

RS2177 Salesian Youth Ministry and Spirituality

Fall 2019 – Wednesdays, 9:40 am – 12:30 pm, ISS (Don Bosco Hall)

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The course surveys the foundations in Salesian Youth Ministry and Salesian Youth Spirituality as **both** the proposal for life that Salesian educators make to the young **and** the way we, as Salesian educators live that spirituality ourselves. Through the reflection on real life choices, students are able to begin to prayerfully reflect on their personal gifts and unique call by God to be “Christ Among Us” in the pedagogy and spirituality of Don Bosco. An attempt will be made to use recent Salesian and Church documents regarding our educational mission to demonstrate the ways in which we reach out to the young in the service of life and hope. This material will be examined within the context of the American vision of Catholic Youth Ministry so that the students may begin the process of applying the Salesian pastoral principles and praxis to the reality of the Church in the United States today.

Goals and Outcomes of the Course (BIG IDEAS!)

The goal of this course is to present the concept of ministry as a choice a Salesian educator makes in response to the Christian baptismal call to love and life.

More specifically, the student who successfully completes this course will be able to

- identify** the components of Salesian Youth Ministry and Salesian Spirituality
- encourage** the students’ capacity to apply the principles of Salesian pastoral praxis to the context of young people in the United States today
- enable** the students to become intentional in their ministry with regard to the Salesian preventive method and spirituality
- define** the Salesian approach to education and ministry
- describe** and **evaluate** the different types of lifestyle choices
- determine** their own sense of mission and purpose
- examine** lifestyle issues and choices in light of the Gospel

- consider** the world, its people and its problems, against the perview of Salesian Spirituality
- appreciate** the challenges, difficulties, and struggles of youth living of this new millennium
- demonstrate** through written and spoken words habits of critical thinking and problem solving

Evaluation

Each student will make one class presentation (20 minutes), on one theme of the course that he/she has researched.

At the end of the course there will be an oral exam.

Theme/Content

Introduction

Course Overview Basic terminology

- Chapter 1. *Salesian Youth Ministry: A Frame of Reference*

The Faith of the Young Today

Contemporary Research of American Youth and Religion: “Moralistic Therapeutic Deists”

- Christian Smith, On “Moralistic Therapeutic Deism” as US Teenagers’ Actual, Tacit, De Facto Faith

The Spirituality of the Young Today

Spiritual but not Religious

- Sharon Daloz Parks, *Home and Pilgrimage: Deep Rhythms in the Adolescent Soul*

The Emerging Adults of the Church Today

Disaffiliated and Nones: A Generation in Religious Crisis

- ▪ Robert J. McCarty, and John M. Vitek, *Going, Going, Gone: The Dynamics of Disaffiliation in Young Catholics* (Winona MN: St Mary’s Press and Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA, 2018).
- ▪ *Instrumentum Laboris for the Synod 2018. Young People, The Faith and Vocational Discernment*

The Immigrant Young Church of Today

Postmodern Immigrant Youth Ministry

- ▪ Ron Powell, *Cross Cultural Youth Ministry in the Ethnic Church*.
- ▪ C. L. Bankston, and M. Zhou. *The Ethnic Church, Ethnic Identification, and the Social Adjustment of Vietnamese Adolescents*.
- ▪ Brindice Munoz Rivera, *A Pastoral Counseling Program for Mexican- Immigrant Families*.

Creating an Environment for Effective Youth Ministry

The Oratory Experience

- ▪ Salesian Youth Ministry: A Frame of Reference
- ▪ St John Bosco. *Memoirs of the Oratory*.

Animating the Life of the Oratory Experience

Heart of the Educator, Heart of the Good Shepherd

- ▪ Salesian Youth Ministry: A Frame of Reference
- ▪ Jack Ayers SDB, The “Salesianity” that Wins All Hearts.