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## YM 632 The Life of the Youth Pastor

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**YM632 – The Life of the Youth Pastor  
Spring 2004**

**Area of Christian Discipleship and Leadership**

**Instructor: Jim Hampton**

**Office Hours: T, H 1:00-2:30pm or by appointment**

**Office Phone: 859-858-2367**

**W, F 9:30am-10:20am**

**AD 302**

**2 hours credit**

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**There will always be needs and people pressing on us for our attention, but it's imperative that we seek to refresh our souls so we minister out of fullness, not out of emptiness . . . The privilege of ministry is growth. To be effective, we need to make sure we're modeling for our students and leaders a person who is growing because he or she is being renewed—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Our youth deserve to see a youth worker with a well-nurtured soul.**

**Tim Smith, Nurturing the Soul of the Youth Worker (1999)**

**I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will explore principles of organization for the Youth Pastor; the relationship of personality to leadership styles and practices that form the Youth Pastor. This course assumes that the practice of youth ministry and spirituality are intimately related. (Catalog statement)

**II. PLACE OF COURSE IN THE CURRICULUM:**

This is a required class for all MAYM majors and is open to any other student as well.

**III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon the completion of this course the student will be able to

1. Articulate his or her understanding of boundaries and the implications for ministry, and personal life.
2. Identify the relationship between personality types and preferred leadership styles.
3. Identify their own personality type, strengths and weaknesses of it and the means by which change and growth will occur. Think constructively about one's personal weekly schedule and commitments.
4. Utilize practices of spiritual and personal formation to enhance their youth ministry.

**IV. REQUIRED READING**

**Textbooks**

Jones, Tony. *Soul Shaper*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003. 227 pages

MacDonald, Gordon. *Ordering Your Private World*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2002. 231 pages

Peterson, Eugene. *Under the Unpredictable Plant*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992. 197 pages

**Required Listening**

Listen to four of the following audiotapes dealing with the pastoral life. Prepare an outline of the contents of the tapes and a one paragraph critique. The tapes can be checked out with Johanna Truesdell, faculty secretary, located in the FM building.

Building Good Relationships With Your Church Staff/Ministry Team

Confronting False Sexual Identities  
Equal Yet Different: Gender Differences and Their Implications for Ministry  
For Men Only: How to Work With Female Staff Members  
How to Achieve Balance in the Ministry  
How to Live a Balanced Life in the Midst of Ministry Demands  
Juggling Life: Balancing Ministry and Motherhood  
Soul Restoration: Finding Personal Renewal When You're Running on Empty  
Succeeding at Ministry Without Failing at Home  
The Person Behind the Ministry: Nurturing Your Own Soul  
Developing a Power-Packed Prayer Life (Salierno)

### **Other**

Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory Online Version  
<http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm>

## **V. COURSE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

1. Regular class attendance and participation is expected since much of our class time will center on a dialogical format. A cooperative learning environment will govern our class time. Therefore, student participation is very much a part of the learning experience.
2. The course requirements will be the core of the course. It is acceptable for students to work together and share resources on these projects. We are all learners and we can be greatly enriched by the ministry experiences of others.
3. Since this is a course in Youth Ministry, it is imperative that students engage in reading and be exposed to youth. It is greatly encouraged that students be actively involved in some aspect of youth ministry.
4. A *praxis* method of teaching will govern the class sessions. The continual interaction between theory and practice will be explored. Practical applications should be properly informed by educational theories.

## **VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Reading and Class Participation:  
The intentional, ongoing personal formation of the minister is critical for ministry effectiveness. This necessarily involves reading and reflection. This course provides students with an opportunity for regular reading and reflection. The reading load is heavy, but it is essential for class participation. We are not after just the transmission of data, but rather transformative-learning. Simply put, if you haven't read the material, you won't be able to constructively engage in the discussion, and chances are you will not have the opportunity for personal and ministerial transformation. In addition to the required texts, I have provided a bibliography of supplemental readings that those of you who plan to be engaged in youth ministry as a primary portion of your ministry will want to read.

Attached to this syllabus is a reading form you will need to fill out showing what percentage of the reading you have done for class. It will be turned in at the end of the term and will count as 15% of your total grade. It will be graded as follows: 100% - 250 points; 90% - 225 points; 80% - 200 points and so on. **Due May 14, 2004.**

2. Class Attendance  
Class attendance is required. If for some reason you cannot attend, notification should be given to the professor before class in writing (email preferably). After a total of four hours have been missed, the overall grade for the course will be negatively affected by 2% for each additional absence. A total of 8 hours of absences will result in a failing grade. It is the your responsibility to obtain class lectures and

information from peers in the class. “Excused absences” (as defined by the Dean’s office) are not included in the above formula, however you should notify the professor each time an “excused absence” occurs.

3. Personal Inventory:

Using the text Ordering Your Private World, complete a personal inventory using the five areas of the private world:

- Motivation: driven vs. called
- Use of time: personal growth and service
- Wisdom and Knowledge: processing and receiving truth
- Spiritual Strength: How does your “garden” grow?
- Restoration: amusement vs. rest

The inventory should be at least five pages long, and no more than eight pages. **Due March 12, 2004.**

4. Spiritual Practices

You will need to choose one of the two following options:

1. After reading Soul Shaper, choose two of the practices Jones describes (one practice from the *Contemplativa* section, and one from the *Activa* section) and engage in them. The practice from the *Contemplativa* section should be done over the course of the entire semester. The practice from the *Activa* section will be more “event-driven” and only needs to be completed by April 14. You will then write a 3-4 page reflection paper on how these spiritual disciplines/exercises can assist you in your future ministry.
2. Attend a “Retreat of Silence” or Prayer Retreat during the course of this semester. The retreat needs to be for an entire weekend (at least 24 straight hours). After attending the retreat, you will write 3-4 page reflection paper, sharing what you learned from this process and its implications for future ministry.

**Papers are due no later than April 21, 2004, but may be turned in anytime after April 8.**

5. Pastoral Schedule

Being able to organize your ministry and life are key elements of pastoral ministry. Using what you have learned in this class about the need for personal and corporate spiritual formation, organization of ministry, ministry essentials and practices, create a month-long schedule of how you as a minister would organize your time. If you are currently involved in ministry as a student pastor, then use your existing context for creating this schedule. If you are not currently on staff, choose either the church you came from or the church you are currently attending and imagine yourself on staff there for the purposes of this assignment.

After you have created the schedule, take 4-5 pages to explain and justify your schedule, making sure to answer the following questions:

- How am I caring for my spiritual health, my physical health, and my emotional health?
- How am I being held accountable for my spiritual health and my public ministry?
- How does my personality type contribute to the way I schedule and organize both my personal and public life?
- How does my schedule help ensure that I am successfully completing the “visible lines” of ministry?
- How does my schedule help ensure that I am making time for the “angles” of ministry?

**Due May 5, 2004.**

## VII. COURSE GRADING PROCEDURES:

### 1. Final Grade Criteria

Reading Report	15%
Participation	10%
Personal Inventory	25%
Spiritual Practices	25%
Pastoral Schedule	<u>25%</u>
	100%

### 2. Grading Scale

A	=	93-100
A-	=	90-92
B+	=	87-89
B	=	84-86
B-	=	80-83
C+	=	77-79
C	=	74-76
C-	=	70-73
D+	=	67-69
D	=	64-66
D-	=	60-63
F	=	0-59

### 3. Grade Descriptions

"A"-EXCEPTIONAL WORK (surpassing, markedly outstanding achievement of course objectives)

"B"-GOOD WORK (strong, significant achievement of course objectives)

"C"-ACCEPTABLE WORK (basic, essential achievement of course objectives)

"D"-MARGINAL WORK (inadequate, minimal achievement of course objectives)

"F"-UNACCEPTABLE WORK (failure to achieve course objectives)

"I"-INCOMPLETE WORK (is rarely given; it denotes that the work of a course has not been completed due to an unavoidable emergency, which does NOT include delinquency or attending to church work or other employment. If the work of a course is incomplete at the end of a term without an emergency, a letter grade will be given based on the grades of work done, with incomplete work counted as "F")

### 4. Academic Honesty

Any instance of cheating or plagiarism of any kind will result in an automatic zero on that specific assignment. Any repetition of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the course. I operate on the honor system that all work turned in is your own.

### 5. Promptness

All papers and reports should be turned in on the scheduled dates. All work is due at class time. **Any work turned in late will receive a deduction of one letter grade per class period that it is late. No**

**work will be accepted later than one week from the date it was due.**

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.

6. Special Accommodation: Students needing special accommodations for this class should notify the professor during the first two weeks of the course.

## VIII. PROGRAMMING CALENDAR AND COURSE OUTLINE

*NOTE:* As a general rule, assignments and due dates will not vary from this schedule. Any changes will be announced in advance of the due dates for assignments.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Feb. 11	Course / syllabus overview	
13	Module 1: Personal Life of the Minister Rationale	<i>OYPW</i> , pp. 1-67
18	Ordering Our Private World, Part 1	<i>OYPW</i> , pp. 68-131
20	Ordering Our Private World, Part 2	<i>OYPW</i> , pp. 132-190
25	Personality Types, Part 1	Ash Wednesday
27	Personality Types, Part 2	<i>SS</i> , pp. 8-32
Mar. 3	Personality and Leadership	<i>SS</i> , pp. 35-94
5	Temptations of Ministry and Success	<i>SS</i> , pp. 97-141
10	Christian Practices, Part 1	<i>SS</i> , pp. 143-194
12	Christian Practices, Part 2	<i>SS</i> , pp. 197-234
17	Physical and Emotional Health	
19	Achieving Balance in Our Personal Life	
24	Module 2: Public Life of the Minister Call and Vision	<i>UPP</i> , pp. 1-32
26	Tasks of Ministry, Part 1	<i>UPP</i> , pp. 33-72
31	NO CLASS – SPRING READING WEEK	
Apr. 2	NO CLASS – SPRING READING WEEK	
7	Tasks of Ministry, Part 2	
9	NO CLASS – GOOD FRIDAY	
14	Angles of Ministry, Part 1	<i>UPP</i> , pp. 73-115
16	Angles of Ministry, Part 2	<i>UPP</i> , pp. 117-153
21	Organizing Your Weekly Schedule	<i>UPP</i> , pp. 155-197
23	NO CLASS	ICTHUS
28	Discussion of <i>Under the Unpredictable Plant</i>	
30	Building a Team Ministry, Part 1	
May 5	Building a Team Ministry, part 2	
7	Accountability Issues	
12	Panel of Juggling Life and Ministry	
14	Catch-up Day	
19	Final Exam Period (only if needed)	3pm-5pm

**READING REPORT: YM632 (SPRING 2004)**  
**Due May 14, 2004**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**I have listened to the following four tapes and include here my outline and critique:**