across the US and Canada. Utilizing the guiding principles that manhood and womanhood are free gifts from God, and that adulthood must be earned, the program engages youth in an intentional examination of and reflection upon Scripture, the community of faith, and their own spiritual journeys. The program also makes use of significant rites of passage to assist youth in marking the transition from childhood to adulthood. (Seminar Description)

The presenter for this seminar is Gregg Morriss. Gregg is the Director of Consultant Services with LeaderResources, publisher of the *Journey to Adulthood* program. He began using the *Journey to Adulthood* in 1994 when he was the youth minister at Church of Our Saviour (Episcopal) in San Gabriel, California, and has been training congregations across the country in using *J2A* for the past 8 years. Prior to his current position, Gregg was a teacher in the religion department at a private Christian high school in Southern California.

Gregg holds a B.A. in Christian Education from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana, and a M.A. in Leadership Studies from Azusa Pacific University in Azusa, California. He resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with his wife Laura and five year-old daughter Jillian.

II. PLACE OF COURSE IN THE CURRICULUM:

This course is one of the optional seminars in youth ministry in which any student at the seminary can participate.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Provide a philosophical, theological and structural overview of the *Journey to Adulthood* program.
2. Examine key materials in the *Journey to Adulthood* program as tools for spiritual formation with young people.
3. Explore rites of passage and liturgical markers as avenues through which adolescents can recognize and honor their spiritual journey.
4. Foster dialogue around the following areas as they relate to the *Journey to Adulthood* program:
 - A. Adolescent development
 - B. Adolescent culture
 - C. Teaching and learning in spiritual formation
 - D. Effective leadership in formative youth ministry

IV. TEXTBOOKS

Hersch, Patricia. *A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence*. New York: Ballantine, 1999. 391 pages.

Hughes, Amanda M. *Lost and Found: Adolescence, Parenting, and the Formation of Faith*. Cambridge, MA: Cowley, 2002. 168 pages.

V. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Seminar Participation:

The seminar hours are as follows:

Friday – 6pm-10pm

Saturday – 8am-12pm, and 1pm-5pm.

You will be expected to be at all of these meetings.

2. Reading

To gain the most from this seminar, it would be best if you can read the two assigned texts **prior** to attending the seminar. A reading report is attached at the end of this syllabus. Please fill it out and turn it in to me no later than **April 14, 2004**.

3. Integration Paper

From your reading and what you learned at the seminar, please write a 8-10 page paper that shows how you would integrate these concepts into your vision for helping adolescents on the journey to adulthood. Particular attention should be given to the following questions:

* Are the authors'/presenter's philosophies about youth and ministry to them compatible with yours? Why or why not?

* How are the concepts learned at the seminar applicable to your ministry (either now or in the future)? Are there things you learned that would not be applicable? Why?

* How does what you have read and heard either encourage or discourage you as you think about helping students discover and maintain a lifelong faith? Why?

* What area of new discovery emerged for you? (This could be something that was an "Eureka" moment or something that you really need to think about some more,)

Due no later than April 14, 2004.

VII. COURSE GRADING PROCEDURES:

1. Grading

This is a Pass/Fail class. If you do all the required work, you pass. If you don't, you don't. Hopefully, you will. ☺

2. Promptness

Your paper should be turned in on the scheduled date. The instructor will provide both “timely” and “substantive” feedback to students regarding their assignments. “Timely” response means that for assessments of student work during the course of the academic term, the professor will have work marked, graded, and returned within one week of its submission; if the class has more than 40 students, the professor may take up to two weeks. In addition, the professor will provide “substantive” feedback that alerts students to what they have done well and how they might improve their performance in subsequent work.

READING REPORT: YM551 (SPRING 2004)
Due April 14, 2004

Name: _____

I have read (not just skimmed) all course readings except for the following: