

EFFECTIVE MINISTRIES WITH ADULTS SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course purposes to study the characteristics, needs, and problems of adults of various ages, and the corresponding nature of adult ministry. Attention will be given to principles, effective ministry practices, and resources necessary for the spiritual development of adults to the glory of God.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. develop a biblical psychology of adulthood, especially a grasp of adult learning, gender issues, intergenerational dynamics, and strategies for handling criticism and resistance,
2. analyze the characteristics and development of adult generational groups and minister to them (Builders, Boomers, Gen Exers, Millennials, and Gen Z),
3. develop a philosophy of ministering to various sub-groups among the church's adults (e.g., singles, single parents, seniors),
4. create adult ministry in various contexts.

III. COURSE TEXTBOOKS

A. Required: (The required reading must be completed before the course begins.)

Dallas, Joe, *Speaking of Homosexuality*, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2016.

Edwards, Sue, and Kelley Mathews, Henry Rogers, *Mixed Ministry, Working as Brothers and Sisters in an Oversexed Society*, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2008. (237 pages)

Gangel, Kenn., *Ministering to Today's Adults: A Complete Manual for Organizing and Developing Adult Ministries in Local Congregations*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2006. (320 pages)

Choose **one** book on conflict resolution from the three choices below (If you have already read any of these books, read one you have not read):

(Required for Women) Edwards, Sue and Kelley Mathews, *Leading Women Who Wound, Strategies for Effective Ministry*, Chicago, Illinois: Moody Publications, 2009. (177 pages)

Sande, Ken, *The Peacemaker, A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 1991. (263 pages)

Shelley, Marshall, *Ministering to Problem People in the Church, What to Do With Well-Intentioned Dragons* Minneapolis: Minnesota, Bethany House Publishers, 2013. (149 pages) or the 1994 version.

B. Suggested:

Allen, Holly Catterton and Christine Lawton Ross, *Intergenerational Christian Formation*, Downer's Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2012.

Edwards, Sue and Barbara Neumann, *Organic Mentoring*, Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2014.

Gallagher, David, *Senior Adult Ministry in the 21st Century*, Loveland, Co: Group, 2002

Hanson, Amy, *Baby Boomers and Beyond, Tapping the Ministry Talents and Passions of Adults Over 50*, San Francisco, CA: Jossey Bass, 2010.

Houston, James M, Michael Parker, *A Vision For The Aging Church, Renewing Ministry for and by Seniors*, Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2011.

McIntosh, Gary, *One Church, Four Generations*, Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2002.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Reading Assignment

Required Reading and short papers: The student will **read the above required books before** the course begins and write a short paper on each book, no more than two pages in length, 12 point, double spaced, enumerating **five concepts from each book, relating those concepts to how you would use these ideas in your future ministry.**

B. Interview a Minister

Identify an adult minister in your field of adult ministry interest. Do not choose a minister that you already know well. Create at least ten questions concerning their personal, spiritual, and ministry life. **Interview** this minister to learn about their day to day work. What does their job description entail? How do they stay spiritually and emotionally healthy as they minister? What expertise is required to thrive in this position? Would this position fit your gifts and passion?

After you complete the interview, write a three to four page paper, 12 point, double spaced synthesizing what you learned. (Attach your interview questions as an addendum to your paper and do not include them in the page count.) **Due by 10 pm December 6.** **Email a Word document to doctorsue7@gmail.com.**

C. Generations Reflection Activity

This assignment will be done in class with an assigned group. More instructions will be given in class.

D. Viewing

View the film *Doubt* (Miramax Films, with Meryl Streep and Philip Seymore Hoffman) **twice**, the first time for general impressions, the second time for deeper understanding. Fill out the film review sheet attached to this syllabus. Be prepared to discuss the film in class.

E. Quizzes and/or Exams

There will no quizzes or exams.

V. COURSE POLICIES

Weight Given to Course Requirements for Grading

Reading Assignments	40%
Interview	30%
Generations Activity (in class)	10%
Film Critique	10%
Participation	10%

B. Class Participation

This is a participatory class making class involvement a vital part of the student's learning experience. The professor reserves the right to assign this percentage of the grade at her discretion.

C. Late Assignments

Late assignments will be penalized five-percent per calendar day on that assignment. No work may be turned in beyond the last day of the semester without approval from the Credits Committee, application for which must be made before semester's end.

D. Absences

This is a participatory class making class attendance a vital part of the student's learning experience. Students are allowed to miss four 75 minute sessions, as per the DTS Student Handbook, without penalty. Beyond that, the handbook allows a 4.5% penalty on the student's final grade per 75-min. session missed. Excessive absence will require a meeting with the instructor. Note that three tardy arrivals or leaving early equals one absence.

E. Other Classroom Policies

Laptops and other electronic devices may be used in class for *note-taking purposes only*. They are not to be used to play games, communicate with others, or work on other assignments. Using these devices for reasons other than taking notes is distracting to other students and the professors or guest presenter. **Please don't send or read text messages during class. Mute or turn your phones off. Be fully present.** Please don't work on other assignments while in class. Violation of this policy will also require a meeting with a professor.

F. Letter/Numerical Grade Scale

A+ 99-100	B+ 91-93	C+ 83-85	D+ 75-77	F 0-69
A 96-98	B 88-90	C 80-82	D 72-74	
A- 94-95	B- 86-87	C- 78-79	D- 70-71	

VI. COURSE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

DTS does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the operation of any of its programs and activities. To avoid discrimination the student is responsible for informing the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities and the course instructor of any disabling condition that will require modifications.

VII. COURSE LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE (subject to update)

Monday November 12 (Foundations)

- 8:30 - 10:00 Connections and Syllabus Overview
10:00 - 10:15 Break
10:15- noon Andragogy: Who Are Adults Today?
noon - 1:15 Lunch
1:15 - 2:15 Andragogy's Goal: What is Spiritual Maturity? Realistic Expectations and Biblical Mandates
2:15 - 2:30 Break
2:30 -3:30 Adult Resilience
3:30 - 4:30 Discuss Articles on Adults Today

Tuesday November 13 (Generations)

- 8:30 - 9:30 Generational Overview
9:30 - noon Builders (with 15 minute break)
noon - 1:15 Lunch
1:15 - 2:30 Boomers
2:30 - 2:45 Break
2:45 - 4:00 Gen Exers
4:00- 4:30 Intro to Bridgers/Millennials

Wednesday November 14 (Generations)

- 8:30 - 10:30 Bridgers/ Millennials
10:45 - noon Intergenerational Panel (Guests)
noon - 1:15 Lunch
1:15 - 3:00 Intergenerational integration (Activity)
3:00 - 4:30 iGen/GenZ, Generations Wrap Up

Thursday November 15 (Issues in Ministry to Adults)

- 8:30 - 10:30 Single Adults and Pastoral Care for Single Adults
10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 - noon Seniors
noon - 1:15 Lunch
1:15 - 3:00 Pastoral Care to Seniors
3:00 - 3:15 Break
3:15 - 4:30 Discussion on Film "*Doubt*"
(Bring your books on conflict, homosexuality, and *Mixed Ministry* for discussion tomorrow)

Friday November 16 (Issues in Ministry to Adults)

- 8:30 - 10:30 Lecture and Discussion on Managing Conflict, Resistance, Personal Attacks
10:30 - 10:45 Break
10:45 to noon Discussion on Gender Issues in Adult Ministry (*Mixed Ministry*)
noon to 1:15 Lunch
1:15 - 3:00 LGBT, "gender diversity" and the Christian Response
3:00 - 4:30 Q and A, Wrap up

MOVIE REVIEW WORKSHEET

Fill out the following information about the movie:

DURING THE MOVIE:

1. Who are the most important characters in the film? Also list the names of the actors playing the characters.
2. Summarize the plot. What is this story about?
3. What quotes stand out to you?

AFTER THE MOVIE:

4. What hardships, struggles, or dilemmas did characters face? How did they resolve this situation? What do you learn about the complexity of conflict from the film?
5. All movies teach a lesson (theme/moral). What did you learn from this one?
6. What did you learn about conflict resolution and peacemaking that you can apply to adult ministry?